



Being-in-Dreaming: An Initiation into the Sorcerers' World

Florinda Donner

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"A woman's gripping tale of self-discovery in present-day Mexico."

OLIVER STONE

"Donner's tale casts a spell; it is a magic theater of holy actors, a dancing world of fierce angels all sweating their prayers. She offers us a brilliant taste of

Being-in-Dreaming: An Initiation into the Sorcerers' World Details

Date : Published November 6th 1992 by HarperOne (first published 1991)

ISBN : 9780062501929

Author : Florinda Donner

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Spirituality, Anthropology, Philosophy, Literature, 20th Century

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From Reader Review Being-in-Dreaming: An Initiation into the Sorcerers' World for online ebook

Josie says

it was an interesting idea for a book, but the writing was really repetitive, and not good..... I was expecting it to be a little more focused on her actual experiences, but it turned into some weird fantasy thing that I didn't like, and it became really pseudo intellectual and made me cringe. but it was fun to read like before bed, etc..

Laura-marie says

I love this book, never read anything like it. I'm jonesing to be loaned the two other books I know of by the same writer. I want to be a sorcerer. I want to drive all night to the strange house in Mexico, sleep on a mat or in a hammock, and become a powerful dreamer with the other powerful dreamers, eating the foods they leave for me in the kitchen, talking with the mysterious caretaker. The whole thing. There's something irresistible about it! The whole phenomenon, I see why people are so emotional about it. I am too.

Andrew Herting says

I feel sure that everything related in this pseudo-memoir is invented, which is interesting in itself.

It's perverse that Donner, apparently an anthropologist, presents an account of folk "sorcery"... which actually has nothing at all to do with authentic indigenous Mexican magic. Also, after reading this, I found out that Donner and three other followers of Castaneda disappeared in 1998, apparently driving into the desert and abandoning their car. The remains of one of the other women was found in 2003, but Donner and her companions have still never been found.

Against this background, Being-in-Dreaming has an overheated fantasy quality that's compelling, apart from any claim to authenticity. Donner's admittedly clumsy and repetitive writing reveals a few fixed themes that recur obsessively. Most obviously, the other "sorcerers" constantly abandon her, leaving her lonely and afraid. They castigate her for her attachment to them, as apparently this is a spiritual flaw that blocks her development as a sorceress.

Is this story actually Donner's depiction of the mysterious way that powerful, confident individuals have come and gone in her life? Her passionate and lasting attachment to Castanada, and her disappearance (perhaps suicide pact) after his death, seem characteristic of an individual in need of an attachment that transcends the possibility of separation.

Steph says

Super interesting story which kept me reading but poorly written.

David Lindsay says

The read was compelling from the start and I had difficulty putting the book down each time. The text was well edited and although following the underlying theme may not be easy for those expecting clear, rational elucidations, I found Donner's descriptions of the sorcerers' predilections and characteristics to be spot on.

Dawn Elizabeth says

I enjoyed the concept of the book much more than the writing. I felt that the author had an idea she wanted to get across and focused on that, but fell short on building believable, consistent characters. Ultimately, this prevented me from being engrossed in the book. That being said, the idea that she was focusing on was very interesting and there was a lot to be taken away from it. It's like I was in class and the teacher was trying to tell a story to better illustrate a point she was making. Except it lasted longer. Would have enjoyed it more if it was written in a style I'm more fond of, but definitely worth the read.

Angela Mortimer says

A book that looked lost and lonely and out of place amongst the others sat in a reduced box made me look again. It interested me for the Carlos Castaneda recommendation, and any that have read his books would be intrigued, so of course I bought it. Like Castaneda's books it is intriguing and surreal. You wonder if indeed this is a real physical journey, or one of the spirit wandering without the body and how much is due to the results of peyote? It does however make you ask that very question. It is an old magic and for most of us a journey we wouldn't choose to take. It's worth a read and if you haven't read Castaneda you should, especially those who like to exercise their imagination...

Monika Gierszewska says

I found this book a little fuzzy, giving a sneak peak into sorcerers' world without giving away too much. I wanted to read it after Taisha Abelar's 'The Sorcerers Crossing' as I craved more but it hasn't really given much insights.

Zornitsa Tomova says

Wow, what a ride. Very engaging and easy to read, I loved her style and the way her work connects with that of Castaneda to paint another perspective of the Sorcerer's world. It was also beautiful to see the feminine approach to that world. It was mesmerizing to follow Florinda through the fluid stream of interweaving realities, feeling her confusion, but also growing in wisdom, insight and wonder with her.

Laura Ellis says

this book was interesting, I guess. it kinda made my head hurt. by supposed wife of carlos castaneda

D Lynn says

I read all of Castaneda's books, but I felt something missing for me because I was a woman. Florida Donner asserts that she was trained by Castaneda's mentors. I felt this book was excellent as a supplement to Castaneda's books.

Arda says

Great ideas... poorly written

Hailey Van Dyk says

I found it really difficult to read this book, perhaps because it was the English translation. I found the writing choppy and she jumped around too much. She spent a lot of time focusing on descriptions of characters and places, instead of spending more time focusing on the ideas. The concept of the book is really cool but it just didn't deliver for me.

Ann M says

Supposedly nonfiction, but I have trouble buying that.

Peggy says

I think this was as good as her first book
