

[Free] The old ones of New Mexico

The old ones of New Mexico

Robert Coles

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



#1748796 in Books University of New Mexico Press 1973PDF # 1 #File Name: 082630301374 pages | File size: 76.Mb

Robert Coles : The old ones of New Mexico before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The old ones of New Mexico:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. More from the "River of Traps"..By John P. Jones III recently read and reviewed William DeBuys "River of Traps", which I gave "6-stars" to, my own scale for rating especially good books. From DeBuys work, I learn that he, along with photographer Alex Harris, initially came to northern New Mexico, in the early `70's, in order to do research work for Robert Coles, a Harvard Professor, who was working on "Children of Crisis" which would win the Pulitzer Prize. Like numerous others, they became "enchanted" with the "Land of Enchantment" and decided to stay. As an aside, they mention the "push" of fleeing "Nixon and the Vietnam War." A motivation that resonated with me., as we know, will suggest other books that might relate to one that has been purchased. And so it suggested this book to me, and I was stunned to find no other reviews of it. Harris's pictures (which I appreciated from "River of Traps" coupled with text from Robert Coles.) I had to hit the "Purchase" button.A word of caution: this is a slender volume of 75 pages of text, and approximately 36 pages of black and white photos, one per page. The publisher made the mistake of trying to "fluff out" the offering with FIVE introductions and prefaces. I found them a real "turn off," so much so that I considered not finishing the work, something I rarely do. Consider Coles over-the-top "homage to the noble savage" from his 1984 preface: "These are people whose rough, worn, unadorned features become, collectively, a thickly textured landscape all its own: faces of honor and reverence and loving kindness and apprehension and, finally, grace earned, grace visible." Clearing that "low bar," at least the

preface by Alex Harris was much better. Fortunately I persevered. Coles admits to "cleaning up the conversation" a bit, with the Norteos that he interviews. But what is rendered appears to be part of their core beliefs and attitudes. Consider this critique of the consumer society: "Buying, that is a sickness. I have gone to the city and watched people. They are hungry, but nothing satisfies their hunger. They come to stores like flies to sticky paper: they are caught. I often wonder who is better off. The fly dies. The people have to pay to get out of the store, but soon they are back again, the same look in their eyes. I don't ask people to live on farms and make chairs and tables; but when I see them buying things they don't need, or even want, except to make a purchase, to get something - then I say there is a sickness." There are some other insightful sections of the role of the elderly and the Catholic Church in their lives, including some meaningful discussions with a priest. And he also seems to debunk the "noble savage" concept by frankly listing the character deficiencies of some of the residents, starting with "Nor is she saintly..." Furthermore, he is insightful enough to look at his "own tribe" of academics who study others, with their own spirit-draining rituals, clichés, conferences, and notes that no one speaks of "our cultural disadvantages." More than the text though, it is the photographs of Alex Harris that make this book truly worthwhile. 5-stars. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A friend that lives in New Mexico recommended this book for me since I am interested in ... By Lynda J. Benson A friend that lives in New Mexico recommended this book for me since I am interested in the early years of history for New Mexico. What a wonderful look into the lives of these noble and hard working individuals that survived with such tenacity and faith. Loved the book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Drew318 The item was not as described.

These narratives by storytellers in New Mexico examine life's big questions of what truly matters and why. The timeless wisdom and contemplations of these old ones will resonate with those studying literature, philosophy, or religion, as well as anyone who enjoys explorations of the human spirit.

An eloquent picture of the hard but productive and fulfilling lives of these rural people. -- San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle Superbly presented. As a collective portrait this book allows its subjects to reveal themselves with a directness and immediacy... -- The New Republic