



Captive Spirit

Liz Fichera

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Sonoran Desert. Dawn of the sixteenth century.

Aiyana isn't like the other girls of the White Ant Clan. Instead of keeping house, she longs to compete on the Ball Court with her best friend Honovi and the other boys. Instead of marriage, she daydreams of traveling beyond the mountains that surround her small village. Only Honovi knows and shares her forbidden wish, though Aiyana doesn't realize her friend has a secret wish of his own...

When Aiyana's father arranges her marriage to a man she hardly knows, she takes the advice of a tribal elder: *run!* In fleeing, she falls into the hands of Spanish raiders and finds herself being taken over the mountains against her will. Now Aiyana's on a quest to return to the very place she once dreamed of escaping. And she'll do whatever it takes to survive and find her way back to the people she loves.

74,000 words

Captive Spirit Details

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Author : Liz Fichera

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From Reader Review Captive Spirit for online ebook

Linda says

kinda different choice for me, but enjoyed

LynnMarie says

Ashira Datya's Review

I was unsure of what to expect when I began reading *Captive Spirit*, but I was pleasantly surprised. Aiyana is set to marry the son of a local tribal leader and is invited to participate in a ceremony that symbolizes the coming from girlhood into womanhood. She is surprised to find that the ceremony is very different than usual and why. She runs away, and encounters danger at every turn. It is up to her childhood friend, Honovi, to save her.

I was very intrigued by *Captive Spirit*, and I enjoyed it very much. I felt like I was watching Aiyana grow up throughout the course of the novel. I give the story three Tea Cups and a heat rating of one. I hope there is a sequel to *Captive Spirit* and if there is, I can't wait to read it.

3 Tea Cups!

Nicole says

Captive Spirit is the debut novel from author Liz Fichera. Set back in the sixteenth century in the area now known as Phoenix, Arizona we follow the story of Aiyana, a young tribal woman of the White Ant Clan. Her whole life she has wanted to be a boy more than a girl, she wants to play ball, hunt and fish. She despises cooking, basket weaving, and all things domestic.

When her father and the tribal leader plan an impromptu wedding to a man she doesn't know or like, she takes the advice of the seer, and runs as fast as her feet can carry her. Once she is hidden away, she hears her best friend Honovi coming to get her, and all of a sudden is taken and knocked out from behind. When Aiyana awakes, she finds herself far from home and in the hands of Diego, a Spaniard who wants to trade her to the Apache people for gold.

As they travel further up the mountains and away from the only home she has ever known, Aiyana realizes that as much as she wanted more in her life, now all she wants is to get home and find her loved ones. With the help of Honovi, the two must escape the Spaniard's, the Apache tribe, and the extreme mountainous weather to return to their home.

While Carina Press markets this book as a Romance novel, I don't really know that I would say the emphasis is on the romance. Sure Aiyana and Honovi realize that their love for each other has grown from more than

just best friends, but the foundation of the story to me was really about Aiyana's struggles with being kidnapped, and her desires to reach her home.

Being from the Arizona desert, I could relate completely to the area and the history. I was amazed at how well Fichera painted the scenery, and how vivid the images came to mind. Not being the kind of fan who goes out on the hunt for historical fiction in the time of the Native Americans, I was happily surprised when the story sucked me in and kept me anticipating the next page.

I became incredibly wrapped up in Aiyana's journey. Her fears of never again seeing home, her desires to get away from her captors at any cost and her devotion to save Honovi regardless of the consequences all became my priorities as well. I can't even recall off hand of another character who so totally and completely sucked me into their life story, that even at 2:00 am, I refused to put the book down.

Being the huge romance fan that I am, I wish there would have been a little more between Aiyana and Honovi. I knew from the beginning how deeply Honovi felt for Aiyana and towards the end she finally realized that the love she had for her best friend became something more. To me it really seemed as if their having to rely solely on only each other to survive, that trust became the foundation upon which their relationship was built.

