



Narrative Medicine



The simple lesson of revelation.

Mabel McKay Weaving the Dream was written as a tribute to the late Pomo basket weaver and medicine woman Mabel McKay, it was in the writing and research that Greg Sarris, author, recovered his people.



Narrative Medicine is about the telling of the story, the listening and the empathy that accompanies the witnessing. Greg Sarris's biography of Mabel McKay (1994) takes the reader into the life of Native Americans, their spirituality and their ways of medicine. Written from his close relationship with Mabel, we, as readers, become privileged participants in the medicinal weavings and spiritual healings of her people. Mabel was the last of her tribe, and the last to know the Lolsel Cache Creek Pomo language and history.

Mabel only asks that we listen; a skill that kept Greg Sarris returning time and again. In her story Greg heard his own, and when he asked Mabel, "Why me? Why did you do it for me?" She simply replied, "Because you kept coming back."

*Listen deeply and keep coming back.
The simple lesson of revelation.*

— *Mabel McKay Weaving the Dream* by Greg Sarris

References

Sarris, Greg. (1994). *Mabel McKay: Weaving the dream*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

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