

《SCALPEL AND THE SILVER BEAR(ISBN=9780553378009)》

书籍信息

版次：1

页数：

字数：

印刷时间：2000年06月01日

开本：大32开

纸张：胶版纸

包装：平装

是否套装：否

国际标准书号ISBN：9780553378009

编辑推荐

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内容简介

The first Navajo woman surgeon combines western medicine and traditional healing. A spellbinding journey between two worlds, this remarkable book describes surgeon Lori Arviso Alvord's struggles to bring modern medicine to the Navajo reservation in Gallup, New Mexico--and to bring the values of her people to a medical care system in danger of losing its heart. Dr. Alvord left a dusty reservation in New Mexico for Stanford University Medical School, becoming the first Navajo woman surgeon. Rising above the odds presented by her own culture and the male-dominated world of surgeons, she returned to the reservation to find a new challenge. In dramatic encounters, Dr. Alvord witnessed the power of belief to influence health, for good or for ill. She came to merge the latest breakthroughs of medical science with the ancient tribal paths to recovery and wellness, following the Navajo philosophy of a balanced and harmonious life, called *Walking in Beauty*. And now, in bringing these principles to the world of medicine, *The Scalpel and the Silver Bear* joins those few rare works, such as *Healing and the Mind*, whose ideas have changed medical practices--and our understanding of the world.

作者简介

Lori Arviso Alvord, M.D., is now the associate dean of minority and student affairs at Dartmouth Medical School. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Jon, and two children, Kodiak and

Kaitlyn.

Elizabeth Cohen van Pelt is a staff writer with the New York Post. She lives in New York with her husband and daughter.

媒体评论

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Introduction

A Navajo weaver takes strands of wool and blends them into something of great beauty and magic; warp and weft combine into a pattern, and the pattern tells a story and has a spirit. This pattern then becomes a piece of the culture and has a life of its own. From the beginning I knew I had to do a similar thing with the strands of my story – to tell how a girl from a small and remote town on an Indian reservation was able to become a surgeon, able to work in the high-tech realm of a surgical operating room, and combine that with another story, about how ancient tribal ways and philosophies can help a floundering medical system find its way back to its original mission: healing.

The first strand of my story shows that anything is possible. The words "Navajo" and "surgeon" are not often seen together. But a minority woman can travel across cultural, class, and educational borders and become a part of a medical world whose doors have been closed to minority people for most of its existence. I hope that native people will be encouraged by this story, and that they will follow their own special dreams. The second story is about how I have come to understand, after years of reflection, that my tribe has knowledge about medicine and healing, ways of thinking about health and illness that provide solutions to some of modern medicine's most daunting problems.

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