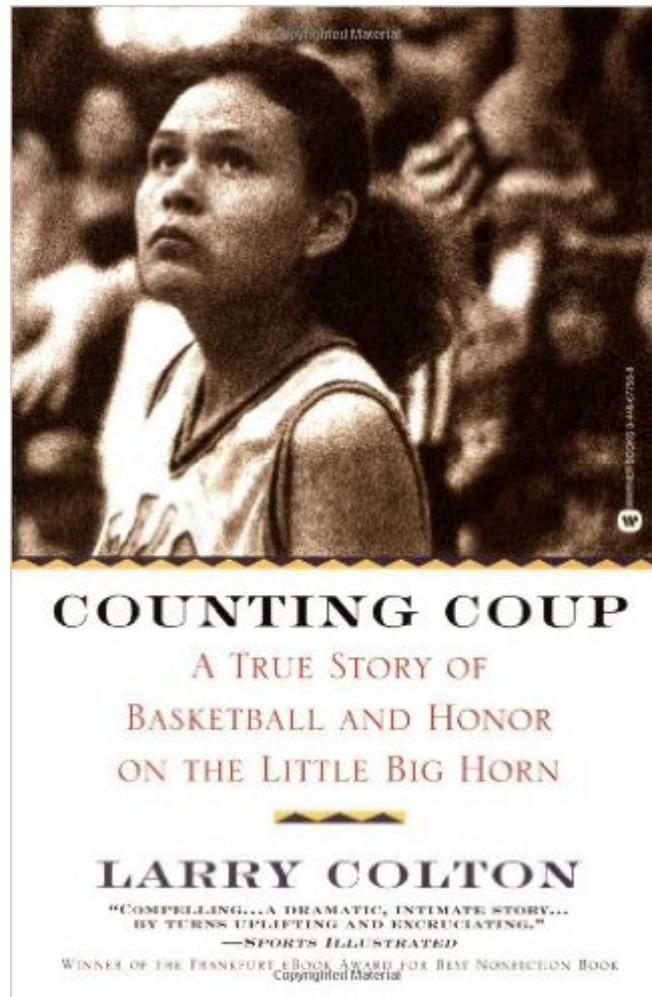


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Counting Coup: A True Story Of Basketball And Honor On The Little Big Horn



Synopsis

In Native American tradition, a warrior gained honor and glory by "counting coup" -- touching his enemy in battle and living to tell the tale. This is a modern story of...COUNTING COUPIn this extraordinary work of journalism, Larry Colton journeys into the world of Montana's Crow Indians and follows the struggles of a talented, moody, charismatic young woman named Sharon LaForge, a gifted basketball player and a descendant of one of George Armstrong Custer's Indian scouts. But "Counting Coup" is far more than just a sports story or a portrait of youth. It is a sobering exposé of a part of our society long since cut out of the American dream. Along the banks of the Little Big Horn, Indians and whites live in age-old conflict and young Indians grow up without role models or dreams. Here Sharon carries the hopes and frustrations of her people on her shoulders as she battles her opponents on and off the court. Colton delves into Sharon's life and shows us the realities of the reservation, the shattered families, the bitter tribal politics, and a people's struggle against a belief that all their children -- even the most intelligent and talented -- are destined for heartbreak. Against this backdrop stands Sharon, a fiery, undaunted competitor with the skill to dominate a high school game and earn a college scholarship. Yet getting to college seems beyond Sharon's vision, obscured by the daily challenge of getting through the season -- physically and ps

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a multi-layered tale that will take you on a roller coaster of an emotional ride. If anyone is looking for evidence that racism continues to have a profound impact on the way that we relate to one another as human beings, look no further than this tremendous book. Larry Colton spent 15

months with members of the Crow Indian tribe in Montana. He followed the fortunes of the Hardin High School girls' basketball team, a team comprising an almost equal number of white and Indian players. Despite the immense talent of Sharon LaForge, an Indian, it is clear that the deck is stacked against her being recruited to play Division I basketball. But, Colton makes clear that this is not a simple case of prejudice that prevents Sharon from succeeding, it is an environment where she is worshipped as the savior of her family and team on one hand, but constantly held to lower standards by the school. Not surprisingly, while she shines on the basketball court, off the court she's completely lost and unable to find her way. Colton works hard to admit his own prejudices as a white person. He questions whether he is trying to impose Eurocentric standards on an independent, proud culture, but he also asks himself whether some of the beliefs of the Crow culture don't in the end defeat its people. They are tough questions, and really, there is no answer. There were times when I found Colton presumptuous, but I asked myself whether I wouldn't have wound up in the same position--he knows that there is another life outside of the reservation, a life where it is possible to become someone else. He comes to care deeply for Sharon and wants what he thinks is best for her, but what he feels would be best for her is to get her off the reservation and out into the rest of America.

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