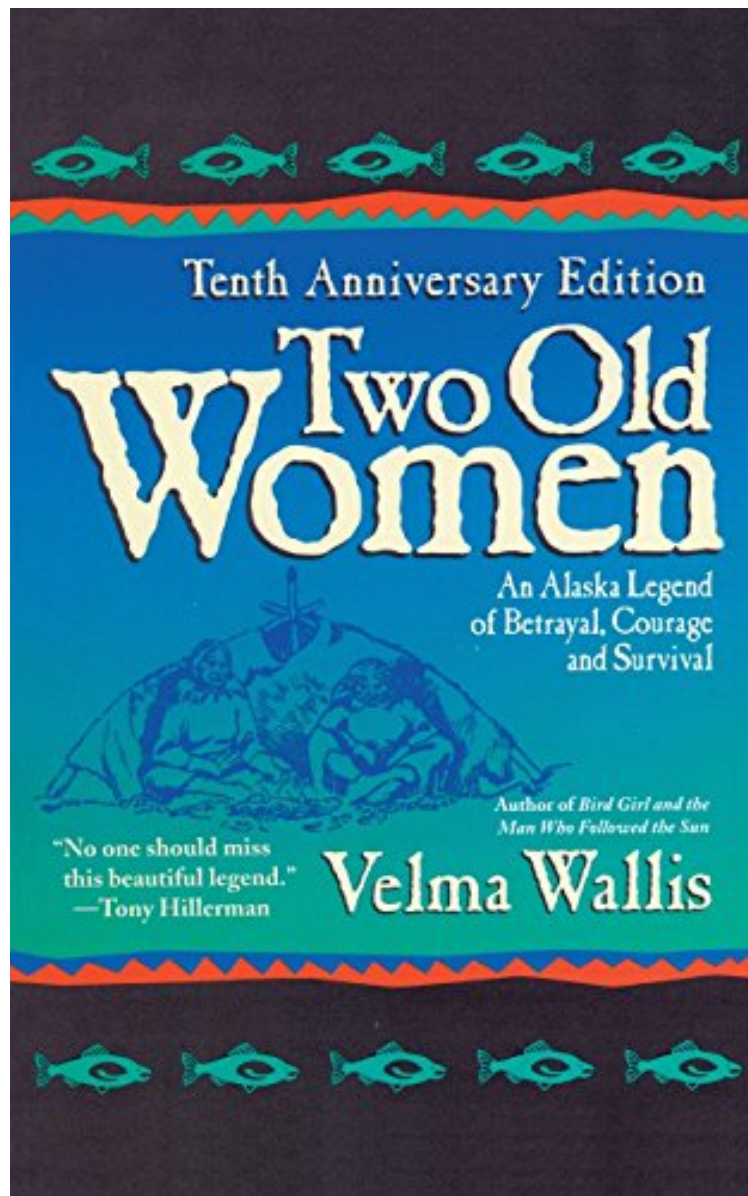


(Free) Two Old Women, 10th Anniversary Edition: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival

Two Old Women, 10th Anniversary Edition: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival

Velma Wallis

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Velma Wallis : Two Old Women, 10th Anniversary Edition: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Two Old Women, 10th Anniversary Edition: An Alaskan Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Life Affirming
By Lynne Spreen I loved this book. I can't wait to give it to my 88-year-old mother to read. It's such an affirmation of the dignity and wisdom of older age. My review may spoil the story for you so proceed cautiously from here. Two Old Women is based on an Athabascan Indian legend. A starving tribe of Alaskan natives leaves two old women alone in the freezing cold to die, because every mouthful of food is precious, and these two are unhelpful. They don't contribute to the tribe; they take from it. People have to help them. They complain constantly. Once the tribe leaves them, though, they must decide whether to accept the death sentence or not. The younger woman, 75, says we might die anyway, but if that is so, let's at least die trying to live. So they adopt that motto. At least let's die trying. They manage to avert death by recalling long-unused knowledge of survival skills. In spite of their old, achy bodies, they thrive and bond with each other, but they are lonely and sad. Eventually, there's a happy ending, which I'll let you discover for yourself. If you're like me, you'll reread it, crying with joy each time. But the message of this book is multi-faceted. Elders can and should continue to contribute until the end. Youth should respect the elders for their valuable knowledge. All people benefit from this synergy. Two Old Women is a short book. I read it in one evening. I heartily recommend it, particularly to those who are older and feeling ignored, useless, or confused. This book will get you up and moving, and it will make you happy.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a wonderful book for thoughtful discussions on peaceful so-existence
By CrzGzr I love this story. It is a wonderful lesson for everyone. In every conflict there is more than one person. The community in the book lives on in harsh conditions and everyone has to be in harmony for everyone to survive. When the animosity between two women becomes too disruptive, they are given a punishment and to survive they need to come together. One woman is the obvious villain but the other has to learn to accept her role in the conflict. On the surface, she appears innocent but after careful consideration, her flaws emerge. She never once tried to defuse the situation or help the other woman. This is a wonderful book for discussion.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Absorbing Tale
By Vickie S. Although very short, this is a very absorbing tale. A tale that anyone over 60 should read. Too many times, older people give up on life, thinking they are too old to participate. This tale should be an awakening. This story is one that has great meaning and influence at a relevant time in my life. I truly recommend it!

