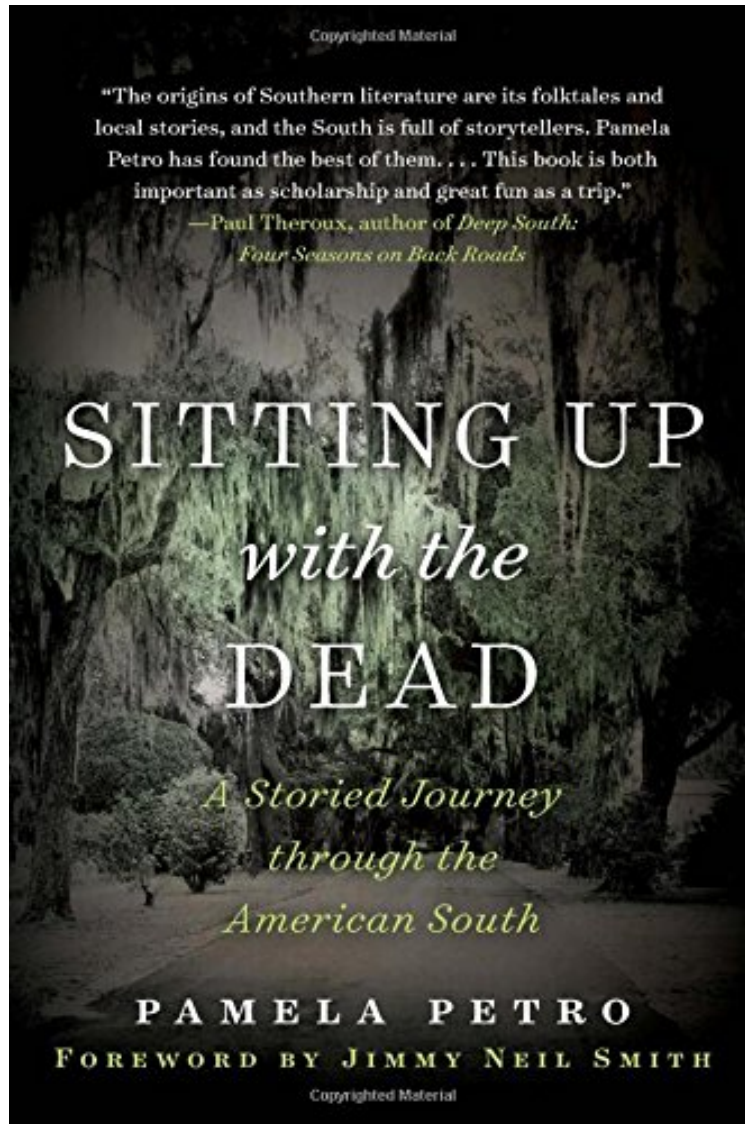


[Read and download] Sitting Up with the Dead: A Storied Journey through the American South

Sitting Up with the Dead: A Storied Journey through the American South

Pamela Petro

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3292747 in Books Petro Pamela 2017-02-14Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.20 x 1.30 x 5.60l, .0 #File Name: 1628727039448 pagesSitting Up with the Dead A Storied Journey Through the American South | File size: 77.Mb

Pamela Petro : Sitting Up with the Dead: A Storied Journey through the American South before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sitting Up with the Dead: A Storied Journey through the American South:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very disappointingBy escapeartisteThe subject matter is very

