

# INDIAN BOYHOOD

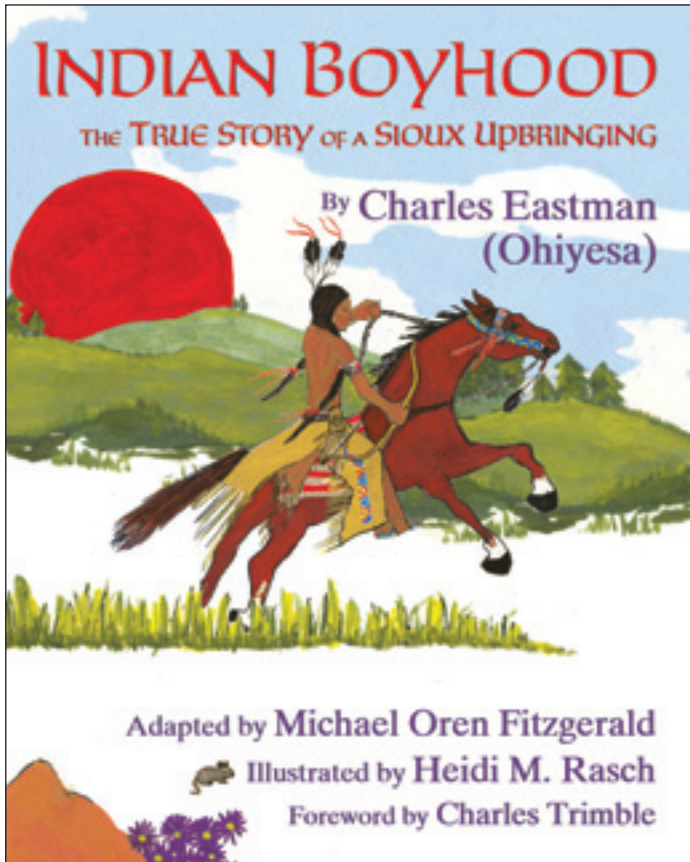
## THE TRUE STORY OF A SIOUX UPBRINGING

by Charles Ohiyesa Eastman

*Edited and Adapted by Michael Oren Fitzgerald*

*Illustrated by Heidi M. Rasch*

*Foreword by Charles Trimble*



Imagine a childhood full of adventure. Where riding horses, playing in the woods, and hunting for food was part of everyday life; where a grizzly bear, a raccoon, or a squirrel was your favorite pet. But imagine, too, being an orphan at the age of six, being forced off your land by soldiers, and often going hungry. Such was the Santee Dakota childhood of famed American Indian author, Charles Alexander Eastman, also known as Ohiyesa.

### ABOUT CHARLES EASTMAN

- \* The first great American Indian author, publishing eleven books from 1902-1918
- \* Co-Founder of the Boy Scouts of America
- \* A Field Secretary of the YMCA
- \* An activist and lobbyist for the Sioux Tribal Nation
- \* Graduated from Dartmouth College and attended medical school at Boston College and cared for Indians after Wounded Knee
- \* The main character in the 2007 HBO film *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee*
- \* Presented a special medal at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair honoring the most distinguished achievements by an American Indian

### PUBLICATION DETAILS

- \* ISBN: 978-1-937786-56-4
- \* Pub Date: June 2016
- \* Price: \$17.95
- \* Trim Size: 8x10
- \* Page Count: 44 pages, hardcover
- \* Ages: 4 and up

# PRAISE FOR INDIAN BOYHOOD

Adapted from Charles Eastman's (Ohiyesa's) 1902 autobiography *Indian Boyhood*, this story for young readers recounts his childhood and experiences as a Native American . . . Small paragraphs of text are surrounded by Rasch's illustrations, which feature brightly painted landscapes, members of Ohiyesa's family, and borders that incorporate traditional motifs . . . The preface and endnotes provide additional information about the illustrations and a more extensive account of Charles Eastman's life.

—**Booklist**

“Michael Fitzgerald has captured the extraordinary values in a Sioux upbringing through interpreting Charles Eastman's writing of his childhood as the freest in the world. Educators and parents who wish to teach critical lessons on life and survival to their young will find this book valuable as a readiness model for living.”

—**Vivian Arviso Deloria**, former Executive Director of Education for the Navajo Nation and Chairperson of the Navajo Nation Women's commission

“[This book] is very effectively edited by Michael Fitzgerald for today's young children of all races and ethnic backgrounds. . . . This version highlights the important points in Ohiyesa's life in the wilderness, as well as the challenging hardships and the lessons he was taught in preparation for life as a warrior and hunter. All of the telling is complemented by Heidi Rasch's exciting, colorful, and authentic illustrations of the Dakota people and of nature that was so integral to Indian life. . . . Charles Eastman has long been a hero and role model to me. We are both mixed-blood Sioux; he a Santee Dakota and me an Oglala Lakota.”

—**Charles Trimble**, former Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians, and author of *Iyeska*

## PRAISE FOR THE EDITOR

“My son, Michael Fitzgerald, has been a member of my family and the Crow tribe for over twenty years. Michael has helped to preserve the spiritual traditions of the Crow Sun Dance and he has helped to show us the wisdom of the old-timers.”

