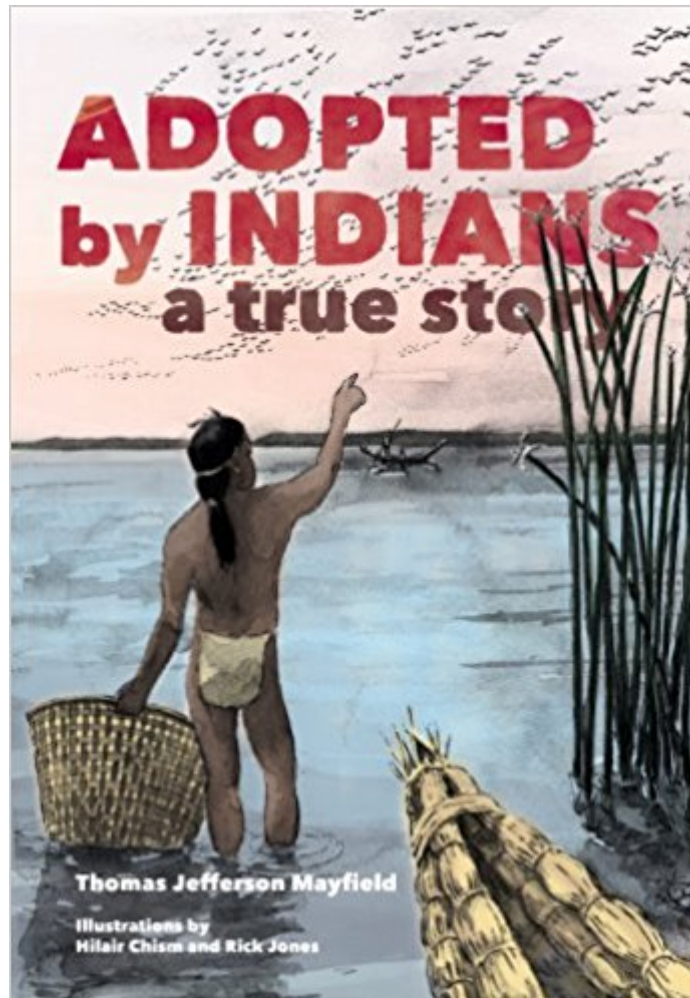




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# Adopted By Indians: A True Story



## Synopsis

The children's version of our best-selling title *Indian Summer*, this book gives younger readers a close-up view of traditional California Indian life and early California. Thomas Jefferson Mayfield kept a wonderful secret for almost sixty years; the secret of his childhood among the Choinumne Indians of California's San Joaquin Valley. For twelve years he played and slept alongside Choinumne children, he hunted and fished with them, ate their food and wore their clothes. *Adopted by Indians* is the story of a boy who had an adventure that we can only dream about and it is absolutely true. *Adopted by Indians* has been approved by the California Department of Education and is listed in the Instructional Materials Approved for Legal Compliance Catalog.

## Book Information

Paperback: 140 pages

Publisher: Heyday; Revised ed. edition (October 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0930588932

ISBN-13: 978-0930588939

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.4 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #603,426 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #294 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > Customs, Traditions, Anthropology](#) #381 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #810 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr. 5<sup>+</sup>-8. After his mother died in 1850, young Thomas Mayfield lived with the Choinumne Indians in California, spending almost all of his time between 8 and 18 with them while his father ran livestock in the valley. Mayfield tells of a carefree and happy existence growing up at the rancheria, describing the traditional ways of the tribe before the encroachment of the white settlers and people in search of gold. Although the folksy tone of the narrative may be lost on middle readers, the first-person descriptions of fishing and hunting, clothing, food, and everyday life are genial and appealing. The black-and-white drawings scattered through the book are at their best when they

show wildlife, housing styles, and details of preparing food. Edited by Margolin, this account was adapted for children from Mayfield's book *Indian Summer: Traditional Life among the Choinumne Indians of California's San Joaquin Valley*. Glossary appended. Karen Hutt

Margolin (*Native Ways*, 1996, etc.) adapts for children some of the material in *Indian Summer* (1993, not reviewed), but does not make it accessible to a younger audience. At the age of 82, Mayfield told his story to a school teacher and historian. His father fought in the War of 1812; Mayfield, born 30 years later, lost his mother at a young age and went to live with the Choinumne Indians, who doted upon him. Running parallel to the history of the Gold Rush and the settling of the San Joaquin Valley in California, the story describes how the Indians lived, their customs, the food, hunting, and the character of the people. These are the remembrances of an adult who does not often speak from the perspective of childhood. The details of clothing, food, etc., have not been woven into an interesting narrative, and Mayfield's personality rarely emerges. Amateurish and inadequate, the illustrations are badly drawn, whether showing equipment, people, or animals, and the compositions are clichéd, with strategically placed items to cover women's breasts. (maps, glossary) (Nonfiction. 10-13) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

This is a wonderful, abridged version of the original book. It's perfect for 4th or 5th grade students. The story is true and compellingly told, bringing a "being there" experience to the students. There is no political agenda evident in this piece...just a good, factual, respectful account of a white boy's experiences while living with a California Indian family during the mid 19th century. This book fits in well with California fourth grade social studies curriculum.

I loved this book, it was a delight to read. There is comparatively little about our California Indians, so this book is a rare treat from a first hand account. A realistic view I believe. Thoroughly enjoyable.

This book is a recollection of growing up among Indians. One can recreate part of indigenous life, with this. Well written. Contrast this with *The Original Instructions: Reflections of an Elder on the Teachings of the Elders, Adapting Ancient Wisdom to the Twenty-First Century* or *Journey to the Ancestral Self: The Native Lifeway Guide to Living in Harmony With Earth Mother, Book 1* (Bk.1), or *Kidnapped By Indians*, and for contrast *Five kidnapped Indians;: A true 17th century account of five early Americans: Tisquantum, Nahanada, Skitwarroes, Assocomoit, and*

Maneday,.

I bought this book as gift for my great-nieces & found it an excellent read and hard to put down once started. (Have ordered the adult version for myself: Indian Summer) This book is written in such a lovely manner and takes you from one adventure to the next rapidly - much detail is given to daily life among the first land stewards and their ways - definitely a page turner that will leave you astounded and in awe. A great story for teaching what our public schools don't have time for. It is un-biased and written in a loving style - consider this book for your children to read to better understand an important part of California's past.

I love this book, and the illustrations are very nice. One of the best features is a glossary of Choinumne words. There's a picture of the author, too. He was 84 years old in 1928, and the story is based on his own experiences.

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