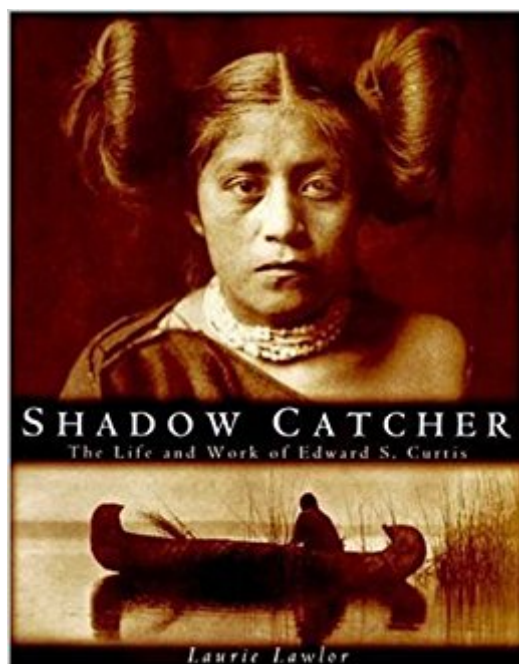


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# Shadow Catcher: The Life And Work Of Edward S. Curtis



## Synopsis

Many Native Americans photographed by Edward S. Curtis (1868–1952) called him Shadow Catcher. But the images he captured were far more powerful than mere shadows. When the twentieth century was just getting underway, Curtis began documenting North American Indian culture in words and photographs. Today, almost one hundred years later, his work still stands as the most extensive and informative collection of its kind. His photographs are more than mere documents; they are works of art revealing subtleties of human expression missing from other historical and anthropological records. Filled with Curtis's breathtaking photographs and available for the first time in a paperback edition, *Shadow Catcher* traces Curtis's life and work from his boyhood in Wisconsin, through his first photo expedition to Alaska in 1897 and the completion of *The North American Indian* collection in 1930, to his death in 1952. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lawlor (*Addie Across the Prairie*) engagingly chronicles the life and work of photographer-ethnologist Edward S. Curtis (1868- 1952), perhaps best known for his 20-volume *The North American Indian*, a collection of photographs and written histories of the tribes he spent more than 30 years studying. According to Lawlor, Curtis sacrificed much for his determination to record a culture he believed to be on the brink of extinction. The lively text focuses on his struggles, from his beginnings as a studio photographer in 1890s Seattle to his neverending quest for financial

support from the likes of Teddy Roosevelt and J.P. Morgan, to his patience in winning the trust of the people he sought to memorialize. Although openly admiring, Lawlor does not shy away from more problematic aspects of Curtis's career-she acknowledges that he staged events for the camera and posed his subjects, and that his obsession with his mission impoverished and eventually unraveled his family. The exquisitely designed book (printed in sepia on cream paper) contains scores of Curtis's haunting photographs, as well as portraits of Curtis and his family. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 8-10?Lawlor illuminates the life of the man driven to complete the monumental project of documenting in photographs, words, and sound recordings the Indian cultures of North America (it took him 30 years). At the same time, she portrays the compelling plight of Native Americans in the early part of the 20th century. The reproductions of the sepia-tinted portraits and landscapes of the "Shadow Catcher," the sobriquet applied to the man by the peoples he photographed, are outstanding. The combination of history and artistry will enlarge the audience for this title. More than a reference and more than a biography of Curtis, this carefully researched, highly readable book emphasizes the photographer's perseverance and quest for quality and can serve as a model for young people.?Nancy E. Curran, Decatur Public Schools, ILCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Fascinating story of a real man's dedication to preserving the memory of the indigenous Americans. A tale of fortitude and sacrifice. He was not "perfect"... scientific rigor sometimes lacking... but deserves to be remembered for the good he did, and the way he "kept going" though a life that wasn't easy.Oh! And the photos are superb. One or two haunting.

A1

This book is written for young adults or children making it a fast & easy read. Also includes many very nice photos. Barbara Davis's book has more photos and a lot more details about his life. It is all in what you want.

Edward Curtis saw a world few others had seen. He capture these real people on his camera for the future and for posterity.

I had another edition of this book which I lent to a friend. In that edition I seem to remember that there were more full page photos taken by Curtis.

This is an excellent biography of Edward S. Curtis. It is a clear look at his life and work. The author writes in a easy reading manner about the ups and downs of the man's life. It contains samples on almost every page of his photos. Since Curtis extensively studied American Indians, this is also a good reference for several rarely talked about tribes!

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