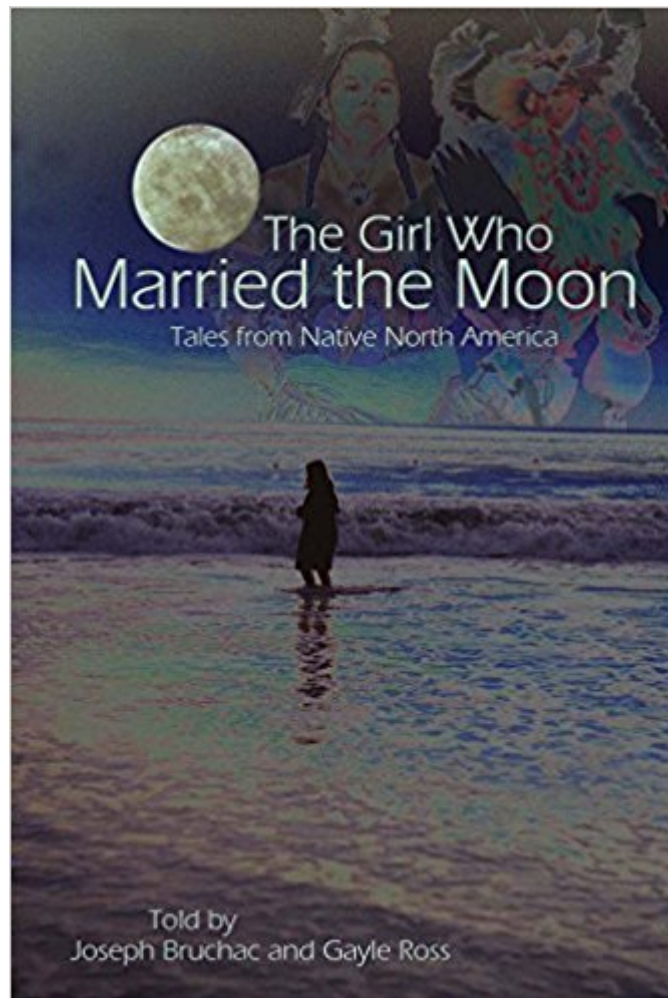




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# **The Girl Who Married The Moon: Tales From Native North America**



## Synopsis

A collection of Native American stories of girls becoming women. These are stories from a broad array of tribes and traditions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bruchac and Ross (How Rabbit Tricked Otter) team up for a companion volume to Bruchac's *Flying with Eagle*, *Racing with Great Bear*, a collection of Native American tales that focused on boys' rites of passage. Here, girls or young women are the protagonists of 16 stories intended "to reach the daughters and granddaughters who will come after." Becoming a woman and marrying correctly are common themes: brave and resourceful heroines escape monsters and kidnappers, comically avoid marriage to trickster Owl or tragically die with their husbands. Unusual selections include "The Beauty Way," a recounting of an Apache rite of passage; "Stonecoat," the defeat of an evil and powerful medicine man by women who use the power of their "moontime

Grade 5-8-What sets this book apart from other collections of Native American tales is its focus on women. Of the 16 stories (4 from each corner of the U.S.), most are relatively unknown. In one Pandora-like tale, the heroine's curiosity is rewarded, not punished. A Cinderella variant, on the other hand, ends unhappily. Several selections involve abduction; there is a bit of cruelty and gore; and one romantic story ends tragically. Edging toward nonfiction, two pieces reflect actual coming-of-age ceremonies, and another celebrates the courage of a woman during the historical battle of Rosebud Creek. Although none of the retellings has the individual power of some

Native-heroine tales available in picture-book form, e.g., Rafe Martin's *Rough-Face Girl* (Putnam, 1992), the volume as a whole is valuable and, as its introduction points out, will balance the popular image of the passive "squaw."-Patricia (Dooley) Lothrop Green, St. George's School, Newport, RI  
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Amazing book. Read it over 10 years ago and needed it in my book collection.

