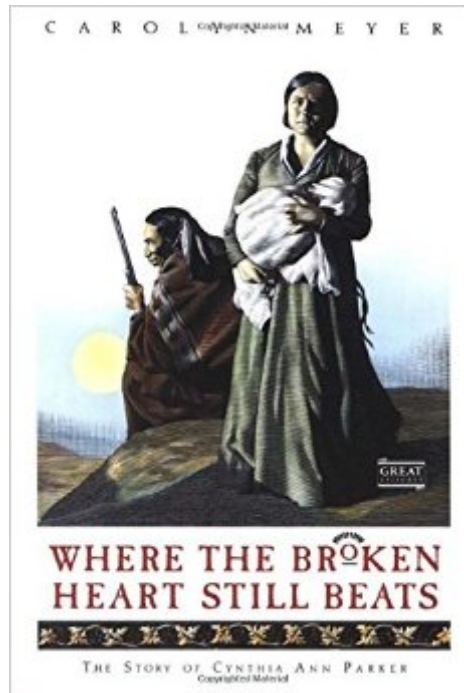


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Where The Broken Heart Still Beats: The Story Of Cynthia Ann Parker



Synopsis

At the age of nine, Cynthia Ann Parker was captured in an Indian raid and taken to live as a slave with the Comanche. Twenty-four years later, she is the wife of a chief and the mother of a young warrior destined to become the great chief Quanah Parker. But in 1861, Parker and her infant daughter are recaptured and returned against their will to a white settlement. This moving story is a riveting examination of the conflicts between Native Americans and white settlers.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000L (What's this?)

Series: Great Episodes

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (October 15, 1992)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (92 customer reviews)

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#94 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States >](#)

[Westerns](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

A moving YA novel that tells the sad tale of Cynthia Ann Parker, a Texan who was abducted by the Comanche tribe as a nine-year-old in 1836. The Comanches killed her father, mother, uncle and younger siblings in a raid on Fort Parker, and abducted Cynthia and her little brother John as slaves. 25 years later, Cynthia, now Naduah, is happily married to a Comanche chief, Pete Nacoma, and is the mother of a young daughter, Topsannah, and two fine braves, Quanah and Pecos, when she is recaptured by the Texas Rangers and sent to live with her surviving family. Naduah's story is told from the dual viewpoints of her own narrative (written in third person), and her cousin Lucy's diary, told in first person. These two women, one a strong chief's wife, gifted in the ways of

the Comanche, who seeks nothing more than to escape to rejoin her tribe and (Comanche) family, and the blossoming young cousin, twelve when Naduah first arrives, who is the only one in the family to make an effort to understand Cynthia Ann's experiences with the Comanche as positive. Naduah is constantly scrutinized by the women of the family, moved from household to household as her "heathen, savage" ways and escape attempts become too much to bear. A touching, melancholy tale based on fact and full of Comanche life and language, Texan frontier culture in the 1800s, along with a commentary on the Civil War, this will appeal to young readers who enjoy historical frontier fiction such as "Little House on the Prairie" and Native American novels such as "Sweetgrass," "Sing Down The Moon," and "Primrose Way." The novel does contain several graphic, violent scenes, so I would not recommend this for younger readers.

This is an interesting concept on the history of Cynthia Ann Parker, captured as a child and raised by Indians. This work is focused on the history of the episode and Parker's return and forced residence among a family she barely remembered. Although Parker rarely communicated her history, the author postures the cruelty of her Indian Captors. One must compare how this story contradicts other works such as "Ride the Wind" by Lucia St. Clair Robson. Robson puts forth the opposite opinion and relates how good the Indians were to the children they took and raised.

The book was a quick read. If it is for children, it should only be read by older children who can understand the complexities of Cynthia Ann's life and times. I have loaned this book to several friends who were surprised by how different this view of the Old West was from the Westerns they grew up watching.

After we read *Where the Broken Heart Still Beats* by Carolyn Meyer I could tell why Cynthia Ann wanted to go back with the Comanches. I also see why Meyer wrote this book. It makes you feel like you are really there with her and you feel how she feels. It makes you feel sometimes you wish you go and tell her Uncle just let her go back. Cynthia Ann thought that that she was part of the Comanche tribe and they are not the ones that captured her. She thought that they were her family and her real family where the ones that captured but they rescued her. She had lived with them so long and thought she was a Comanche. She had a husband and kids there and she wanted to be with them. I really see why she wanted to go back with the Comanche's. She had her family and wanted to see her son. She also wanted her little daughter, Topsannah, to see how they lived. She talked how they talked and acted like them she needed to be with the Comanche's. You should read this book if you

like books that go back and forth and if you like happy and sad books. I think that if you like biography you would really like this book. In some parts you will feel like you are sitting with Cynthia Ann.

"Where the Broken Heart Still Beats" was the first of many of Carolyn Meyers' books I have recently read. As a resident of Parker County, Texas I wanted to learn more of the history and legend of Cynthia Ann Parker, so I bought it as a research project. I was immediately drawn into the author's lovely voice, and I read it in one sitting. I loved her use of alternating points of view between Cynthia Ann Parker and her cousin Lucy Parker. This is the true story of Cynthia Ann, who was abducted as a child by Comanche Indians in 1836 (only two months after the Republic of Texas won its independence from Mexico). She lived with the Indians for a time as a slave but later married Peta Nocona and happily raised a family for almost twenty-five years. Her son, Quannah Parker, became a famous leader of the Comanche people in the nineteenth century. She and her baby daughter, Topsanah (Prairie Flower) were recaptured by the Texas Rangers in 1860, and she was sent back to her white family. But by then, she completely identified with the Indian way of life, and she felt as if she had been captured, not rescued. She never saw her husband or her sons again. Meyers' portrayal of the results of a tragic culture clash is both poignant and fascinating.

This is a wonderful book about the little white girl taken by Indians in central Texas at age 10. She was later married to Indian Chief and bore 3 children. One of her sons was Quanah Parker, famous in his own right. Don't miss this account of her life. I could not put it down until I had finished reading it.

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