Based on an Athabascan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine. Though these women have been known to complain more than contribute, they now must either survive on their own or die trying. In simple but vivid detail, Velma Wallis depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful. In her old women, she has created two heroines of steely determination whose story of betrayal, friendship, community and forgiveness "speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness and wisdom" (Ursula K. Le Guin).

From School Library Journal
Grade 7 Up-Velma Wallis adapted her prize-winning book (Harper Perennial, 1993) from a tale she first heard from her mother, an Athabascan Indian in the Alaskan Yukon. Its transition into audio format is impressive: taken from oral tradition, it's tellable and starkly poetic, while the deep rich voice of narrator Russell Means with his Native American inflections does much to enhance its power and authenticity. The story is compelling. Abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine, two old women are left to perish on their own. Although they've grown used to complaining and letting others do for them, the two resolve not to wait passively for death but to fight against it. With trapping skills they haven't used for years and strengthened by their bond of friendship, the two women survive the winter to ultimately come face to face with the members of their tribe, none of whom has fared as well as they. Utterly convincing in its details and resolution, this will offer listeners in seventh grade and up vivid insight into a Native American culture. At the same time, it rises above the particulars of time and place to become a metaphor with a message or inspiration not only for students, women or the elderly, but for all members of the human race.
Carol Katz, Harrison Public Library, NY
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From Booklist
Growing up Gwich'in (one of the 11 distinct ethnic peoples of Alaska) in Fort Yukon, closer to the Arctic Circle than Fairbanks, Wallis had been hearing all her life the legend of the two old women abandoned to die by their starving tribe. Their own children abetted the cruel (not, incidentally, just to Western civilization) tribal decision. Wallis' rendition in serviceable prose of this culturally famous story is somewhere between translation and what is sometimes called recreation. The tale (which has a happy ending) deserves a place in every regional collection but has a greater appeal, too. Roland Wulbert
From Kirkus s
Enchanting retelling--and a 1993 Western States Book Award winner--of a tribal legend about two old women, left behind to die, who instead went on to survive and thrive. Wallis--one of 13 siblings with their roots in the Athabascan tribe of Alaska--used to listen to her mother tell stories every night after the day's hard work was done. The story of the two old women was a favorite: In a winter of famine, the tribe decides to leave behind two elderly women, who although mobile and somewhat productive, complain constantly and require assistance. Some people are shocked and distressed, but no one, including the daughter of one of the women, speaks up, afraid of precipitating violence in the tribe. As the tribe marches off, the two women, 75 and 80 years old, vow they will "die trying." They manage to catch a few rabbits and a squirrel to sustain them, then set off to a campsite

miles away where, they recall, food is more abundant. They reach their goal, survive the winter, and spend the summer laying in a store of foodstuffs that will eventually sustain the whole tribe when it returns in search of them. Wallis recounts the tale here in simple but vivid detail, describing a life of unremitting labor in an extraordinary landscape. The story speaks to many modern concerns--abandonment or isolation of old men and women in nursing homes and retirement communities; the elderly's perhaps unwitting view of themselves as a privileged elite, but one which greatly underestimates its capabilities; the way in which the greatest good for the greatest number can lead to injustice and even cruelty, and in which trust, once broken, takes time and hard work to repair. Full of adventure, suspense, and obstacles overcome--an octogenarian version of *Thelma and Louise* triumphant. (Illustrations) -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.