The book is split up into four sections, because the number four is very significant to Native peoples. The number four stands for four seasons, four winds, four directions, and four stages in a person's life. I liked how the stories were also from four different regions. The introduction was very informative and I learned that women were highly regarded in their communities. I enjoyed learning a little more about Native Americans than I already knew. In the Northeast women were the head of the family and owner of the household. European visitors mention women to be chiefs and war leaders. In *Arrowhead Finger*, a young girl is captured by a raiding party and has to use her knowledge of plants to heal herself and return to her home. In *The Abandoned Girl*, Dancing Reed, a very trusting girl is left on an island and must summon the Underwater People to help her escape. In *The Girl and the Chenoo*, Little Listener melts the Chenoo's heart of ice. In *The Girl Who Escaped*, Flitting Bird is taken captive by a man who wants to force her to marry him and she must find a way to win back her choices and freedom. Women from the Southeastern tribes were also very powerful members of their societies. In *Stonecoat* women are used to defeat a cannibal monster who was hunting their people. In *The Girl Who Married an Osage*, Mina-Sauk's father and his people try to keep her from her husband who happens to be of an enemy tribe. In *The Girls Who Almost Married an Owl* twins get a lesson about greed from an unexpected person. The Southwestern tribes are agricultural societies with strong traditions and deeply spiritual roots. In *The Poor Turkey Girl*, Turkey Girl is given a great gift by her aunt's turkey, but it comes with a cost. In *The Girl Who Gave Birth To Water-Jug Boy*, Wai'oca finds out she can't have children and she tries to find a way around that. In *The Bear Woman*, a young woman is tricked by Coyote to get married and upon his death at her brother's hands she turns herself into a bear to avenge Coyote's death. *The Beauty Way- The Ceremony of White-Paint Woman* is about Dahazi's ceremony for her entrance into womanhood. The Northwestern tribes had very important jobs for women and most lead to a tribe's survival. For example, there were a lot of plants used for food that the women of Washington, Oregon and northern California gathered making them providers. In the far north the

clothes the women sewed made survival possible in the cold temperatures. In *How Pelican Girl Was Saved*, Pelican Girl breaks the rules during her initiation into womanhood and the South People must rescue her. *Where The Girl Rescued Her Brother* is about how Buffalo Calf Road Woman rode her horse into a fierce battle to keep her brother from getting killed. In *Chipmunk Girl and Owl Woman*, Coyote has to save children from the Owl Woman. *The Girl who Married the Moon* is about two cousins who wish to marry the Moon, but he will only marry the one with the most patience. It is also a story of the Sun and the Moon! Each of these stories was unique in its own way and I loved them! If you enjoy Native American legends and myths then I strongly suggest you read this collection. Although I found it in the children's section at my library, it was definitely not written for just young people.

The stories that this book tells are incredible teachings that let our imagination flow. We see how strong women can be. Some stories talk about young girls and how they grow and become women. These Northeastern, Southeastern, Southwestern, and Northwestern Native American stories are intriguingly magical, sad, and even hysterical at times. We read 16 stories of 16 girls in adolescence all of whom mature. Penobscot, Seneca, Mohegan, Cherokee, Muskogee, Peoria, Caddo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Cochiti Pueblo, Navajo, Apache, Cheyenne, and Alutiq, among others, are cultures that are learned about in these stories. There is that girl, who married the moon. There is another, who made us humans lose the trust of turkeys, which has made them wild. Read tales passed down generations from the Native American culture. My opinion: I thought this book was alright. It wasn't too intriguing to begin with when I picked it up, but I would rate it a good 3 out of 5 stars. I wasn't bored to death by the stories. The way of retelling the story as Joseph Bruchac and Gayle Ross did, was pretty good. It was pretty cool that they told a little bit about the northeastern, southeastern, northwestern, and southwestern parts before continuing the storytelling.

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This book is a very, very, very good book. In this book the language is written in a neat way. In the beginning of the story it starts with a catchy line then goes "Once upon a time" like a children's book. There are four sections, the Northeast, the Southeast, the Southwest, and the Northwest. In these sections there are different short stories about the tales of that section like, "Turkey Girl" from the southwest section. My favorite short story is "The Girl Who Married the Moon". I like it because it has two people together, but one is the moon in this case the moon is always working, but in the end they worked their problem out. I really liked this book.

This book provides four folktales each from four different regions of the United States: northeast, southeast, southwest and northwest. The stories center around themes that celebrate womanhood, coming of age and the passage from girlhood to womanhood. These stories were delightful and entertaining. I believe any child, especially a girl, would enjoy these folktales and stories of strong and courageous women.

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