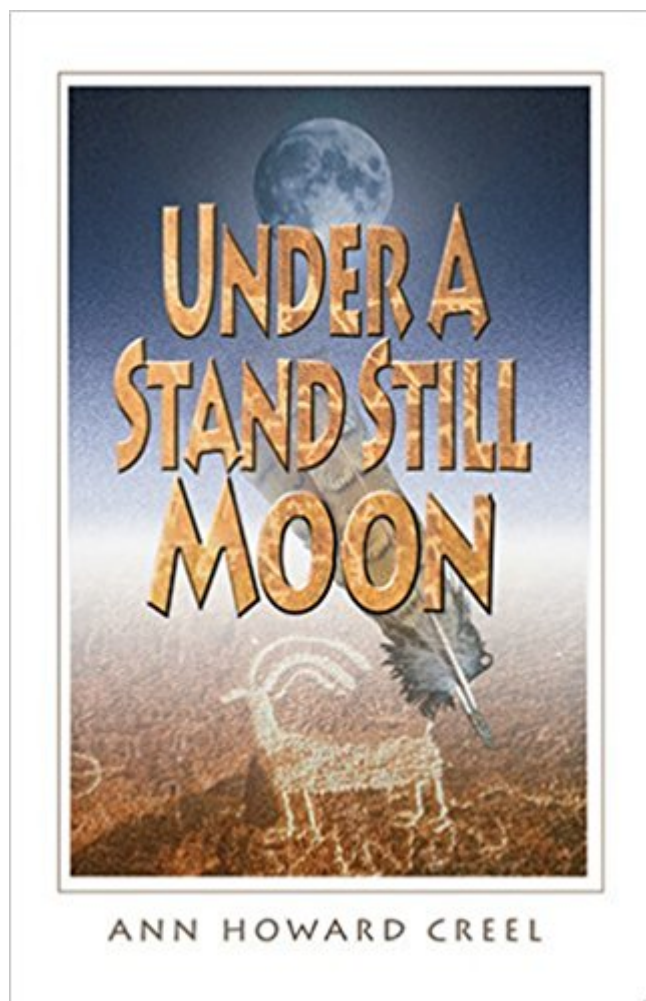


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Under A Stand Still Moon



Synopsis

Under A Stand Still Moon is the winner of the Independent Publishers Book Award Winner 2006 for Multicultural Fiction A Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2006-the National Council for the Social Studies and the Children's Book Council Women Writing the West Young Adult Fiction Finalist ForeWord Magazine YA Fiction Bronze Award

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 6 Up
Echo Song's love of birdcalls earned her her name, but her first name was Born of the Stand Still Moon, for the rare lunar position at the time of her birth. Because of this, she has always been labeled as special. When a turn of events allows her to save a life miraculously, her status is cemented. She is sought as a bride for one of the high priests in her Anasazi community and has to give up the young man she loves. But when the crops begin to fail, she finds herself stepping into her role as a leader of her people and ultimately discovers the secret to save their way of life. This spare and lyrical tale offers readers a peek into what life must have been like for the Ancient Ones, who lived in the Southwest United States over 1000 years ago. Creel awakens their daily life through archaeological records and the development of her characters to create a rich story of a peaceful farming community and the young woman who sacrifices all she loves to save it. This would be a great book to enhance curriculum, but will also be enjoyed by anyone who likes historical fiction.
Anna M. Nelson, Collier County Public Library, Naples, FL
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...could easily be this generation's Island of the Blue Dolphins. Notable aspects: strong unconventional heroine, interesting setting, imagery, language. -- New England Children's Book Advisory Council, Fall 2005
Creel's powerful, understated narrative voice and exquisite eye for detail make this novel an accessible and satisfying read. -- Assembly on Literature for Adolescents (ALAN) August 2005

Details of the southwest landscape and Anasazi culture are seamlessly woven into this classic coming of age story. Creel takes readers inside the heart and mind of young Echo, whose dreams are dashed when she is forced to marry an old High Priest instead of her childhood sweetheart. A quiet, poetic book with enough plot twists to make it a real page turner.