To those fans out there who love Historical Fiction without a ton of romance, this book is definitely one you should pick up. The characters were believable, the plot twisted, and the romance didn't dominate the storyline.

All in all, I give *Captive Spirit* 4 out of 5 stones of gold.

Ulrike says

The story of Aiyana was incredible so many twists and turns that even close to the end I couldn't figure out what would happen. Definitely one of my favorite books and a must read for American Indian romance novels.

Tara Chevrestt says

This has been an exciting read. The time is long long ago.. 1600s or thereabouts. (Not familiar enough with my kindle buttons to go back and find that information) The setting is what is today Pheonix, Arizona. Aiyana is a young woman in a Native American tribe, the River People. She has never been outside her little valley of huts. She desires to know what is beyond the mountains surrounding her village, but instead of being allowed free reign to do as she pleases and possibly explore the world beyond, she is being forced to marry a tribe chief's son.

Be careful what you wish for... On the night of her surprise wedding, three men attack her village and abduct Aiyana. She finally gets to see the outside world, but desires nothing more than to return to her village.. if it is still there. Aiyana begins a struggle for her life. Can she survive with these three Spanish men until her childhood friend, Honovi can rescue her? Or can she rescue herself? The Spanish men aim to trade her to the Apache tribe and just as Aiyana gets herself free of one obstacle, another presents itself and she is once again

being forced to marry a man she does not desire, this time an Apache chief.

Aiyana must go on a quest in order to save herself and Hanovi. A very exciting read whether Aiyana is chasing deer or fending off unwanted advances from her Spanish abductors. 5 stars.

Brianne says

Good quick read.

Carien says

I must confess I wasn't too impressed by the start of the story which felt unnecessarily complicated in my opinion, but once Aiyana gets kidnapped by the Spanish raiders the story picks up and soon I was caught up in Aiyana's hardships. The story is for Young Adults, but older readers will enjoy it as well I think. I especially like all the details about the life of Aiyana's people and of the other people she encounters on her forced journey. It could have been a bit longer in my opinion though and in particular some of the obstacles in Aiyana's path could have been dragged out a bit more to create more tension. That being said: It was an enjoyable read.

Galla says

I picked this book by my Goodreads friend Liz Fichera because I was looking for something different. Historical fiction centered around Native American characters definitely fit the bill.

Set in the early sixteenth century in the territory now known as Arizona, *Captive Spirit* is the story of Aiyana, a sixteen year-old who is a bit of a tomboy. She has always wondered about the lands beyond the mountains that flank her village. When she's captured by a small band of Spanish raiders who intend to sell her to an Apache chief, she finds herself drawing on nearly every skill in her arsenal to keep herself safe--and to find her way back to the village that previously seemed stifling to her.

The pacing in this coming-of-age story is excellent, and Liz gets bonus points for somehow managing to write a dramatic basket-weaving scene. It never occurred to me that a basket-weaving scene *could* be dramatic, but someone's life hinges on the outcome of this one, and Aiyana has never been adept at traditionally feminine pursuits. I also loved the development of the relationship between Aiyana and Honovi, a childhood friend who has come to see Aiyana as more than a fishing buddy.

Favorite quote: "His touch had begun to feel natural on my skin, as though we wrapped ourselves around each other all of the time. Maybe that's how love felt? When a touch seemed as natural as breathing?"

Recommended for readers who like well-researched historical YA.

Elise Warner says

Captive Spirit is a book you can't put down with a delightful brave heroine and a hero worthy of her. I look forward to reading Liz Fichera's new book.

Tina Whittle says

Some books tell one person's story with such precise detail and honest attention that the story can be read again and again. Captive Spirit is that kind of book.

Liz Fichera tells a fine story — she's also a fine writer, deftly pulling off the intricate balance of setting, action and characterization needed to move this narrative forward. Aiyana's story is achingly familiar to anyone who has ever stretched against the confines of their culture, and yet it is utterly foreign at times. The Hohokam no longer exist; they are a footnote in history. Her people are quite literally ghosts now, walking and talking on the page, but otherwise vanished. And yet we must care about them, and Aiyana, as if they were our own people.

