



## **Ghost Warrior**

*Lucia St. Clair Robson*

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## **Ghost Warrior Lucia St. Clair Robson**

Here, at last, is the compelling story of Lozen, known as the Apache Joan of Arc. When the US Army tries to drive the Chiricahua Apaches from their homeland, Lozen fights alongside Cochise, Geronimo, and Victorio in defense of her people. Gifted with the power of far-sight that allows her to see enemies miles away, she becomes an extraordinary shaman, warrior, horse thief, and healer. For over one hundred years the Apaches have kept her memory alive.

A sensitive treatment of a little known Native American figure, *Ghost Warrior* is a rich and powerful frontier tale filled with unforgettable characters, the famous and the infamous.

## **Ghost Warrior Details**

Date : Published May 18th 2003 by Tor Books (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780812576092

Author : Lucia St. Clair Robson

Format : Paperback 608 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Westerns, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Ghost Warrior for online ebook

### **Sheryl says**

Loved it. Characters well developed. Rich detail. But very sad. I got to know the characters too well and cried for them. Love the strong woman character.

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### **S. Noël says**

Ms. Robson is a skilled writer. She makes the reader part of the setting, and one lives in the time in which the story takes place. She illustrates the tragedy of the Apache nation as a people are ground under the heel of the encroaching settlers. In Lozen, she brings alive a little-known historical figure. This woman's books never disappoint.

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### **Ramona Hilliard says**

I love reading Lucia St. Clair Robson books. She has the ability to transform me to that place and time so easily. While she writes fiction, it is obvious that she has done her homework. This story teaches us of a Native American woman who actually existed and was considered by her people to be a Shaman and leader during the last days before their freedom is stolen. Lozen is her name. She helped to hide her people from the US Army for many years. Lozen was considered a horse whisperer, stealing many horses and mules from the whites and Mexicans. She could sense when danger was about to happen thus enabling her people to escape from the enemy. This story has a love story which has been a standard of the books I have read from this author. You will enjoy the ups and downs of the journey of Lozen and the history of a little known sister to a war chief in their last years of survival as a free people. Loved this book. Can't wait to read the next one!

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### **Naomi says**

This book dragged on forever without going anywhere. I really wanted to love this book and had been looking forward to reading it, but Lucia St. Clair Robson did not hold my attention with this one. I have loved all of her other books. This story about Lozen was so slow and never went anywhere. I kept waiting for something to happen and it never did. I just good not stick it out any longer, as I was forcing myself to read it; the characters just kept getting all mixed up. I finally had to give it up about 2/3 of the way through.

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### **Naduah says**

It's hard for me to write this review because I know what an amazing accomplishment it is to write a book and Lucia St. Clair Robson is one of my favorite authors. Ride the Wind is one of my favorite books of all time. Sometimes reality is more interesting than fiction and that is the case with all the historical characters Lucia St. Clair Robson writes about. These people's lives...they are epic and crazy and just utterly amazing.

And real. These people really existed and did these things in a time when it seemed all odds were against everyone. Life was hard in the 1700-1800's yet these characters accomplished the most unbelievable things.

Before you go into this book, you need to remember it's historical fiction. Don't expect some gushy romantic love story with a happy ending. I've read lots of historical books...and even though James A. Michener is a god and won a Pulitzer I swear he's got nothing on Lucia St. Clair Robson when it comes to research and story telling. It's one thing to write a historical novel and give people facts but Lucia St. Clair Robson truly tells a story that takes you back in time -- you really live inside these character's minds. You live with these people, you ride horses along side them, you feel their pain, you experience their hardships, you love their animals as much as they do, you hate their enemies as much as they do, you eat dinner with them, you sleep beside them in the desert. It's hard to describe Lucia St. Clair Robson's books because they aren't your typical historical fiction. They are truly memorizing stories that suck you in and you forget you are reading historical facts.

With all that said, Ghost Warrior fell a little flat for me as compared to typical Lucia St. Clair Robson work, especially in comparison to Ride the Wind. Ghost Warrior dragged on a bit at times. I sometimes wondered where it was going. There were times, I felt it could have been edited down a bit because it was such a long saga. But then after finishing, I don't really know what could have been removed because every part of the story was a learning process for me and important to both Lozen and Rafe's characters and stories. One thing also that can't be helped is that most if not all Lucia St. Clair Robson stories have an unhappy ending. That's just life and how it was for these great people. They experienced hardship, they struggled and then they died. It's awful but true life and how history is.