Reviewed by Susan Pettrone for Reader Views (1/07)
From the beginning of this book, the reader is drawn into the world of "Echo," a young Native American girl living in the southwestern United States around 900 A.D. We see her grow from a young girl who spends her happiest days playing and exploring the world around her with her friends and helping her mother with her younger sister. Her closest friends "jumping Fish" (her brother) and "Falcon" are her constant companions as they grow up day by day from children with not a care in the world, to young adults facing the world around them. Her relationship with Falcon changes as they grow older as well. From friendship grows love and they vow to be married one day when the time is right and Falcon has proven himself to be a man and worthy of marriage. To the three of them, life cannot be better, their threesome will stay close with the marriage and they will not have to part. Falcon prepares for his first hunt and with his return, plans to ask for Echo in marriage, a plan that seems perfect to all three of them. All seems happy and carefree for Echo until the day she happens to be in a place where a child falls from a high mesa and she catches it nimbly in her outstretched arms. From that day forward, her life changes in ways that she never dreamed possible....and all because she saved the life of this one child. For the child she saved is a child who belongs to the priest's and their group who live high on the mesa. And with the news of her heroic action a priest asks for her hand in marriage. Echo is crushed but knows that to ask for her hand is a compliment to her family and she cannot even think of refusing. So she is swept up into a marriage to a man she has no love for and who is not interested in her for a typical wife, but for someone who will be kind to him and help him as he grows older. She agrees to the marriage with the stipulation that he will teach her all his secrets of the priesthood and train her as he would a man. Her husband sees the wisdom in such a

request and grants it thus beginning her studies as a student of the mysterious ways of their people. As the book continues, we see the tribe growing more and more aware that in order to survive, they must move on. For they have used up most of the natural resources of the area and as the years go by, it is harder and harder for them to prepare for the winters that lie ahead. Sadly they realize the futility of staying and one by one they move on leaving those who are too sick or old to stay and die where they lived. Echo stays behind caring for and burying those who die, as she feels she must do for her tribe. Her husband grows more ill as the days go by until he too passes on and Echo is left to bury her husband by herself. It is Echo's footsteps that are then the last to leave the mesa and all the memories it held for her people. After reading this, I found myself thoughtful, wondering if in fact this could have happened to the people of Chimney rock. I wondered if perhaps they, like the people in this book, slowly realized that though they had a wonderful city built on the mesa, that it no longer met their needs, and beautiful or not, they must move on to survive. I would highly recommend this book for young readers of all ages. It is filled with thoughtful moments, historical references to the lifestyle of Echo and her people and realistic characters as well. It is a book rich with meaning and thought provoking situations. This book is one that would make an excellent addition to any home or classroom library and one that is well worth the price. It is a wonderful way to look at the life of Native Americans and to see all aspects of their life in an easy to read and understandable manner. In short, "Under a Stand Still Moon" is fantastic book in every way and a book that deserves to be read for it's insight and interesting storyline alike! Book received free of charge

Set in the southwestern United States in 900 A.D., UNDER A STAND STILL MOON tells the story of Echo, a little girl born into the Waterfall Clan. Echo is considered special because she was brought into this world under a Stand Still Moon, a very rare season in which the moon halts its course in the sky and raises nightly between the two war gods. Echo's greatest wish is to have unlimited freedom to explore her world. However, her mother and grandmother want her to learn the ways of a woman and a working wife. So she is forced to stay at home, helping her family with chores and tending to her younger sister with not much time for exploring her world. While hard at work, she develops a crush on her childhood friend Falcon. Her love for him grows so deeply that she wishes to marry him. However, after she saves a baby from falling off a cliff, Sun Watcher, a High Priest whose incredible power scares everyone in the village, asks her family for her hand in marriage. Her family agrees, and so Echo must leave her dreams and family behind to marry and move in with Sun Watcher. While living with her husband, Echo discovers that he is very ill. She promises to take care

of him if he promises to give her his power. He agrees, and starts teaching her the lessons of the sky. Meanwhile, tragedies begin to occur in her village, and Sun Watcher becomes sicker than ever. Will Echo be able to stay strong for everyone in the village and survive on her own, or will her world become a different place? *UNDER A STAND STILL MOON* comes to life as author Ann Howard Creel creates vivid images of the Anasazi civilization and the ancient people who represent natural Earth elements. This is an incredible journey that is not to be missed. --- Reviewed by Ashley Hartlaub

Set in the prehistoric Southwestern United States circa 900 A.D., *Under A Standstill Moon* is the novel of a girl born during a "lucky month"

Under A Stand Still Moon is one of the very best young adult, historical fiction books that I have read in a long time. The attention to detail and historical accuracy woven into a "can't put down" story line is exceptional. Creel deftly captures the lives of the Anasazi civilization during its final days. The reader is at once swept back in time and learns about an America that existed well before 1492. I am sure that this book will find itself in the hands of many middle school students and teachers who want to learn more about this period of history-and read a book that is of the same quality as Scott O'Dell's great novel *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

Rebeccasreads highly recommends *UNDER A STAND STILL MOON* as a vivid, lyrical recreation of one girl's coming of age during terrifying times when her people, the mysterious & vanished Anasazi, who have lived on the mesas & plains of America's Southwest for generations, are threatened by their gods & the weather they control. A great read for lovers of pre-history how daily lives once were lived.

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