This is where Captive Spirit shines, with this deft interplay of explication and action. The narrative keeps the reader engrossed by presenting situations that still resonate even today — familial obligations, cultural demands, necessary capitulations — and it pulls off this trick by evoking the emotions that all humans share — faith, hope, grief, and love. In this book, the universal is personal, deeply felt and honestly rendered.

At the heart of Captive Spirit lies a surprisingly delicate love story, one that plays out against the hardscrabble landscapes of desert and mountain. Aiyana is no delicate maiden — she gets blood on her hands, literally, as she hunts and fishes and endures hardships beyond her previous experience.

I enjoyed this book very much — it moved me, challenged me, surprised me at times, but always reminded me that our stories are what live on about us. The Hohokam are dust, as are we all, eventually. But each time a story moves from one generation to the next, our presence flickers again with something like immortality. Captive Spirit is a fine story. It deserves its telling.

Jen (That's What I'm Talking About) says

I'm going to start by telling you that this is NOT the typical book that I read and review. First - It's historical... taking place in the early 1500's and focusing on Native American life. Second - there is paranormal activity in this story. There are no vampires, faeries, shifters nor any paranormal studs involved, and I LIKED IT! It is a wonderful love story and *SHOCK* I didn't miss the smut! I have officially expanded my horizons!

This story outlines the intricacies of daily life and ceremonies for a Native American clan in a way that

brought to life for me this early civilization. The details are beautiful and I felt like I was right along side of Aiyana as she struggled to keep up with her domestic duties, hunted deer, and struggled against her Spanish and then Apache captors. I was able to feel the anguish of Aiyana as she was dealt one blow after another in her quest to return home and keep dear Honovi safe. It made the moment of their eventual union so satisfying, it brought a tear to my eye. The innocence of a pure, unfettered love was amazingly sweet and romantic.

The action in this tale was intense and had my heart racing at times. I really wasn't sure if Aiyana and Honovi would make it and that had me glued to the pages of the book. Aiyana faces and overcomes several challenges including capture and being taken far from home, two marriage arrangements to over-barring males (to whom she is a possession), starvation, basket weaving (it's more intense than you think), and near rape. She is a strong girl and this tale takes us on her journey into womanhood. This self-discovery leads to the realization that sometimes home is the best place of all.

For a full review, please visit my blog [That's What I'm Talking About](#)

My Rating: #4 stars.

Diane says

This story sounds good, stright on to wish list.

Corinne says

At the same time I became interested in this book, I was visiting my sister in Phoenix and went to Pueblo Grande. This is an archeological site of the same group that is talked about in this book. So it definitely added a little something.

I love historical fiction and the gorgeous cover pulled me in. I was surprised to find that it was a more traditional romance book. The book, while well researched, had a lot of surface culture and not a lot of deep culture. It seemed a bit like a European romance love story thrown into a native tribe terminology. What are the mores of the tribe?

In the end though I was pulled into it, and it was a relaxing read at night. If you like romance and historical fiction, then it is a good pick for you.

Saritza says

I love anything set in an indigenous time period and being an avid student of the Caribbean "taino" I knew I had to read this historical romance. It's been sitting in my reader for a while and this weekend, I decided to crack it open. Boy, did I fall into a doozy of a story! What Liz Fichera does to bring the native american culture so vivid to the page is both heart rending and gut punching. Two qualities I enjoy immensely in any story.

This isn't your typical romance. Yes, it's about the HEA but it reads more like Women's Fiction than traditional romance and perhaps that's why I enjoyed it so much. I fell in love with Ayiana and her plight. I wanted to smack her a few times for not doing what I knew to be rational but loved her even more for her flaws. Truly enjoyed this book and am looking forward to more from this debut author.

karly says

hope to read this book soon :)
