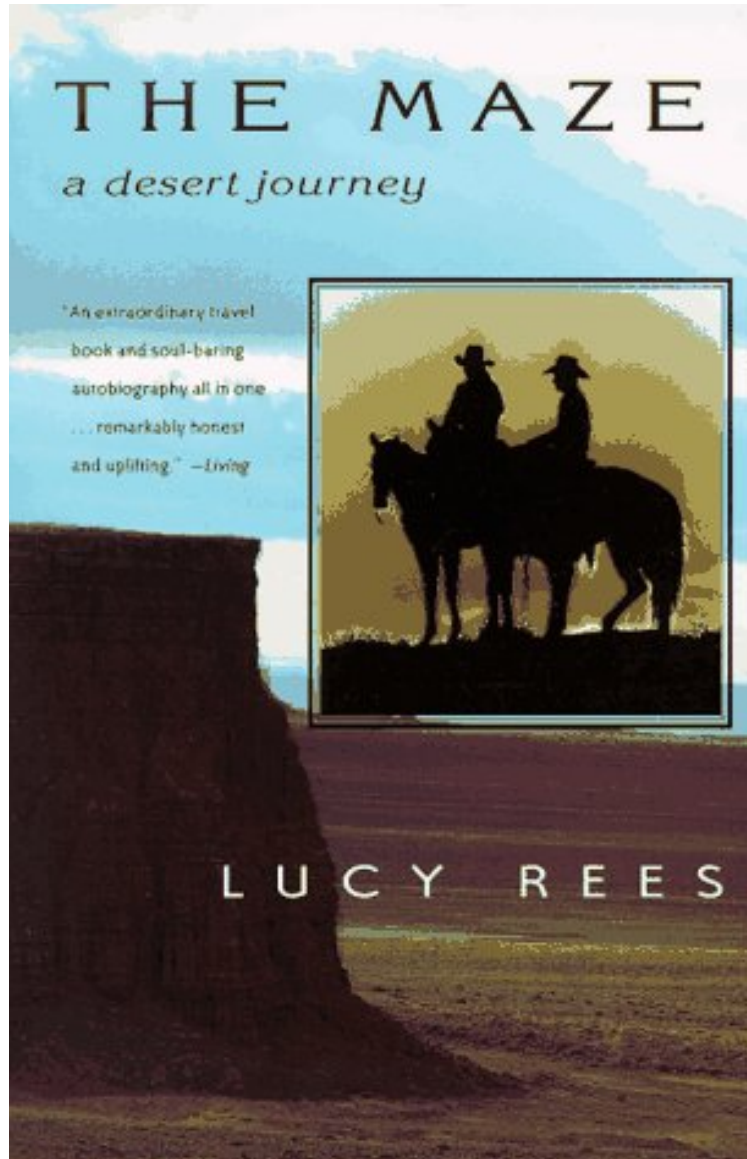


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The Maze: A Desert Journey

Lucy Rees

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Lucy Rees : The Maze: A Desert Journey before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Maze: A Desert Journey:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Labrynth as symbol to understand past painful experiences By Lindsey B. Lucy Rees' book, The Maze, is an amazing journey through the actual desert wilderness of the Arazona/Four Corners area and also through the inner landscape of Lucy's past. The problems that occur on the trail

with her great friend and the horses bring up memories that have haunted her with insecurity and fear. Lucy is able to bring us into her real journey with a past/present storyline of entering the maze of her life and coming out with gratitude, amazement and love. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. paula the readerBy Paula A. Barsamianpoorly written, full of prejudice, inconsistent writing. I do not like it. anyone want my copy for free???1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not just a horse book, not just a travel book.By Kris HughesI decided to read this because I was impressed by another Lucy Rees book "The Horse's Mind". That one is a horse book (an excellent one) so I figured she knew her stuff. At first I was a little disappointed when the author took me down so many shadowy paths into her past, as flashbacks or asides to the story at hand. In the end, I was glad. As well as being a good horse book, and a good travel book, this is a book about people, and especially about women's journeys. I have re-read it several times over the years, and will again, if I can ever hang onto a copy long enough, because this has become a book that I endlessly give away to friends. This tale is poignant, laugh-out-loud funny, surprising and oh so very human. Whether you love horse books, or don't give two hoots about them, it's just a good read.