interesting, sadly the treatment is rather poor. The author is a travel writer and not a folklorist, so it's not surprising that there is more in the book about her travels through the South than there are stories. What is disappointing is that she's simply not a good writer. Even if you read this as only a travel book and not a collection of folkloric stories, it's flaws are irritating. There are several instances in the book that are muddled and unclear. She's not terribly insightful and a lot of her descriptions are pedestrian. More annoying, however, is the fact that Petro often comes across as bitchy or unpleasant. Also, many storytellers are merely described (and also come across as bitchy or unpleasant) and none of their stories included. Why are they included in a book about travelling to hear stories from authentic storytellers? This reader ended up with a sense that the whole storyteller thing was just a pretext for selling the idea of a few jaunts in the South as a book to her publishers. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Important Book By Deborah Manuel The South and its stories are captured beautifully by Pamela Petro. The audio version is a must with Janet Metzger's interpretation of the soul and voice of these story tellers. Petro is among the best story tellers herself with wonderful views of the people she meets along the way. She wrote a book important to our history and sense of self in The South. 7 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Appalachian stories? Not in this book..... By Tamara Michael I thought this book would be full of fascinating stories from the Appalachian mountain people, boy was I disappointed. What it turned out to be is the authors opinions of the storytellers themselves. Very few stories are included but complete details of her trip...the weather....her emails...how she felt and whatever else she could find to toss into the book to fill its pages. About halfway through I was ready to chunk it into the resell pile but I held on hoping it would get better, it didn't. If you are looking for folklore and the true tales of the Appalachian mountains, I'd suggest finding another book cause this book will sadly disappoint you. I'd put this one in the ranks of being one of the worst books I've ever read.

For the first time in paperback, an acclaimed look at the American South through the lenses of its most acclaimed storytellers and their tales. Rarely does a nonfiction work come along that is as original and refreshing as *Sitting Up with the Dead*. Here, take a ride with Pamela Petro as she embarks on a series of road trips through the states of the Old South to collect its stories and meet its tellers of traditional tales. Some of them are local celebrities, others national treasures. Among them are Ray Hicks, a National Heritage Fellow; Kathryn Windham, the ghost lady; Nancy Basket, a kudzu paper-maker; Colonel Rod, self-proclaimed Florida cracker; and Grammy Award-winner David Holt. You encounter plat-eyes and boo-hags, Jack the trickster and Brer Rabbit, mule eggs, singing turtles, talking corpses, and flying Africans from the sea islands of South Carolina. Stories provide the connective tissue of the South, linking the past with the present. They join communities as widespread as the coastal plains of the Carolinas and Georgia, the swamps of the Gulf Coast, and the mountains and valleys of Appalachia. As distinctly American as jazz, they blend cultures and oral traditions as diverse as those of southern England, Ireland, West Africa, and native America. They contain bits of lived history, both from before the Civil War and after. In *Sitting Up with the Dead*, Pamela Petro offers a paradoxical wake for the undying body of the Old South, to hear its truths and contemplate its robust afterlife in the tallest, lyingest, most fruitful, and most haunting of its tales.

From Publishers Weekly Petro, a travel writer based in Northampton, Mass., embarked on four meandering trips through the South to explore the "place-bond" that particular, mysterious nexus of identity, geography and history that she imagines defines Southern culture. Doggedly pursuing a diverse group of both black and white professional storytellers, she wanders from Appalachia, Louisiana bayous and Selma, Ala., back to the Atlantic seaboard. Folktales and their tellers serve as her maps and guides; her travelogue is peppered with transcribed stories she hears on the way. The resulting chronicle is an impressive piece of cultural conservation, reportage and memoir that subtly mourns the passing of a rural way of life. Petro revels in the folksy and whimsical stories of mule eggs, plat-eyes, kudzu, rattlesnakes and singing turtles revealing as much about her sensibility as about the eccentricities of her subjects. Not all of the stories retain their power in written form, however, and Petro sometimes offers obvious lessons and characterizations: that elderly people are wise, for instance. On the other hand, she generally resists an academic penchant for overanalyzing, trusting readers to interpret the racial, ethnic, environmental and socioeconomic conditions that shape the stories. The strength of the book lies in the fine balance between the individual voices of her storytellers and her own observations and commentary. In searching out these speakers, Petro discovers her own narrative voice. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Petro has composed a two-fold book --part oral history, part "blue highways"--that refreshingly demonstrates that, despite the "McDonaldization" of America, there is still great regional differentiation in our country. Petro's perspective is far from pedestrian. While extolling the virtues of the oral storytellers that she visits, she is able to opine that "while stories ideally link us to the past . . . opening the world wider, storytelling itself can sometimes be a way of narrowing experience, of not hearing. To tell (and tell and tell and tell) is not to listen." In her "blue highways" guise, Petro shines when she describes kudzu growth in northeastern Georgia (Time magazine voted kudzu one of the worst ideas of the twentieth century). The more remote Petro's journeys, the more primitive the terrain, the more eccentric and captivating were the storytellers, who, as Petro writes, were "obeying a human impulse as old as fear," making "the dark hours better by filling them

