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what became of her collections. This is where I cannot help but think that the authors missed an opportunity to engage a broader audience. In contrast to the detailed summary of archaeological debates during her life, there is little discussion of when and how Betty was vindicated through subsequent archaeological work. The book would have profited from a discussion of the methods and data needed—what Betty would have needed but that did not exist at that time—to validate aspects of her thinking about the antiquity of desert adaptations. It would have strengthened the case made by the authors about her relevance, and would have helped to further educate readers who may be less informed about the history of archaeology in California.

That said, works such as this help to pull the contributions of early archaeologists out of the shadows of time, cultural bias, and dominant male thinkers. The authors provide us with a clear understanding of how and why Betty's research was ahead of its day, in spite of her origins as an untrained elite. It is underpinned by what

we may regard as ideal standard practices in archaeology, including meticulous recordkeeping, consideration of changing environmental circumstances, and consultation with experts in other fields. It also speaks to the advantages derived from knowing a landscape intimately. Finally, it provides continuity between archaeologists of the past and today, with the authors themselves providing the bridge.

This book should appeal to those interested in deserts and their inhabitants, the history of Euro-American homesteading, and the history of archaeology in California. To those who aspire to be professional archaeologists, its allure also includes how the authors detail the process of an archaeologist 'in the making.' It is an engaging and accessible case study in how happenstance, curiosity, and hard work can lay the groundwork for a meaningful career, and how some of the best ideas may seemingly come from the most unexpected places. If you keep your eyes open, you never know what you might see and what direction it will take you in—it might just be a purple hummingbird leading the way.



Island of the Blue Dolphins: The Complete Reader's Edition

Sara L. Schwebel (editor), Scott O'Dell (author)
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256 pp., ISBN: 9780520289376, \$29.95 (hardcover).

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San Nicolas Island, much like the true story of the Lone Woman who survived for 18 years without known human contact, is often shrouded with misty fog and low-lying clouds, making any attempts to see clearly and understand nuances troublesome at best. However, Schwebel and her co-authors successfully manage to clear up some of the ambiguities surrounding the fictional and historical elements of this story by providing significant pieces to the puzzle of the most remote of the Channel Islands, the last native woman to walk its salt-sprayed shores, and the fascinating novel her story inspired.

In this Reader's Guide to one of the most popular and well-loved children's classics of the mid twentieth century, Schwebel and her co-authors pull together literary, historical, and anthropological research to provide readers with a comprehensive account of the context for the publishing of this novel, the historical accounts of the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island, and the state of American society during the 1950s and 60s—which spawned the views and prejudices towards Native Americans and women that were woven into O'Dell's fictionalized narrative of Karana.

As much as we would like to think ourselves capable of unbiased observation, the truth is that we all approach our lives with a certain degree of inherent bias. Our perspectives are molded by the stories forming our cultural upbringings, the unique situations we encounter, and the decisions we choose to make. In her nearly one-hundred page introduction and essay, Schwebel digs through old letters and early drafts, seeking out living descendants and associates of O'Dell, to provide us with the context for his perspectives, which naturally shaped his rendition

of this tragic period in Californian history. However, she goes beyond providing the context for O'Dell himself and probes into the societal debates of the time, including the racist renderings of Native American "types" (i.e., the "noble savage" and "vanishing Indian"), the nascent environmental movement, the civil rights movement, and second-wave feminism's rejection of stereotypical roles for girls. By contextualizing the novel in the American society of the 1950s–60s that gave rise to it, a deeper interpretation of fictionalized nuances and a more thorough comprehension of its long-lasting fame are achieved.

Introductory chapters are succeeded by a reprint of the original novel with extensive notes, detailed comments and comparisons with native traditions, followed by drafts of previously unpublished excised chapters—providing the most comprehensive rendering of this beloved novel ever printed. In the final portion of the book, two essays further contextualize the true story that inspired the novel by providing more accurate accounts of the ancient, historical, and modern events lying beneath the surface.

Recent archaeological investigations on San Nicolas Island provide a window into the past through which we catch a brief glimpse of the lifeways and practices of the Nicoleño, or "people of Ghalas-at." Artifacts, or material objects uncovered in archaeological contexts, allow a reconstruction of aspects of the Lone Woman's story and of what her life might have been like. In his essay, Vellanoweth pieces together these fragments from the archaeological record, comparing and contrasting the actual places and archaeological sites with the fictionalized rendition of the island and its inhabitants—revealing the real Corral Harbor that inspired O'Dell's Coral Cove, and the Tule Creek Village Site, which sits in the exact location of O'Dell's village of Ghalas-at, containing dog burials that suggest these animal companions were highly regarded rather than being seen as the wild beasts depicted in the novel. An uncovered cache of woven and tar-lined water bottles along with two wooden boxes containing hundreds of artifacts and unmodified materials are reminiscent of accounts that the Lone Woman was fond of hiding provisions at various locations around the island, and the discovery of

a "lost" coastal cave lends credence to historic narratives suggesting this was one of her homes.

Unfortunately, the normalized version of American history, especially those published at the time this novel was written, often recount tales of disappearing and vanishing Indians as romanticized noble savages. The story of native peoples is often taught as the extinction of their ways and cultures in the wake of European colonization. In the final chapter of this edited volume, Goldberg points out that this is far from the true story of Native American persistence and survival. Her essay provides an alternative interpretation of Karana's tale, forged in the novel's undertones of native "extinction," and focuses on the endurance, adaptation and continuity of Native American cultural traditions—using her story as a metaphor for the perseverance of Native American lifeways. Goldberg's narrative is framed in the history of legal justifications for land rights, native struggles for tribal sovereignty, and efforts for the protection and preservation of cultural resources; with specific accounts of how these issues have played out on San Nicolas Island from the early 1600s up to recent challenges to the U.S. Navy's control of the island and cultural affiliation.

Island of the Blue Dolphins is undoubtedly a book that has captured the imagination of many readers, both young and old, for over half a century—and yet, most people are stunned when asked if they know that this novel was based on the true story of a native woman who spent 18 years on San Nicolas Island during the mid-1800s without known human contact. This book will go a long way towards illuminating the historical basis for this extraordinary story, bringing readers closer to the character they love and her real-life counterpart—a woman we are drawn to by the courage and strength she displayed, but about whom we truly know very little. This text is remarkably versatile in its ability to provide in-depth literary, historical, archaeological, and legal commentary for the serious researcher while still serving as an excellent resource and must-have companion for educators and interested readers eager to see beneath the glittering surface of a fabulous story set on a mysterious island off the southern California coast.

