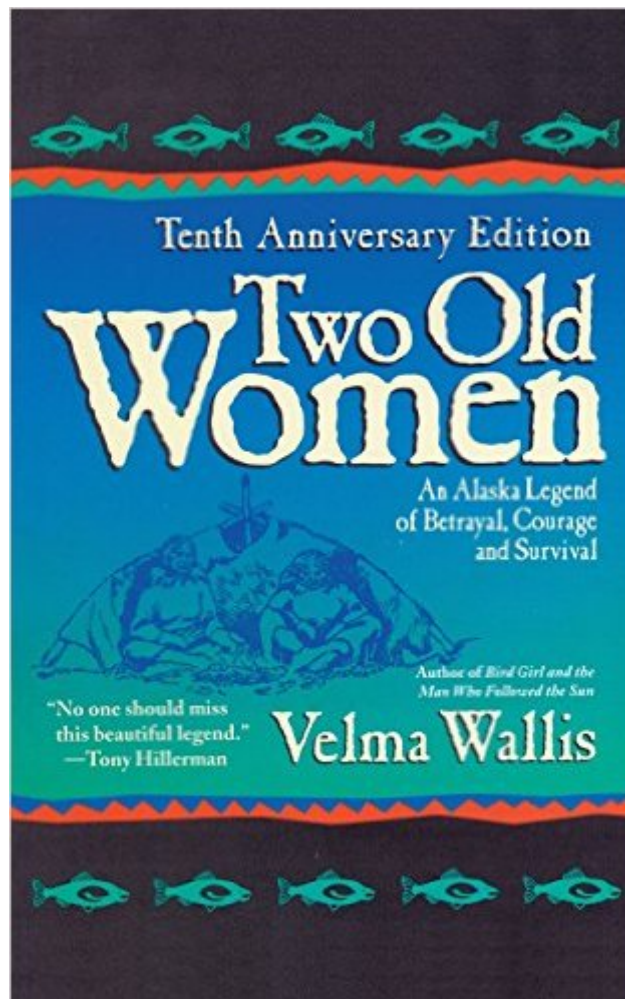


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# Two Old Women, 10th Anniversary Edition: An Alaskan Legend Of Betrayal, Courage And Survival



## Synopsis

Based on an Athabascan Indian legend passed along for many generations from mothers to daughters of the upper Yukon River Valley in Alaska, this is the suspenseful, shocking, ultimately inspirational tale of two old women abandoned by their tribe during a brutal winter famine. Though these women have been known to complain more than contribute, they now must either survive on their own or die trying. In simple but vivid detail, Velma Wallis depicts a landscape and way of life that are at once merciless and starkly beautiful. In her old women, she has created two heroines of steely determination whose story of betrayal, friendship, community and forgiveness "speaks straight to the heart with clarity, sweetness and wisdom" (Ursula K. Le Guin).

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (416 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #82,946 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#31 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Gothic & Romance](#) [#158 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Native American](#) [#165 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is a wonderful book -- fairly short and a great gift for grandma. It tells how age does give us wisdom. A nice birthday book for anyone over 30. And especially for someone in their 50's and above. Grandma will love it. Why don't we cherish the seniors in our lives? The author Velma Wallis is one of a family of 13 children born in the fur-trapping Fort Yukon Alaska raised in the Athabascan values. She wrote her book at 33 in a simple yet polished style. Two Old Women have a life of their own. It's a wonderful Alaskan legend that would make a good movie. Fabulous for a reading group or to read aloud to your older children night by night in the winter. Or to your husband in front of the fire....great vacation reading too. Don't miss it-- just caught it by accident-- hope you do too.

Two Old Women by Velma Wallis This is a wonderful little book with a moral that is timeless and timely. With more elder care being left to institutions families are no longer what they could be. We lose so much when we are no longer in daily contact with our elders so that they can continually pass on the lessons of experience. Without that we are left to go it again for the first time and that often means failure. It also teaches us not to cease working hard just because we can get away with being lazy when others will do for us. Stop doing something and you lose the ability to do it. A muscle needs to be used to remain muscle. A mind needs to be used to remain a mind. Thank you Velma for passing on your stories to us. I would also like to point out to those that did not like this book that half of the equation is what you bring to the book. Our interpretation and appreciation of something results not only from what that is, but from who we are.

Two Old Women by Velma Wallis is a story, not just about the adventures of two old ones abandoned by the tribe in times of famine, but it is also a story about friendship and fighting against the odds. It is based on an Athabascan Indian Legend which the author is able to bring alive in her own words and, yet at the same time, keep the meaning and flavor of the tale pure and true. The copy I bought, in Icy Strait Point, Alaska, was the Tenth Anniversary Edition. First published in 1993 it now seems to be in every book store I saw while visiting Alaska. The drawings by Jim Grant just add to the enjoyment of reading the story.

I come from the viewpoint of a thirtysomething male and this story and its morals are definitely not lost on me. Given the same situation of abandonment and betrayal and I think I would have had a difficult time pressing on. I was humbled by the humanity of this story. Velma's prose is clean and wonderfully readable. It is not a terribly long story and often felt like juvenile fiction because of the large type and illustrations, but it is a tale that all ages can and should enjoy. I am buying several copies for local retirement homes and schools. I am interested to see the reactions from both groups.

I read this story about 2 years ago and recommended for it Ophra's bookclub review. It is so uplifting and shows that someone of age can still be worthwhile and make something of their life, regardless of the situation they might be in. An older person has a lot of worth left to give to themselves and others. Reading the story of how these two old women survived against the odds and how they helped themselves and each other to cope was inspiring. How they were left by family and friends and still moved on to survive, it something that happens to some of the aging people today. I reread

this book every now and then whenever I feel down. The book helps us to remember that we can do anything we want to do, if we want it bad enough. It also helps us to remember that we are never too old to be helpful. An aging person has a lot of wisdom to share if they can't share anything else. Talk to an aging person about their life and learn something new and maybe interesting to you.

How many elderly feel useless? Feel like shadows of their former selves? This is a story of what two elderly women can do. They can save the day. This is a story of true courage, heroism and the fight for survival. I want my future children to read this book. How many young people don't respect their elders as they should? Wonder why they should bother? Resent having to talk to their grandparents on the phone? This is a story of two fascinating women who are just as analytical and emotional, kind and vengeful as anyone else. They have cliffhanger choices to make, that would keep any young person in suspense. And the choices they do make are lessons to us all. I want North Americans to read this book. How many Americans are familiar with Native American culture? Traditions, history, diversity, literature? If we are going to LIVE in North America, we have an OBLIGATION to learn about the native people. AND ACCORD THEM SOME RESPECT. Thank you, Velma Wallis, for this treasure that you share with us.

I have just finished this wonderful little book for the third time in as many years. Each time I read it, I am reminded how much our thoughts affect our reality and how much stronger we really are (despite our beliefs). This very positive story tells how two women (ages 75 and 80) are presented with a life threatening challenge, change their belief system out of need, and end up thriving. I think I'll keep this as an annual read - I need all the positive reinforcement I can get!

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