After reading any Lucia St. Clair Robson book, you will be fascinated with each character. Even if you have no interest in history you deeply respect them and want to know more, not only about the main characters but all the supporting (and real) other characters. After reading Ride the Wind, I swear Lucia St. Clair Robson made me feel like a sister to Naduah/Cynthia Parker. It was like a magnet -- I was pulled and had to know as much as I could about this amazing woman Lucia St. Clair Robson brought back to life for me. I experienced the same thing with Lozen (and all the other characters in this book) in Ghost Warrior. I think I've googled to the end of the internet trying to find out all I can about Lozen, Victorio, Cochise and Geronimo.

Do I recommend this book. Hell yes.

How do I rate? It's a solid 4.5+ start as compared to Ride the Wind.

As compared to other historical fiction it's a 5.

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### **Bea says**

I didn't like this book as much as I like St. Clair Robson's other books. Although Lozen's life was fascinating and she describes the scenery and action well I didn't connect to the main characters as much. She tried to set up a love story and that didn't really work for me. I wanted more Lozen and less Rafe!

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### **Deloris Stephenson says**

Several years ago I read two books by Lucia St. Clair Robson and loved them. The first was "Ride the Wind" and for the life of me I don't remember the name of the other. BUT.....I thoroughly enjoyed them. If you

want a feel for what life was like during the settling of the West, this book is an excellent read. It is told from the perspective of an Apache female and an Anglo man. Their lives intersect throughout the book. This gives you the perspective of an Apache whose lands were being gradually taken over by the white man. Very good book!!

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### **Naduah says**

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Do I recommend this book. Hell yes.

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As compared to other historical fiction it's a 5.

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### **Joyce says**

Robson writes a well researched novel about Lozen, known as the Apache Joan of Arc. Lozen didn't marry, she lived as a spiritual leader, healer and a warrior as she fought for decades with her brother Victorio to maintain their lands. For anyone sweltering in the dessert heat in 2012, imagine what it was like for the Native Americans who lived there before air conditioning, supermarkets, and cars. Robson shows how they lived, their love of laughter, their ribald joking, their love of stealing, and the enmity between them and the Mexicans. She doesn't hesitate to talk about the fact that Apaches, even the women, utilized torture against their enemies. She also details the chain of mendacity, deceit, greed and incompetence perpetrated by representatives of the US government as they made and broke treaties with the Native Americans, enticed them to and moved them from reservation to reservation, and killed, starved and froze the people they were supposed to be helping.

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### **Felicia says**

Lozen, the Ghost Warrior, completely eluded me. I eagerly began this book, wanting to learn more about the Apache of the Southwest. I did learn about their brutal lifestyle, their wars with Mexico and the United States Army.....every chapter was a new battle, another slaughter.

Lozen was an unusual rider, a woman with visions and great spirit; but as I waited for her life to evolve; I couldn't wait for the book to end. Each foray, each powwow became like the last.....an eternal "groundhog day".

I was very disappointed; and it was much too long.

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### **Hmcdrum says**

Ghost Warrior took me into the early southwest with ease! I enjoyed jumping from bands of natives to bands of whites, floating along the story with anticipation. But, the title of the book is indeed ghost warrior and the author fell far short in depicting the miraculous mysterious life of a native medicine woman. I am sure that Lozen had far more power dreams that lead her thru her own self discovery as well as give her the ability to lead her people. I love the mystery of the native shamans and it takes a great understanding of the mysteries of life to bring to life a native american tale. Good story but not special from a spiritual angle!

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### **Herman says**

Enjoyed this historical fiction based on real life stories, the Re-construct of the Apache world of the nineteenth century achieved verisimilitude in speech, action, setting, and description

Seamlessly weaving historical fact with the writer's art of reinterpreting personalities and speech based on research and best guess and skill, there were a few things that bothered me but they were relatively nick-picking minor stuff and I am a super-user in regards to Native-American literature so I'm a far harder grader on this than the average reader would be. Lets start off with what I liked most about this book. I'm glad that the focus wasn't about Geronimo or Cochise or any of the other famous leaders in fact this book makes the