—**Thomas Yellowtail**, Crow medicine man and Sun Dance chief



“Charles Eastman is the first major Indian author to write Indian history from the Indian perspective.”

—**Raymond Wilson**, author of *Ohiyesa: Charles Eastman, Santee Sioux*, and editor of *Native Americans in the Twentieth Century*

## SELECTIONS FROM THE BOOK

Sample Pages



# ABOUT CHARLES EASTMAN

Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa) was born in a buffalo hide tipi in 1858 in western Minnesota. His father, Tawakanhdeota (Many Lightnings), was Santee Dakota. His mother, Wakantankawin, (Great Spirit Woman), was the daughter of Wak inajin win (Stands Sacred), a Mdewakanton Dakota, and a well-known army officer, Captain Seth Eastman. She was also the granddaughter of Wichasta (Cloud Man), a Mdewakanton Dakota chief.

Charles Eastman was raised in a traditional way of life of the Santee Dakota that existed before Europeans came to this continent. His contributions to our understanding of the American Indian culture are so significant that at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair Eastman was presented a special medal honoring the most distinguished achievements by an American Indian.

Eastman thought his father had been killed by the U.S. Government in the so-called "Sioux Uprising of 1862." In fact, his father had been pardoned by President Lincoln and in 1873 returned to bring his fifteen-year-old son to live in the civilized world of his day.

Eastman went on to receive his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth and his medical degree at Boston College. His first position was on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota as the government physician for the Lakota Sioux tribe. Dr. Eastman was at Pine Ridge before, during, and after the "Ghost Dance" rebellion of 1890-91, and he cared for the wounded Indians after the massacre at Wounded Knee. In 1893 he accepted a position as field secretary for the YMCA, and for three years traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada visiting many Indian reservations in an attempt to start new YMCA's in those areas.

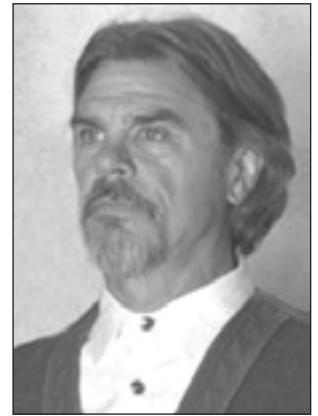
In 1897 and '98 Dr. Eastman lived in Washington D.C. as the legal representative and lobbyist for the Sioux tribe. During these years he met leaders from tribes around the country. In 1910 Eastman began his long association with the Boy Scouts, helping Ernest Thompson Seton establish the organization based in large part on the prototype of the American Indian. It was also at about this time that he started to become in high demand as a lecturer and public speaker, traveling extensively in the US and abroad.

Charles Eastman was the first great American Indian author, publishing the first of his eleven books in 1902. Throughout his adult life, he worked tirelessly to improve the conditions on Indian reservations in the hope that they could become strongholds of tribal traditions—in effect cultural homelands. He believed all "First Americans" could live between two worlds, so to speak, by successfully assimilating the best aspects of our modern civilization while rejecting those features that are inconsistent with Christian and traditional native teachings.

In 1928 Ohiyesa purchased land on the north shore of Lake Huron, in Ontario, Canada. For the remainder of his life, in addition to lecturing occasionally, he lived in his remote and primitive cabin in communion with the virgin nature that he loved so dearly. He died in 1939, at the age of eighty.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

**Michael O. Fitzgerald** is the author and editor of more than fifteen books that have received over two dozen awards, including the prestigious ForeWord Book of the Year Award, the Ben Franklin Award, and the USA Best Books Award. At least ten of his books and two documentary films produced by him are used in high school and university classes. Michael has taught the Religious Traditions of the North American Indians at Indiana University. He is an adopted son of the late Thomas Yellowtail, one of the most honored American Indian spiritual leaders of the last century. Working with the Lakota Language Consortium, he helped found the Crow Language Consortium, dedicated to the preservation of the Crow language. Michael and his wife, award-winning editor Judith Fitzgerald, live in southern Indiana and spend their time surrounded by their extended family.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



**Heidi M. Rasch** was born near Stuttgart, Germany, to an English-Indian mother and a German father and has been painting since childhood. She and her family traveled to the Crow Reservation, where her interest in America's native peoples was intensified. Heidi went on to study fashion design and work in theater across Europe, including Paris' famed Comédie-Française, before moving to America. For the past decade, she has made annual trips to the American West to visit the Crow and Shoshone tribal reservations, where she maintains many close relationships. She and her two daughters were adopted into the Crow tribe by Joe Medicine Crow, at the time the oldest male member of the Crow tribe, and winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She lives in Bloomington, Indiana.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE FOREWORD

**Charles "Chuck" Trimble** was born and reared on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He is an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and was principal founder of the American Indian Press Association and later served as Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians. In 1975 he represented U.S. Indian tribes at the charter meeting of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples in Copenhagen, Denmark. He also served as a U.S. delegate at the U.N. Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva, Switzerland. Charles was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2013. The author of *Iyeska*, he is now retired and lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife.

