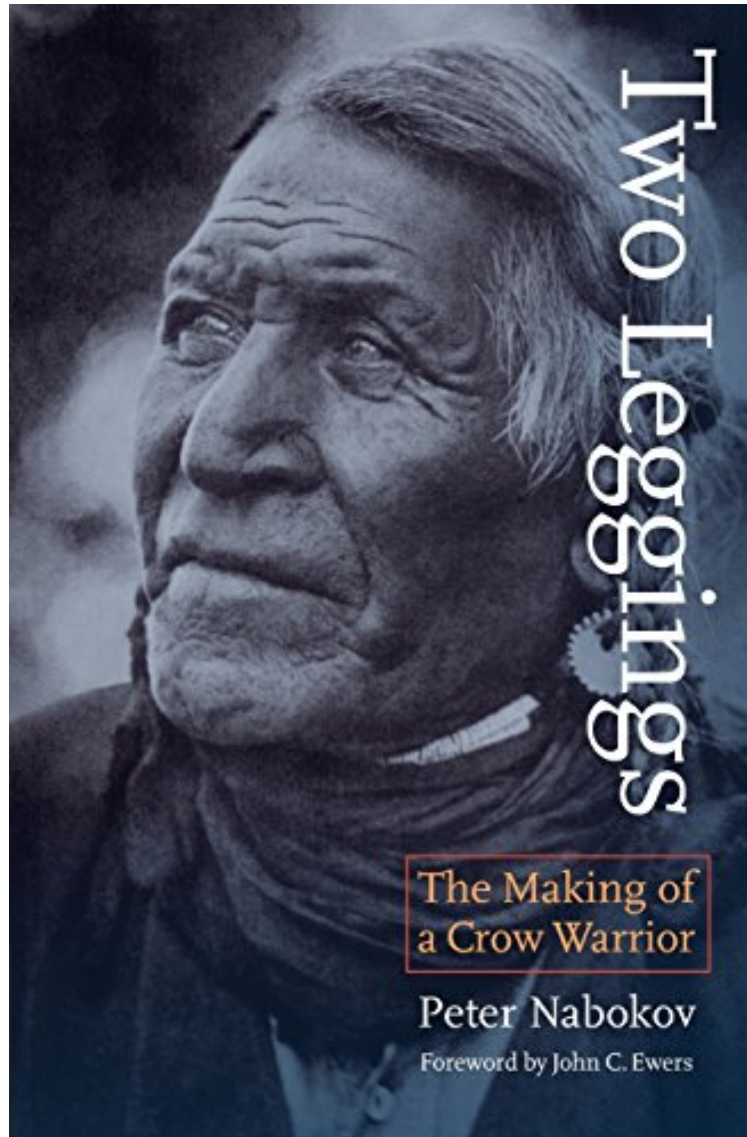


[Read now] Two Leggings: The Making of a Crow Warrior

Two Leggings: The Making of a Crow Warrior

Peter Nabokov

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Peter Nabokov : Two Leggings: The Making of a Crow Warrior before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Two Leggings: The Making of a Crow Warrior:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Eyewitness to Battle of Little Big Horn By Gregory Simkins When I toured Little Big Horn battlefield in August 2009, the tour guide noted that there have been 5000 books written on this battle and that they all contradict each other. Faced with that overwhelming variety of views, I asked her which account of the battle that she recommended. Her response was to purchase the book about Wooden Leg. Wooden Leg

was a Cheyenne Indian who grew up before the destruction of the Indian way of life by encroaching whites. His memory for names and details was incredible. He gave explanations for many of the Indian names, including his own. As a runner, he seemed never to tire, so his fellows considered that his legs must be made of wood. My favorite name was Buffalo Dung. This poor fellow ended his days on earth when he was gored by a buffalo. I am sure these names suffer in translation. They seem strange to my ear, but must have seemed quite natural to the Cheyenne. Wooden Leg tells the tale of the attack on the Indian camp by Custer and his men. Actually, it was an abnormally large camp because the Cheyenne had allied with most of the tribes of the region in order to try to deal with the threat of this invasion by the blue coated cavalry. Years after the battle when the whites (who had no surviving witnesses to the battle) interviewed the Indians to learn details of this momentous event, Wooden Leg notes that many were still afraid to give a full account expecting to be punished for their part in the battle. This fact may account for many of the contradictions noted by our tour guide. Wooden Leg's account seemed quite believable due to the many details given of his own part in the battle. In spite of repeated inquiries, he was unable to give any clarification regarding what happened to Custer because he had no idea who any of the attackers were and had no understanding of rank markings on US Cavalry uniforms and could take no notice during the heat of battle. Wooden Leg noted that the elder chiefs were trying desperately to move away from the US forces and avoid battle, but the young men including Wooden Leg, were eager to engage the invaders. (I learned from other sources that Custer was determined to invade the heart of the village to take the women and children captive. In spite of having been told by his Crow Scouts that he was hopelessly outnumbered, Custer led his men directly into the heart of the camp.) Wooden Leg observed that as the Indians moved close to a cavalry defensive position that the soldiers suddenly "went crazy" and started shooting each other! He attributed this incredible turn of events to the "strong medicine" that they had developed for the battle. Other sources noted Custer's order to his men was to save their last bullet for themselves. This book gives a rare and authentic account not only of this famous battle (the second most visited battlefield in the US after Gettysburg), but a fascinating account of the life of the plains Indians. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Julie Anne Cajune Great book. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book By William T. Mullenberg Peter Nabokov reached this book for at least several years employing a friend as a helper and Guide. The education he received from the job was life changing.

"Two Leggings . . . was one of the last Crow Warriors. From 1919 to 1923 he told his story of Crow life and wars to William Wildschut, an ethnologist with the Museum of the American Indian . . . This is the poignant story of the end of traditional Crow life and attitudes, which Two Leggings saw ending with the last warfare rather than the death of the buffalo." -Pacific Historian Peter Nabokov is on the faculty of the Department of Anthropology and the American Indian Studies Program, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the author of Native American Architecture (1988) and editor of Native American Testimony: A Chronicle of Indian and White Relations from Prophecy to the Present, 1492-1992 (1991).

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