



Who Would Unbraid Her Hair : the Legend of Annie Mae

By Antoinette Nora Claypoole

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Who Would Unbraid Her Hair : the Legend of Annie Mae By Antoinette Nora Claypoole

Antoinette Nora Claypoole has unleashed a monster of a book that delves deeper into the mysteries surrounding the murder of Annie Mae Pictou-Aquash than many of her one-time friends and lovers will be comfortable with. The book, *Who would unbraid her hair: The legend of annie mae*, published by anam cara press, was released in November, 1999.

Claypoole's book is, like Anna Mae's life, a harrowing journey into the maze of idealism, paranoia, and blind spots of Indian activism and its nemesis, the miscellaneous COINTELPRO operations run by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Claypoole's intentions for the book, as Anna Mae's for her life, are nothing but good: "The continual intention of my work is to encourage a healing of the fear and sorrow, anger and injustice which surround the memory of Annie Mae, and to help her wondering spirit settle into her journey home" (p. xiv). And in the end, both Anna Mae and Antoinette Nora were stymied, through no fault of their own, Anna Mae by a bullet through the back of her head, and Claypoole by a pervasive silence that still blankets Indian Country like a shroud.

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Who Would Unbraid Her Hair : the Legend of Annie Mae By Antoinette Nora Claypoole Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Almost as if coming from a chorus of voices, rises this story of Anna Mae. -- *Jay Metzler*

Almost as if coming from a chorus of voices, rises this story of Anna Mae. -- *Sonja Keohane*

Almost as if coming from a chorus of voices, rises this story of Anna Mae. One voice speaks poetry, one a narrative and yet another speaks of a personal journey. The voices blend at times and then move around, between and encircle one another until a fabric is woven that becomes a chronicle, a love story, a lament, a eulogy, a plea, but most of all, as it is described by its author...a true story. These voices speak for Anna Mae and in doing so call others, long silent, to do the same. skk, 11.18.99

I finished reading Who Would Unbraid Her Hair: the legend of annie mae several days ago and wanted to respond to your request for reactions, but I'm unable to put my head and fingers around any words that describe the experience. It will take repeated readings and lots of time alone to sort it all out and even begin to articulate what the story has done to me. -- *Jay Metzler*

Antoinette Nora Claypoole has unleashed a monster of a book that delves deeper into the mysteries surrounding the murder of Annie Mae Pictou-Aquash than many of her one-time friends and lovers will be comfortable with. -- *David Rider*

About the Author

Direct involvement with political and spiritual American Indian issues has lead me to writing the story of Anna Mae Pictou Aquash. Annie Mae was a MicMac woman whose unsolved murder on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, in February, 1976 has left many hearts heavy and few remembering her life. Active in the American Indian Movement (AIM) during the 1970's Annie Mae was a significant contributor to the roles women play in changing the course of life on this planet. She was part of the Wounded Knee siege of 1973, worked with Indian children in AIM survival schools and supported elders in their desire to continue to live in traditional Indian ways. Annie Mae's commitment to indigenous people and their continued pursuit of sovereignty was significant, her story haunting.

In the process of working on reviving the life of Anna Mae, I discovered that the U.S. Marshall in Rapid City, South Dakota had reopened an investigation into her murder. Many who knew her found it difficult to speak of Anna Mae, and subsequently the work became one of writing her legend. What began as simple interview and storytelling, hoping to retrieve a semblance of oral tradition, evolved into a story within a story. One sits on the edge of justice waiting to hear if and who of those Anna Mae knew may be indicted for her murder. By my direct contact with these significant people in her life as well as continued communication with her cousin who leads a current investigation into the murder, I offer the reader a resounding sense of how one contemporary Indian woman continues to write the course of her story.

My part of this work begins in a most honored place, being a mother of two nearly grown children. Throughout these child rearing years I have also enjoyed being a freelance writer for regional newspapers and journals, a poet and spoken word artist, and long time activist for the sovereignty of Indian nations.

My publishing credits lie in Northwest regional magazines and journals and the world wide web. Those

include THE ALLIANCE, Portland, Oregon, WEST WIND REVIEW, GOLIARDS literary magazine and FRINGES bi-monthly, a publication in which I served as poetry editor. Also, excerpts from this book were published on First Nations Pages, ed. Jordan Dill, on the world wide web.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jaclyn Warner:

In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a reserve your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading any book, we give you that Who Would Unbraid Her Hair : the Legend of Annie Mae book as beginning and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Daryl Thurmond:

The experience that you get from Who Would Unbraid Her Hair : the Legend of Annie Mae could be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to be aware of but Who Would Unbraid Her Hair : the Legend of Annie Mae giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by means of anyone who read this because the author of this reserve is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having that Who Would Unbraid Her Hair : the Legend of Annie Mae instantly.

Shirley Vega:

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Lisa Gregory:

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