

confused. She strikes out, and is often critical of herself in the same manner that we ourselves are. Ephanie is endearing, exasperating, fun-loving, angry, lost, lonely, and needs to love herself so badly that the reader wishes she could tell her to do so.

We journey with Ephanie and find ourselves hopeful that she will find her way. We feel we don't want her to lose herself in her turmoil. Ephanie seems able to "roll with the punches," but each of life's challenges takes its toll until we fear for her survival.

In Ephanie we see the best and the worst results of a heritage which is based on the oral tradition. Paula Gunn Allen intersperses Navajo history of the Spider Woman and teachings from history to allow the reader to point out references for Ephanie's journey. *The Women who Owned The Shadows* could be any Native American woman trying to carry out her responsibilities in a contemporary world. In this case, it just happens to be Ephanie, whose journey through the shadows brings her to the beginning of her life.

I got into the book only because of

Ephanie: she is a real searcher and wouldn't give up — a lot like a number of women I've known. She is the only intriguing character. The book is written with a very choppy style of writing. It can be recognized that it is following a disjointed thought process. This can be accepted as thought, not written with periods and paragraphs.

In this context, the book is difficult to get into. The other characters are weak and not developed. They don't leave much impression, except to note how Ephanie deals with them.

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