

The Captured: A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier

By Scott Zesch

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On New Year's Day in 1870, ten-year-old Adolph Korn was kidnapped by an Apache raiding party. Traded to Comanches, he thrived in the rough, nomadic existence, quickly becoming one of the tribe's fiercest warriors. Forcibly returned to his parents after three years, Korn never adjusted to life in white society. He spent his last years in a cave, all but forgotten by his family.

That is, until Scott Zesch stumbled over his own great-great-great uncle's grave. Determined to understand how such a "good boy" could have become Indianized so completely, Zesch travels across the west, digging through archives, speaking with Comanche elders, and tracking eight other child captives from the region with hauntingly similar experiences. With a historians rigor and a novelists eye, Zesch's *The Captured* paints a vivid portrait of life on the Texas frontier, offering a rare account of captivity.

The Captured: A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier By Scott Zesch Bibliography

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Editorial Review

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On New Year's Day, 1870, Adolph Korn, the author's ancestor and son of German immigrants, was captured by three Apaches near his family's cabin in central Texas. Adolph was traded to a band of Quahada Comanches, with whom he lived until November 1872, when the Comanches traded their captives for those held by the U.S. Army. Adolph was irrevocably changed. Considering himself Indian, he lived in a cave, and died alone in 1900. The author's search into Korn's sad life led him to the similar stories of eight other children captured in Texas between 1865 and 1871. Drawing on his tenacious research and interviews with the captives' descendants, Zesch compiles a gripping account of the lives of these children as they lived and traveled with their Indian captors. He delves into the reasons for their "Indianization," which for most of them lasted the rest of their lives, and discusses why they couldn't adjust to white society. A fascinating, meticulously documented chronicle of the often-painful confrontations between whites and Indians during the final years of Indian Territory. *Deborah Donovan*
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About the Author

Scott Zesch grew up in Mason County, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University and Harvard Law School. He is the author of the novel *Alamo Heights*, and he is the winner of the Western History Association's Ray Allen Billington Award. He divides his time between New York City and a ranch in Art, Texas (population 3).

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On New Year's Day 1870, 10-year-old Adolph Korn was kidnapped by Indians. Nor was his abduction painless. First struck down with a pistol, he later fell off a horse and was crippled. Yet by the time he was restored to his parents--just three years later--Adolph was a Comanche who could never adjust to the society that had "rescued" him from savagery. This and other tales of white Indians, stunningly written by one of Adolph's distant relatives, reveal how subjective--perhaps even mistaken--is our understanding of family and what constitutes the good life. Golden-voiced Grover Gardner charges his rich baritone with the thrill of discovery. B.H.C. © AudioFile 2005, Portland, Maine-- *Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine*

Users Review

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Amelia Gallup:

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