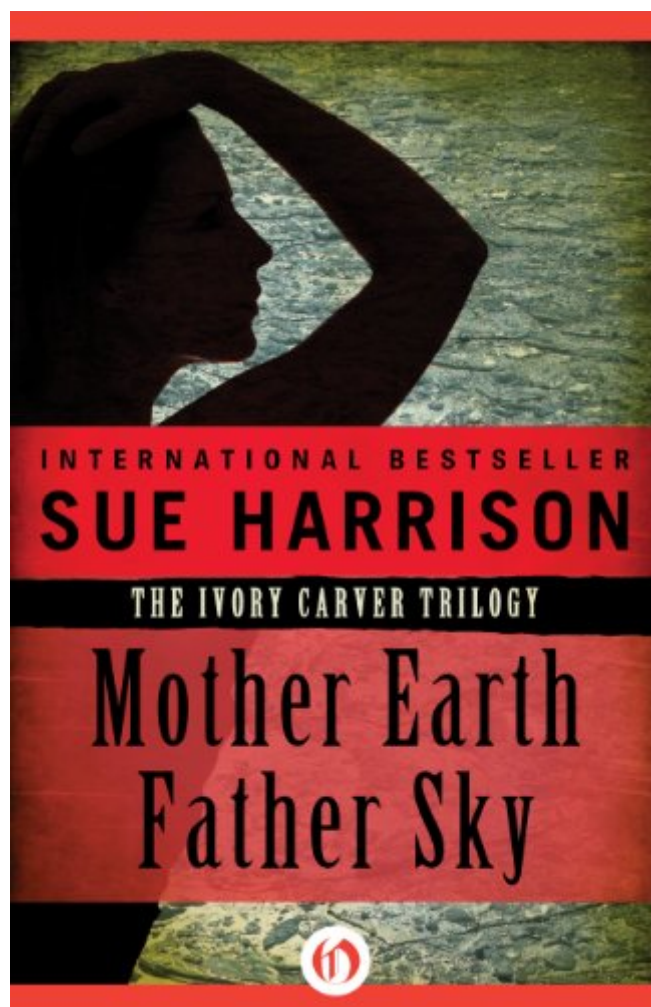


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Mother Earth Father Sky (The Ivory Carver Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

A young woman fights for survival amid the brutality of the last Ice Age 7056 BC, a time before history. On the first day that Chagak's womanhood is acknowledged within her Aleut tribe, she unexpectedly finds herself betrothed to Seal Stalker, the most promising young hunter in the village. A bright future lies ahead of Chagak but in one violent moment, she loses her entire way of life. Left with her infant brother, Pup, and only a birdskin parka for warmth, Chagak sets out across the icy waters on a quest for survival and revenge. Mother Earth Father Sky is the first book of the Ivory Carver Trilogy, which also includes My Sister the Moon and Brother Wind.

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Customer Reviews

Prehistories are for a hard sell for me. I don't know why, but they are difficult for me to get into so when I manage to find one that holds my interest, I tend to take notice which brings me to Mother Earth Father Sky by Sue Harrison. Like Song of the River, this piece is character heavy, but what is so remarkable is how distinct, well-rounded and realistic each cast member feels. I can't imagine what goes into painting the motivations, personality and emotional struggles of so many characters so vividly, but Harrison's effort certainly isn't wasted. In point of fact, I feel the authentic quality of

her cast is what makes not just this piece, but her entire body of work so exceptional. Speaking of relatable characters, I should probably mention my attraction to Chagak. Her path is a difficult one, but as a woman who had to overcome sexual abuse, I really admire Harrison for creating a character that doesn't allow the experience to define her life. I've seen authors attempt this story line before, but can honestly say few have pulled it off as well. Strong characterization isn't the only aspect of Harrison's work worth mentioning. Her books are long, but they are also overflowing with cultural history. I might be going out on a limb, but I think it safe to say Harrison puts as much into her research as she does developing her plot lines and her cast. Her understanding and respect for the indigenous people of North America emanates from every page, making her work as intriguing as it is entertaining. All told, *Mother Earth Father Sky* is a beautiful story of perseverance and strength amidst incredible hardship, as notable for its content as its flawless presentation.

Chagak is a young prehistoric girl whose village is massacred by evil foreigners called short ones. She flees the village with her little brother. Later she encounters an elderly hermit and lives with him until the Short Ones arrive and make trouble. Can Chagak fight back and reclaim her dignity? I found *Mother Earth Father Sky* a gripping read from start to finish. It was difficult at times putting it down. The cover itself is nothing much... So don't let it fool you. If you like Prehistoric fiction, you'll like this one. Downsides? The beginning where the heroine's village is massacred is very cliché. Also, Chagak is only 13, and while I know this was considered an adult back then I had difficulty envisioning her being quite that resilient. Finally, her relationship at the end seemed passionless and uninteresting. I would've liked to see some attraction between the two. There was more of a bond between her and Shuganan despite his age. 5 stars. A gripping read.

So, maybe I shouldn't get a vote because I only got halfway through the book, but I thought there was an awful lot of teeth-bashing gore that didn't do much for the plot besides make you tired of it. The main character is basically the hostage of a genocidal jerk for a big chunk of the book, leaving an awful lot of room for the author to create (straight from her own head) various societal norms for various peoples of the north 9000 years ago. If she had gone for less brutality, more of a survival story (which is what the book was billed as) I would have been ok with it. Some of the details are nice, but she lost me as a reader.

This novel surprised me. I agree that prehistory is a tough sell. Do we really relate to a hunter-gatherer society? Sue Harrison is excellent at creating a heroic character, Chagak and a

fascinating wise man as well as a brutal hunter, a patient suitor and much more. We even get to know Chagak's mother, though she is dead. Her wisdom shines through the thoughts of Chagak as she struggles to not only survive, but prevail against a cruel environment and crueler still, the Short Ones who devastated her life. I love this book for the anthropological detail on how these people used seal skins, bird feathers, bones, sinew and how they stored and cooked their food. This is amazing and written in such a natural way to the story that it blends in seamlessly. And Chagak is a wonderful character that makes me want to know more and more about her life. I want to read more by this author, and thankfully, there are other books in this series.

Harrison's writing gives prehistory a voice and a face, feelings that even the earliest people share with people today. The very basics of life had value, and the joy and sorrow of simply living had meaning. Just as today, there was something in a person that made each one special. Some were joyful, others were cruel and made life difficult. The bravery of Chagall is remarkable and her spirit carries the story. Such a hard life, but still she was able to see beauty and goodness.

Jean Auel doesn't even compare to Sue Harrison! I read the first two books in the Jean Auel's series and by the third I could not take it anymore, I just shut the book. Long and boring! I have read all six of Sue Harrison's and I recommend them to everyone. They are full of action, intrigue, history, culture, and on the sensual side. Sue Harrison really done her research, it shows through her detailed culture and vivid traditions. She truly respects the indigenous race and most importantly she wrote her characters with morals and values, making them human instead of Godless savages the way some authors write. She wrote them as they were, descendants really appreciate this.

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