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Elizabeth Beaman John

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Elizabeth Beaman John : Libby: The Sketches, Letters and Journal of Libby Beaman, Recorded in the Pribilof Islands, 1879-1880 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Libby: The Sketches, Letters and Journal of Libby Beaman, Recorded in the Pribilof Islands, 1879-1880:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Read - Reveals Another Time PlaceBy D. C. BeamanAllow me to preface my review by stating that I must have some prejudices regarding this work. You see, Libby Beaman was my Great Grandmother and so I was delighted to learn my Aunt Betty John took the time and had the skill and patience to put together such a wonderful and revealing look at life in another world. The Pribilof Islands lie in the Bering Sea, removed from the "civilized" world and yet full of examples of how we "citified" people might learn the values exemplified by the Aleut Natives.Betty uses the Sketches, Letters, and Journal of Libby Beaman to recreate an amazing world that is at times mysterious, unsettling, and impossibly primitive while also being wondrous, beautiful, and compelling to the visitor of these islands. Libby is also a singularly unique and independent human spirit, who was very much set against being stereotyped and confined by the dictates of the mid-1800's. Interestingly, she reminds me a lot of my maternal Grandmother, Amelia Rico, who was frequently referred to as "Pancho Villa"

(rebel) because of a mindset that set her apart from the conventional guidelines for women during her time. Both were women ahead of their times! Getting back to "Libby," I was impressed with the content and composition of my Great Grandmother's letters, notes, and journals. Her gifted communications make reading about her Pribilof experiences, adventurous and entertaining, as well as extremely informative. It occurred to me how much more available other cultures and countries would be were these presented in a format similar to what we have here in "Libby". For me, the storyline concerning my relatives makes the reading even more irresistible. Indeed, our human condition, I believe, embraces a certain amount of voyeurism--be it sexually or non-sexually derived. Therefore, Libby's tale held me entranced and hungry to read on to discover what lay ahead in her next episode. I only wish she had written more about the experience there, as well as her experiences back home ... her exposure to such people as Abraham Lincoln, Rutherford B. Hayes, the Franklin family, etc. I'm sure had many anecdotes worthy of exposure. Unfortunately, I don't believe in this possibility ... but then again ... I never thought I would find my Aunt Betty's scrumptious concoction, "Libby ..."

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful book
By andrea treon
my aunt wrote the book... She wrote and published prior to Libby; however, Libby is by far her best work. Libby is both historically beautiful, and Libby's art work from her journal, lovely. Yes, my aunt took a tiny bit of creative license, but for the most part held true to the story. I, at one time, physically had art work and journal in hand. Betty was herself a well recognized enamellist, wife of one of the founders of the Cleveland Clinic. She had an intriguing life during world war II. Trust you may read this book at some time.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hardships in History during the Fur Seal Trade
By CLI would recommend this to high school kids for a history class assignment. Some great discussions would prevail I'm sure.

The diary of the first non-native woman to live on the remote Alaskan Pribilof Islands in 1879-1880, illustrated with her own drawings: a true story that reads like a historical novel.

About the Author Betty John (1907-1997) authored three children's books, "Hummingbirds", "El Captano Pelicano Caf", and "Seloe", which is based on Libby's notes about the seals' life cycle. She served as a war correspondent during World War II, and her experiences gave rise to her book Flak Bait. In addition, she wrote plays, magazine articles, and an internationally syndicated medical column. Betty John was perhaps best known as the founder, with her late husband Dr. Henry J. John of the first camp for diabetic children. As a designer-craftsman she also won international awards for her liturgical enamels.