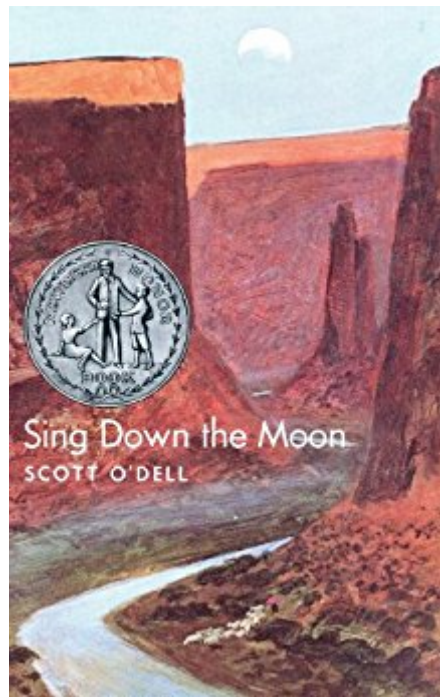


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# Sing Down The Moon



## Synopsis

The Navajo tribe's forced march from their homeland to Fort Sumner by white soldiers and settlers is dramatically and courageously told by young Bright Morning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am from the four corners area and am wondering about how much research Scott C'Dell did for this book? I have never heard of mesquite growing around here or aspen in Canyon de Chelly or of the pueblo people eating dog meat and..... the owl a GOOD OMEN? I don't think so!!!! Any one from this area that has any knowledge of the Navajo culture knows that OWLS ARE NOT GOOD OMENS!!! I am reading this book with my class and am so frustrated by the fact that such a good author would be so negligent. The other students don't seem to notice the problems that I have with the book, except of course the Navajo students. I was happy to see the reviews from children who agree with what I was thinking. I am an adult student.

The book I read was called Sing Down the Moon. It is about a Navaho girl named Bright Morning.

She tells about all the adventures she has had. She tells about when slave traders captured her and what she does. I learned about Navaho life and how the United States soldiers treated Navaho people. The soldiers forced the Navaho people out of their canyon and forced them to walk to Fort Sumner. I liked the book very much. I liked hearing what life was like for the Navahos in the 1860's from the point of view of a girl close to my age. It was very exciting. There was a lot of action. I especially liked the part where Bright Morning and her husband Tall Boy escape the Long Knives. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in Navaho history and likes an exciting adventure story.

One morning, while Navaho fourteen year old Bright Morning and her friend Running Bird are out in the fields of their home, Canyon de Chelly, tending sheep, they see strange men approaching. Before they can stop it, Bright Morning is kidnapped by the men, who turn out to be Spanish Slave-holders, and take her to a South-Western town, dominantly Mexican. She is sold as a slave to a Spanish speaking family, where she meets another slave, who can speak her language. Bright Morning tries desperately to find a way to get back to her people. The other slave imprisoned with her tells her the way, and Bright Morning is able to make a narrow escape back to her people. But when she returns, she finds her village under occupation of the "Long Knives", or American soldiers. After she is forced into an arranged marriage with another Indian, Tall Boy, the Long Knives push the Navaho out of their land- and onto one of the most memorable events in American history- the Trail of Tears. Many all around her suffer and eventually die as they continue to walk on. A very well written story, and very informative.

My daughter loved the Island of the Blue Dolphins so we purchased this book since it is written by the same author. She LOVED it. She finished it in a week and asked for another book by the same author. I highly recommend this book. Great way to get kids interested in reading.

Sing Down the Moon, by Scott O'Dell deserves 5 stars. This book is one of the best books I have ever read. Scott O'Dell keeps you on the edge of your seat for the entire book. For example, when a young Navajo girl, Bright Morning, and her friend, Running Bird, were grazing their sheep in the Cannon de Chelly, a few Spaniards come and capture them. They then are taken to a village and sold to two different owners. Somehow they have to find their way back to their village. With very little food and a friend they meet, can they make it back without being captured? Besides that O'Dell makes the story even more interesting when the Spaniards come and trample all of their crops and

destroy the Navajo's village. The Navajo's escaped and try to start a new village some where else around the Cannon de Chelly. The Spaniards find out about this and the capture them all and make them walk all the way to Fort Sumner taken prisoners. What makes this book even more interesting is that the story is based on a true event in real life. It is between the Navajo Indians and the United States between 1863 and 1865. The story is mainly about the Spaniards coming and marching the Navajos to Fort Sumner. The journey was about 300 miles. Some 1500 Navajos die at Fort Sumner but the groups who have survived have grown over 100,000 people. Scott O'Dell is able to make history very interesting. He helps show the history of the Navajo Indians that a lot of people overlook. This book is a must-read! I would recommend reading *Al Capone Does My Shirts and Old Ramon*, two great books. My name is Dillon and I am a middle school student.

A Review by ErikOne Spring Day two Indians from the Canyon de Chelly named Bright Morning, herBlack Dog, and friend Running Bird that finally turned fourteen. They decide to take their sheep to a mesa to feed. When the sheep were grazing Bright Morning's black dog barked and they turned around and saw two riders with twoextra horses that asked for directions but were really Spanish Slavers thatcaptured them.... Will they get away? I like this book because of how it doesn't bore you with too much detail but get a good description of how everything looks. In the beginning you find outthat it's a spring day and gives a small amount of detail about the surroundings. Something I didn't like was how you don't really get a good character description. You barely know if they are a man or woman and their names are like Running Bird or Bright Morning. I also like that it lets you learn about the time period when the Spaniard's are taking slaves for therecities. You get to see how they felt about this and how the people treated the Navaho's and what the Spaniard's were like. The people I would recommend this book to would have to like historicalfiction. I think that it was a good story on how to learn about how the Spaniard's take the Navaho Indian's to be their Slaves as well as what theirlives were similar to.

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