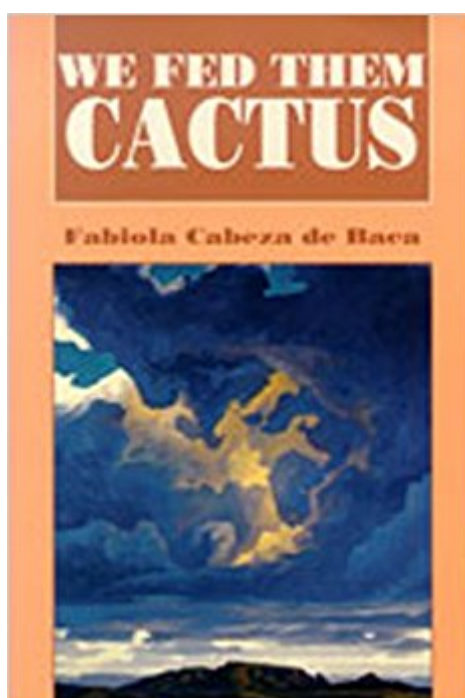


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We Fed Them Cactus (PasÃ³ Por AquÃ­-Series In The Nuevomexicano Literary Heritage)



Synopsis

Prior to statehood, the Llano Estacado, the great plains of northeastern New Mexico and northwestern Texas, were colonized by Hispanic ranchers. Cabeza de Baca's beloved memoir of the era has been reissued as part of the *PasÃ Por AquÃ*- Series on Nuevomexicano Literature. A member of an old Hispanic family, Cabeza de Baca celebrates her Spanish heritage rather than the Mestizo culture embraced by later writers. She portrays the erosion of Hispanic folkways under American influence, but by recording a combination of oral narrative, autobiography, family history, recipes, and poetry, she has helped to preserve these unique expressions of Hispanic culture.

Book Information

Series: *PasÃfÃ Por AquÃfÃ*- Series in the Nuevomexicano Literary Heritage

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Customer Reviews

"This is a fun book for New Mexico's older folks . . . as well as a fine source book for the new generations. It is a must book for every lover of New Mexico history." . . . this modern forward-looking lady of the Llano, being a close observer, a patient listener and fully appreciative of her own rich heritage, has shown us life as seen from the early Hispanic New Mexico point of view . . . The chapters on the fiesta and chapels carry a peculiar flavor that could come only from Hispanic origin. Buffalo hunts, rodeos . . . and outlaw episodes make magic-like appearances as if mirages across the long vista of time. . . from family records, church and state documents, and the stories of early-day Llano settlers, . . . Miss Cabeza de Baca has pieced together the history of the region, its people and their lives. It reads, not like a scholarly treatise, but like a collection of fondly

remembered experiences by nostalgic old-timers, which it largely is. . . . the pictures evoked are sharp and dramatic. "We Fed Them Cactus" is an important and easy-to-read piece of genuine Southwest Americana.

Documents the daily activities of Hispanic pioneers--buffalo hunting, horse breaking, sheep herding, preparing and preserving food, sewing, tending the sick, and educating children are included in this rich recuerdo, as well as stories of Comancheros, Tejanos, Americanos, and outlaws.

Not exactly full of surprises, but a well told recollection of growing up on, and ranching on the Llano Estacado in late 19th and early 20th century.

I am a first generation Coloradoan. My family is from New Mexico. I grew up with stories from my family when they grew up in New Mexico. These stories have been passed on from generation to generation. We could never convince my father or his family to write these stories down, but they are committed to memory. Books like this are very nostalgic to me and my family. It was worth the purchase.

Just a story of an early ranch in southern New Mexico! But not just a story. The book is full of hints about the beginnings of ranch life here. If that is not enough of an enticement the story is about how ranchers handled a period of severe drought like the drought we now have in New Mexico.

THE WAY THE AUTHOR TELLS THE STORY YOU ACTUALLY FEEL AS IF YOU WERE THERE AS THE STORY UNFOLDS. LOOKING UP AT THE ENDLESS SKY FULL OF STARS AT NIGHT.

lots of history there. I liked it lots about the area in my surrounding area. good to know about the making of our country

Good historical vignette of NW New Mexico.

This book tells the history of the lives of people living on the Staked Plains of New Mexico and their way of life through personal stories and research.

Don't think it flowed too well. The narrative about the author wasn't needed. Let the book be what it is - someone's recollection, even without any confirmation, is just that - memories. I didn't like that the author made up names for the stories - I come from New Mexico as well and have plenty of my own stories, however - I don't write them down because I too just have recollections. I never wrote them down, I couldn't remember who told me what story - which is the problem the author had.

Can't take as historical material.

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