with voices." Greatly entertaining and informative. Allen Weakland Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "The origins of Southern literature are its folktales and local stories, and the South is full of storytellers. Pamela Petro has found the best of them, recounting their complete stories and the detailed circumstances of her journey in search of them. This book is both important as scholarship and great fun as a trip." Paul Theroux, author of *Deep South: Four Seasons on Back Roads* "One of the best travel books of the last few decades. . . . [an] exquisitely written and immensely entertaining book about the South and its storytellers." Thomas Swick, author of *The Joys of Travel: And Stories That Illuminate Them* "Sitting Up with the Dead serves up an entertaining array of humorous and heartwarming portraits from the American South, both real and fictional. It shines a light on our incomparable storytelling, giving the told story the place of honor it deserves." Jimmy Neil Smith, Founder of the National Storytelling Festival, Founder and President Emeritus of the International Storytelling Center An innovative and entertaining mapping of an area of the country that is, well, storied for its stories. . . . Petro has a journalists eye for detail and a good professors way with exegesis and that makes *Sitting Up with the Dead* much more than just an anthology of colorful stories. This is a book that honors stories and storytelling and reminds us that we all have our tales to tell. Raleigh News Observer Pamela Petro is an adventurous, inquisitive writer who brings a perfect balance of reverence and scrutiny to her subject, and in *Sitting Up with the Dead* she has created a literary feast that is both delicious and nutritious. Associated Press (reprinted in 42 papers) Petro has a confident narrative voice, a wry sense of humor, and a gift for description. Reading *Sitting Up with the Dead*, is like joining friends around a campfire, savoring each tale like a sticky, gooey smore. New Orleans Times-Picayune The genius of *Sitting Up with the Dead* is the sense of riding shotgun on a road trip with someone smart and funny. . . . Pamela Petro proves herself as gifted a storyteller as any of her subjects. Womens of Books Petro drops most pretensions or analysis, staves off most stereotypes, and simply allows herself to sit on the porch and listen to the cultivated storytellers. . . . Her journey and recounting of selected stories from traditional ghost characters like Ray Hicks to hip African-American recording artist/storytellers like Veronica Byrd form a map to a South beyond our imagination. Bloomsbury The result of Petros journeys is this delightful sampling of folklore and an introduction to the many voices of the South today. . . . the book is like a trip back home for those who grew up in storytelling families. For those who never experienced that pleasure, its an eyeopening look at an oral art form that is still alive and well. Library Journal [A]n impressive piece of cultural conservation . . . In searching out these speakers, Petro discovers her own voice. Publishers Weekly Ms. Petro has captured the essence of the Southern oral tradition and renders it faithfully for the uninitiated. Richmond Times-Dispatch Pamela Petro offers a richly layered view of the American South, refracted through the regions great tradition of oral storytelling. Her chorus of voices cuts across centuries and continents, knitting together time and space, Europe and Africa and these American States, into a most unusual and fascinating narrative. Andrea Barrett, author of *Servants of the Map*, *Ship Fever* and *Voyage of the Natural* With a fresh perspective and rich sense of humor, Pamela Petro takes the reader on a journey that maps the South with many of the distinctive voices of the region. Her writing has a sense of immediacy and adventure that makes you feel as if youre taking the trip with her, and youre glad for such company. Shay Youngblood, author of *Black Girl in Paris*, *Soul Kiss*, and *The Big Mama Stories* Dont be misled by the title: *Sitting Up with the Dead* is a very lively book. Pamela Petro combines her curiosity about the South with her ability to look, listen, and remember as she records a refreshingly different tour of the South using native storytellers as her guides. She doesnt just write about storytellers she is one! Kathryn T. Windham, storyteller and author of *13 Ghosts* and *Jeffrey, Twice Blessed*, and *Encounters* Essential reading for anyone who loves stories and storytelling. Pamela Petro has collected a whole gamut of wonderfully told Southern tales capturing the spirit of oral storytelling. Seeking out some of our most colorful storytellers in their homes, she offers, through her portraits of them, insight into their lives, their stories, and the rich cultural heritage of the South. David Holt, storyteller and musician