

(Read free ebook) WALKING THE TRAIL

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Jerry Ellis

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Jerry Ellis : WALKING THE TRAIL before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised WALKING THE TRAIL:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Walking the TrailBy sallyThis book was a great read, Jerry Ellis writes so down to earth and interesting. What a trip!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Something many of us would love to do!By C. KightIn the 1830"s most Native Americans in the south were moved from their homes to reservations in the west. Jerry travels the Trail of Tears from the end of the trail in Oklahoma to his home in Alabama, about 900 miles, He walks the trail and meets many interesting people along the way. For those of us who have Native American heritage, it is something we can relate to and even may wish we could do ourselves! Not only does Jerry want to get the feel of the trail and what our ancestors experienced, he is also seeking to find out more about himself. Many of those that he encounters along the way have some connection to Native Americans and tell their stories. Enjoyed sharing the experience and passed the book on to a friend to read.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One mans tribute to a brave nation.By Teddie CookThe Trail of Tears was brought to life, in current times, with wispers of those who traveled it so long ago. Meeting the current residents of the trail areas brought interest. I really appreciated the task steadily performed by the author, walking and talking about the trails history of those who walked along the trail. A true homage. A must read, and should be required reading in all US High Schools.

A moving account of one man's spiritual journey along the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Initially searching for his Native

American roots, Ellis discovered on the way an even deeper desire to understand the human condition. For over two months, he walked some 900 miles along lonely roads, through small towns, and among strangers.

From Publishers Weekly In late summer of 1989, Ellis, an unsuccessful Hollywood screenwriter suffering from midlife blues, set out to walk in reverse the 900-mile Trail of Tears traversed in 1838 by Cherokee Indians being herded by soldiers, in frigid winter, from their Southeast homeland to a reservation in what is now Oklahoma. Ellis, himself part Cherokee, says he wanted to honor those 4000 who died along the way and to rediscover the toughness of his youth. Unfortunately, neither aim is accomplished in this sexually charged and plainspoken account of his nearly two-month trek. The Trail's victims serve only as backdrop to the author's personal adventuring and respites in homes, dorms and motels. Read as travelogue and/or one lonely man's tussle with life, the book, even though exploitative of a tragic event, proves intermittently entertaining. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The forced move of 18,000 Cherokees from the Southeast to the Indian Territory of Oklahoma in 1838 is a hauntingly dark act of history that should not be forgotten. The author, part Cherokee himself, walked the Trail of Tears (in reverse) and writes of his experiences and thoughts along the way. It is a meandering, informal, and always lively account in the mold of William Least Heat-Moon's *Blue Highways* (LJ 11/1/82) and other American "road" books that tell us more about the authors than they do about where they went. This one is sure to be a popular title in public libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/15/91. - Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., Ashland Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s Ellis, a free-lance writer who is part Cherokee Indian, journeys on foot from Oklahoma to his hometown of Fort Payne, Alabama--symbolically retracing the 900-mile path his ancestors took on their forced odyssey out of the southern states in 1838. It had something to do with having recently turned 40; something to do with a vision he'd had while writing a play about one Cherokee's experience of the Trail of Tears; and something to do with the importance of feeling free to walk across America without fear of death by violence. Whatever the reasons, Ellis--a former motorcycle-gang member and a modern-day romantic--buses and hitches his way to the Cherokee Nation's capital of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, hoists his 50-pound pack, and starts off along the shoulder of a lonely rural road toward the Trail of Tears's origin and the 18,000 Cherokees' original home. Along the way, he reflects less on the fate of his ancestors who, unlike him, had to travel this route in the midst of a brutal winter and who died by the thousands of starvation, exposure, and disease than on his own renegade past in Alabama, New York, and Hollywood, and on the remarkably strange 20th-century folks he encounters along the way. From the wistful Texan who recounts the story of his abuse-ridden boyhood, to the Charles Manson look-alike charging along the road with a rock clutched in his fist, to the confused but nubile young member of a Missouri religious cult with whom Ellis falls briefly in lust--these are the inheritors of the Trail's violent legacy, and a stranger collection of people couldn't be invented. Arriving back in Fort Payne right on schedule, Ellis may have gained little new insight into his own past, but he brings home enough unusual experiences to chew on for 40 years to come. Peripatetic true confessions that hook the reader with their very ingenuousness--a genuine American tale. -- Copyright 1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.