



The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman (Women in the West)

Margot Mifflin

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In 1851 Olive Oatman was a thirteen-year old pioneer traveling west toward Zion, with her Mormon family. Within a decade, she was a white Indian with a chin tattoo, caught between cultures. *The Blue Tattoo* tells the harrowing story of this forgotten heroine of frontier America. Orphaned when her family was brutally killed by Yavapai Indians, Oatman lived as a slave to her captors for a year before being traded to the Mohave, who tattooed her face and raised her as their own. She was fully assimilated and perfectly happy when, at nineteen, she was ransomed back to white society. She became an instant celebrity, but the price of fame was high and the pain of her ruptured childhood lasted a lifetime.

Based on historical records, including letters and diaries of Oatman's friends and relatives, *The Blue Tattoo* is the first book to examine her life from her childhood in Illinois—including the massacre, her captivity, and her return to white society—to her later years as a wealthy banker's wife in Texas.

Oatman's story has since become legend, inspiring artworks, fiction, film, radio plays, and even an episode of *Death Valley Days* starring Ronald Reagan. Its themes, from the perils of religious utopianism to the permeable border between civilization and savagery, are deeply rooted in the American psyche. Oatman's blue tattoo was a cultural symbol that evoked both the imprint of her Mohave past and the lingering scars of westward expansion. It also served as a reminder of her deepest secret, fully explored here for the first time: she never wanted to go home.

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Joseph Anderson:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a reserve. The book The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman (Women in the West) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book offers high quality.

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