

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Great Plains Quarterly

Great Plains Studies, Center for

1992

Review of Cante ohitika Win (Brave-hearted Women): Images of Lakota Women from the Pine Ridge Reservation South Dakota.

Holly Rae Boomer
College of Saint Mary

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly>



Part of the [Other International and Area Studies Commons](#)

Boomer, Holly Rae, "Review of Cante ohitika Win (Brave-hearted Women): Images of Lakota Women from the Pine Ridge Reservation South Dakota." (1992). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 681.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/681>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Plains Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Quarterly by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

curity of mind, and share what they had. Generosity was a paramount virtue." Reyer, with Medicine's and White Plume's help, encouraged many Lakota women to share their stories and it is through these actual biographical stories that Lakota beliefs are reflected, because what these women have to tell are not stereotypical Indian sagas but genuine and unique statements about what it was and what it is to be Indian. This book demonstrates the resistance of the Lakota to assimilation and acculturation and their perseverance in celebrating their culture.

HOLLY RAE BOOMER
Department of Humanities
College of Saint Mary

Cante ohitika Win (Brave-hearted Women): Images of Lakota Women from the Pine Ridge Reservation South Dakota. By Carolyn Reyer, with additional writings by Dr. Beatrice Medicine and Debra Lynn White Plume. Vermillion, South Dakota: University of South Dakota Press, 1991. Photographs, bibliography, appendices, suggested readings. viii + 88 pp. \$19.95 cloth, \$13.95 paper.

In Carolyn Reyer's book, *Cante ohitika Win (Brave-hearted Women)*, the words of Debra Lynn White Plume best characterize the content of oral stories, poetry, and photographs. "I would say that there are two revolving themes that live in what I write: resistance and celebration." Reyer's book, with additional writings by White Plume and Dr. Beatrice Medicine, uses the subtitle, "Images of Lakota Women from the Pine Ridge Reservation South Dakota," and this phrasing gives an accurate description of the resistance that the Lakota face in expressing their culture through both literature and history. The images evoked from Reyer's collection of oral stories, poetry, and photographs reflect poverty, unemployment, alcoholism, disease, and the hardship of reservation life. But the images also portray the Lakota belief system, which celebrates spirituality and the preservation of the "tiyospaye" or extended family.

Reyer describes Sioux tradition and rules that were handed down from the Sacred Powers and White Buffalo Calf Woman, who "taught the people that they must live in peace, have se-