important point that Geronimo would be consider by many native of the other Apache's as being a Coyote type character a dark spirit who wasn't a good leader for the majority of the Apache people that was a bit of a fresh air look I appreciated that. Second I liked that Lozen wasn't portrayed as some wonder woman super heroine yes a number of things we know that she did would now-a-days place her up there with seal team 6 as far as being a super bad-ass but I felt the personality was pretty close to what the truth might have been I also liked the added details of her death which has never been well described before. Parts that didn't work so well for me were the soft focus sketchiness of so many important parts of the story, the author Lucia St. Clair Robson is like a Ghost-whisper to me. In her book "Light a Distant Fire" the story of Seminole leader Osceola I had the feeling of the writer being able to really capture the life of her subject but in a hazy sort of ghost spirit as if relating a dream and throughout Ghost Warrior I felt this too that just me I can't be too specific as too why I felt this perhaps because the counterpoint story the cowboy Rafe which was maybe more than 50% of this book, (another issue I was annoyed with) his story was more solidly defined, clearer more grounded in time and place than that of Lozen, who's storyline sometimes faded in and out over period of years. The last thing that bothered me was the repeated use of the word "Dineh" (for the people) I'm not a language expert but Dineh is clearly a Navajo word, and while Apache and Navajo is from the same language root just like English comes out of a German/Latin/Anglo root but I'm fairly certain that southern Apache's would not refer to themselves in a term that is today so closely connected to northern Navajo's it's a minor thing but it bothered me every time I saw it. Overall a very good book I enjoyed it and recommend it to anyone wishing to know more about this time period.

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weave historical fact with your own compelling plot ideas

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### **Nirmala mcafee says**

Although I finished this book awhile back, I never returned to Goodreads to tell you my final impressions on St.Clair Robson's book, Ghost Warrior. This was a riveting book in all respects. The characters were rich and multifaceted; the plot made sense and had motivation and rationale. The setting is, of course, one of my favorite - the southwest during the Native American "holocaust" perpetrated by white settlers and soldiers, and initiated by the federal government. These were characters and events that I wanted to know forever. I didn't want the book to end because I had made deep friendships with the various protagonists throughout the time span of the plot. I highly recommend this book to most adult readers, period. If you're an adult reader who also happens to enjoy historical novels set in this time period, you will put this on your shelf along with Lonesome Dove.

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### **David says**

This book, around 500 pages, (I read the hardbound version) took my more than a week to read. This week was spent savoring a tale crafted by a master. Robson has done her research well. The story is about the Apache Wars in New Mexico and Arizona during the 1850's-1880's.

First, Robson immerses us deeply into Apache folklore and culture. We learn more about why they had so many names and where some of the names like "Victorio" came from. We already know that the Native Americans revered the land, but Robson shares with us the Native American myths and legends behind this reverence.

Robson doesn't leave out white culture and practices. She speaks with knowledge about firearms and even freighting practices. All of this gives us such an intense aroma of the times, practices, and attitudes of various folks that we can feel an attachment and interest. For example, she describes a particularly troublesome mule and the manner in which the mule Skinner handles him. He "roaches" (cuts short) his mane and tail so that all the other drivers know that the mule is an especially cantankerous and stubborn animal to deal with. This is just one example of the rich detail that Robson peppers this story with.

Second, Robson deals with history in a way that balances the viewpoints of the Apaches as "noble redmen" with that of "murderous savage." Even Rafe, a freighter/scout for the army who is sympathetic towards the Apaches is appalled by some of their atrocities and determines that he cannot excuse their murderous behavior. Still Robson manages to tell the story from a viewpoint that leaves the reader feeling bad about the behavior on both sides of those wars.

Finally, Robson writes a crackerjack historical novel which centers on Lozen, a female Shaman/warrior, the sister of Victorio. We see the suffering of her people, their attitude about life, etc. through her eyes. The other main character is Rafe. Through his eyes we see his concern with the treatment of the Native Americans, the conduct of the Native Americans, and even the treatment of the black "buffalo soldiers" by their white officers.

I thought Robson was going to make a bad literary error and turn this great novel into a romance novel. Rafe becomes enamored with Lozen and to some extent vice-versa. However, the line between historical novel and romance is never crossed. Robson stays true to the story she is telling as these two meet each other over and over again throughout the novel. I was deeply impressed by her commitment to the reality that her novel focused on.

I would liken this novel to Lonesome Dove in its gritty and harsh portrayal of the reality of the old west. The characters aren't quite as comical, but they seem to be characters of great dimension. By the time the reader finishes this novel, he cares about most of the characters. Robson manages to do this without glorifying any of the characters too much. The brutality of both sides is clearly depicted. I liked this novel as much for its balance as for its characterization.

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### **Ash says**

Defying Apache tradition, Lozen declines marriage offers to train as a warrior and shaman. She is her brother's right hand throughout his leadership and is a respected member of councils even after his death. From her girlhood on her people's land in New Mexico to her death at a reservation in the swamps of Florida, it's continual atrocity (on both sides) between the indigenous tribes (stealing) and the US government/business interests/settlers (lying) [widespread brutal murder], with a brief recess during the Civil War. Have a serious crush on Rafe. Want more frontier historical fiction, preferably from Robson.

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