

Pocahontas: The Powhatan Princess Who Shaped American History



Pocahontas by Joseph Bruchac

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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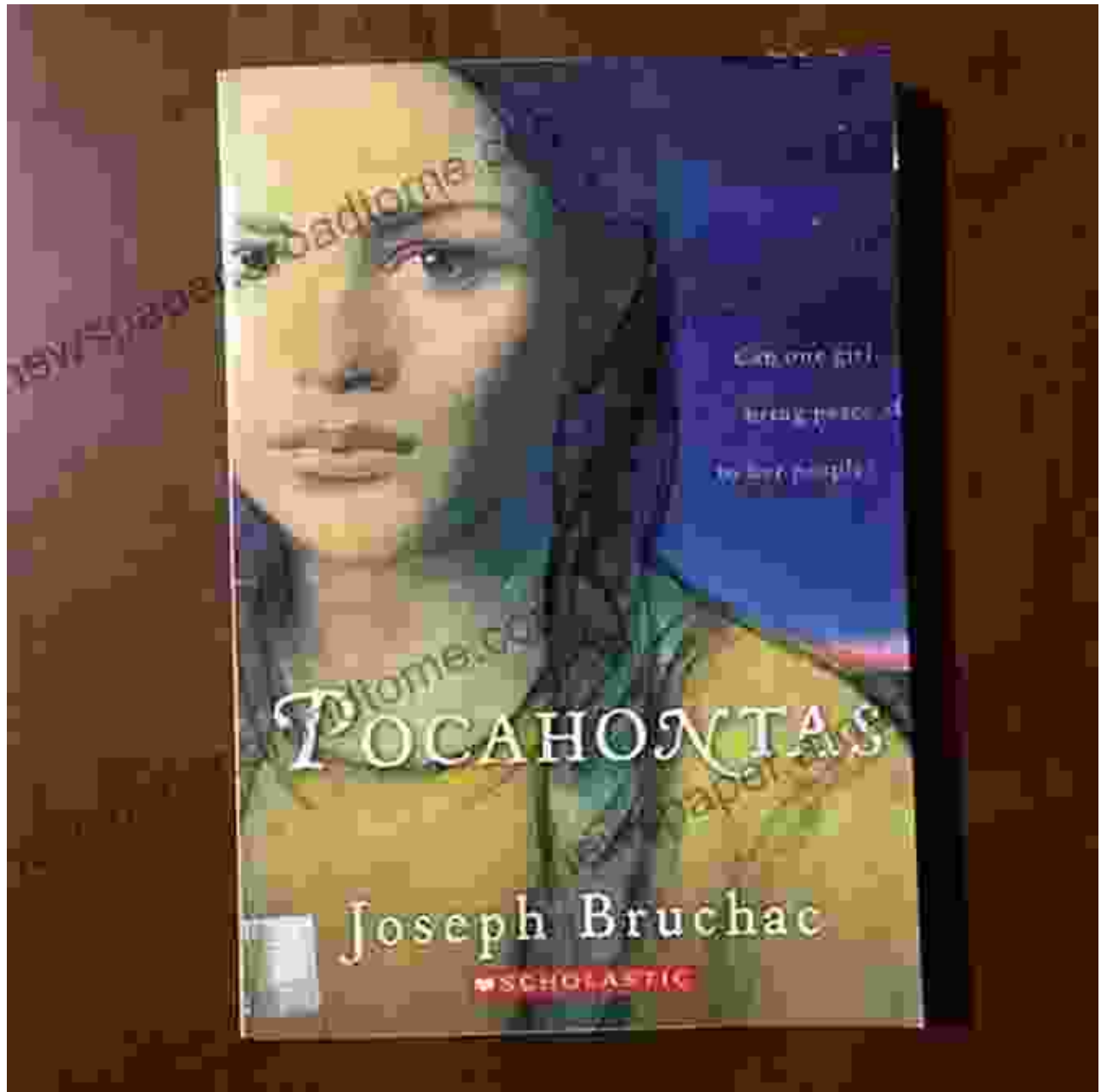
Print length : 204 pages

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The Early Life of Pocahontas

Pocahontas was born around 1595 in Werowocomoco, the capital of the Powhatan Confederacy, which spanned a vast territory in present-day Virginia and North Carolina. Her father, Powhatan, was a powerful chief who ruled over more than 30 tribes. Pocahontas's given name was Matoaka, meaning "bright stream between two hills."