"Northern Arizona is vast and beautiful. Horizons are huge, for the dry air is so clear you can often see for eighty or a hundred miles. Mountains we would think to walk over in a day may be three days' hard ride away. There is space between each tuft of grass or cactus." With these words, Lucy Rees invites the reader to saddle up and travel with her across the desert to the Hopi Indian mesas. There, she and a companion are searching for an ancient stone carving similar to one in Cornwall, near their native Wales, that has long fascinated them. The intricate design of the stone, spiraling inward and then turning outward again, becomes a purpose for their trek as well as a metaphor for the journey itself. Humorous and wise, this book is both a bold adventure on horseback and a moving account of personal tragedy, courage, and hope.

.com It seems you don't have to be American to dream about cowboys. Lucy Rees, a writer from Wales, and her companion Rick, travel all the way to Arizona in order to exercise a rather loopy dream of traveling through the American Southwest on horseback. It becomes apparent from the opening pages of *The Maze* that this is no ordinary travelogue. To begin, Lucy and Rick's original destination had been Mongolia. Equally extraordinary is their aversion to "betraying" the horses they will live with for several months by leaving them at the end of the trip. Their solution to this problem is to consciously choose delinquent horses, which they hope to rehabilitate and then resell to good homes. What they get are Rosie and Duchess: one a "spoiled brat," the other suspicious of people, "unpredictable, hysterical, and dangerous." Lesser beings might have been daunted at this point, deciding to trade in the horses for an RV, but not Lucy and Rick. Lucy and Rick's goal is a Hopi mesa where a sevenfold maze similar to ones found in Cornwall, Spain, India, Scotland, Scandinavia, and Crete is carved in a rock. To get there, they must "cross desert, high plateau and half Navajoland, which itself is bigger than Wales." But as all good travel stories prove, the journey is the destination, and long before Lucy and Rick arrive at Hopi, they have learned some valuable lessons about themselves and each other. From Publishers WeeklyBy American standards, the Welsh couple were ill-equipped for desert travel?wrong horses, no pack mules, no guns. Rees (*Wild Pony*) was seeking inner peace after a personal tragedy; her friend Rick wanted to see a stone carving on the Hopi reservation, reputedly identical to one in Cornwall known as the Cretan maze. In Prescott, Arizona, they bought two horses for a journey that would take them across desert, high plateau and half of Navajoland. Rees gives a spirited account of their adventures. One of the horses, Duchess, had been badly handled in the past and was unpredictable. Through Rees's affection, Duchess learned to trust humans again?a rewarding story in itself. Eventually, the travelers found the maze on the second mesa of the Hopi. This combination of travel with horses, a spiritual search and extraordinary adventure leaves the reader with a sense of satisfaction. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sRees, a horse trainer with a love of travel, offers a rambling account of her adventure in the wilds of the Old West. She and her friend Rick, both Welsh, determine to come to America, buy two horses, and ride through Arizona in search of a particular stone carving of a maze that is found in both Cornwall and Hopi territory. The horses they buy, Rosie and Duchess, had been spoiled and then dumped by former owners, and were literally on the way to the glue factory before Rees found them. The narrative is at its strongest when it focuses on these animals: They gradually accept training, and the mutual trust that develops between rider and horse is fascinating and frequently quite moving. Their journey is much harder than expected, and as the relationship between beast and human is strengthened, that between Rick and the author loses its center. The story becomes unexpectedly painful when Rees recounts past loves now lost. She seems to find herself stuck in an emotional equivalent of the maze she and Rick seek. After an awkward few days, the two travel on to the Hopi reservation where they want to study more closely the stone carving that links their country to America. The reservation, unfortunately, exposes a slightly maudlin edge to Rees's writing, and the history and importance of the carving are lost in a torrent of platitudes la Dances with Wolves. The end of the story is a muddled rush that stands in sharp contrast to her earlier clear prose style. While it relies too heavily on a vague, New Age mysticism, this slender book is nonetheless an engaging and unique travelogue. (illustrations) -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All

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