As the daughter of a chief, Pocahontas received a privileged upbringing. She was educated in the ways of her people, including their language, customs, and beliefs. She was also trained in the art of diplomacy and negotiation, skills that would later prove invaluable in her dealings with the English colonists.

The Arrival of the English

In 1607, a group of English colonists arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, seeking to establish a permanent settlement. The colonists were unprepared for the harsh conditions they encountered, and many died from disease, starvation, and conflict with the native population.

Pocahontas first encountered the English colonists in 1608, when she was around 13 years old. She was fascinated by their strange appearance and customs, and she quickly learned to speak their language. Pocahontas became a valuable intermediary between the colonists and her people, helping to negotiate trade agreements and resolve conflicts.

Saving Captain John Smith

One of the most famous stories about Pocahontas is her rescue of Captain John Smith, the leader of the Jamestown colony. In December 1607, Smith was captured by Powhatan's warriors and taken to Werowocomoco. Pocahontas pleaded with her father to spare Smith's life, and Powhatan eventually agreed to release him.

Historians have debated the accuracy of this story, but it has become a powerful symbol of Pocahontas's compassion and courage. It is believed that Pocahontas's intervention saved Smith's life and helped to establish a fragile peace between the colonists and the Powhatan Confederacy.

Marriage and Conversion

In 1614, Pocahontas was captured by the English and held hostage. While in captivity, she met John Rolfe, a wealthy tobacco planter. Rolfe fell in love with Pocahontas, and they were married in 1614.

After her marriage, Pocahontas converted to Christianity and took the name Rebecca. She and Rolfe had one son, Thomas. In 1616, Pocahontas and her family traveled to England, where she was presented to King James I and Queen Anne.

Legacy and Impact

Pocahontas died in England in 1617, at the age of 22. Her death shocked and saddened both the English and the Powhatan people. She was buried in the churchyard of St. George's Church in Gravesend, Kent.

Pocahontas's life and legacy have been celebrated for centuries. She is remembered as a symbol of peace and understanding between Native Americans and European settlers. Her story has been told in countless books, films, and television shows.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to reclaim Pocahontas's Native American identity. Some historians have argued that her conversion to Christianity and her marriage to Rolfe were part of an attempt to assimilate her into English society and erase her Powhatan heritage.

Despite these attempts, Pocahontas remains an important figure in both Native American and American history. Her story is a reminder of the complex and often tragic relationship between Native Americans and

European settlers. It is also a story of hope and reconciliation, and a testament to the power of one person to make a difference.

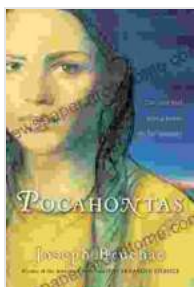
The Book: Pocahontas by Joseph Bruchac

Joseph Bruchac's book 'Pocahontas' is a comprehensive and engaging account of the life and legacy of this extraordinary Native American woman. Bruchac, who is himself of Native American descent, draws on extensive research and storytelling to create a vivid and nuanced portrait of Pocahontas.

The book explores Pocahontas's childhood, her encounters with the English colonists, her marriage to John Rolfe, and her untimely death in England. Bruchac also examines the complex legacy of Pocahontas, and the ways in which her story has been used and abused over the centuries.

'Pocahontas' is a must-read for anyone interested in Native American history, American history, or the life of this remarkable woman. It is a beautifully written and deeply researched book that sheds new light on one of the most iconic figures in American history.

Free Download 'Pocahontas' by Joseph Bruchac on Our Book Library



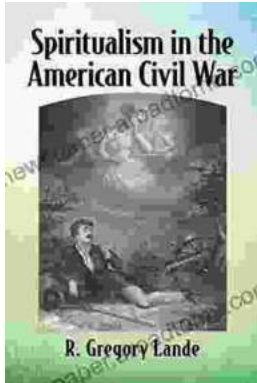
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