

The Old People

A.J. Perry

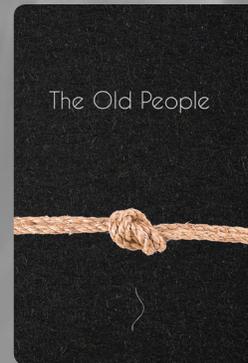
Carrying
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Since the beginnings of darkest silence the people of a mythical island have spent their days tying the ancient knot that binds them to their past. From silence to mud to rope to knot to wood to words to fire, the Old People will work to tie their knot under the cool shade of the island's original knotmaking tree.

“In this deeply introspective book, A. J. Perry uses an unusual overarching symbol of a special knot to divulge an exceedingly beautiful indigenous worldview. Told in a manner that connects silence and sound as well as past and present, this compelling work has a rhythm all its own.”

World Literature Today

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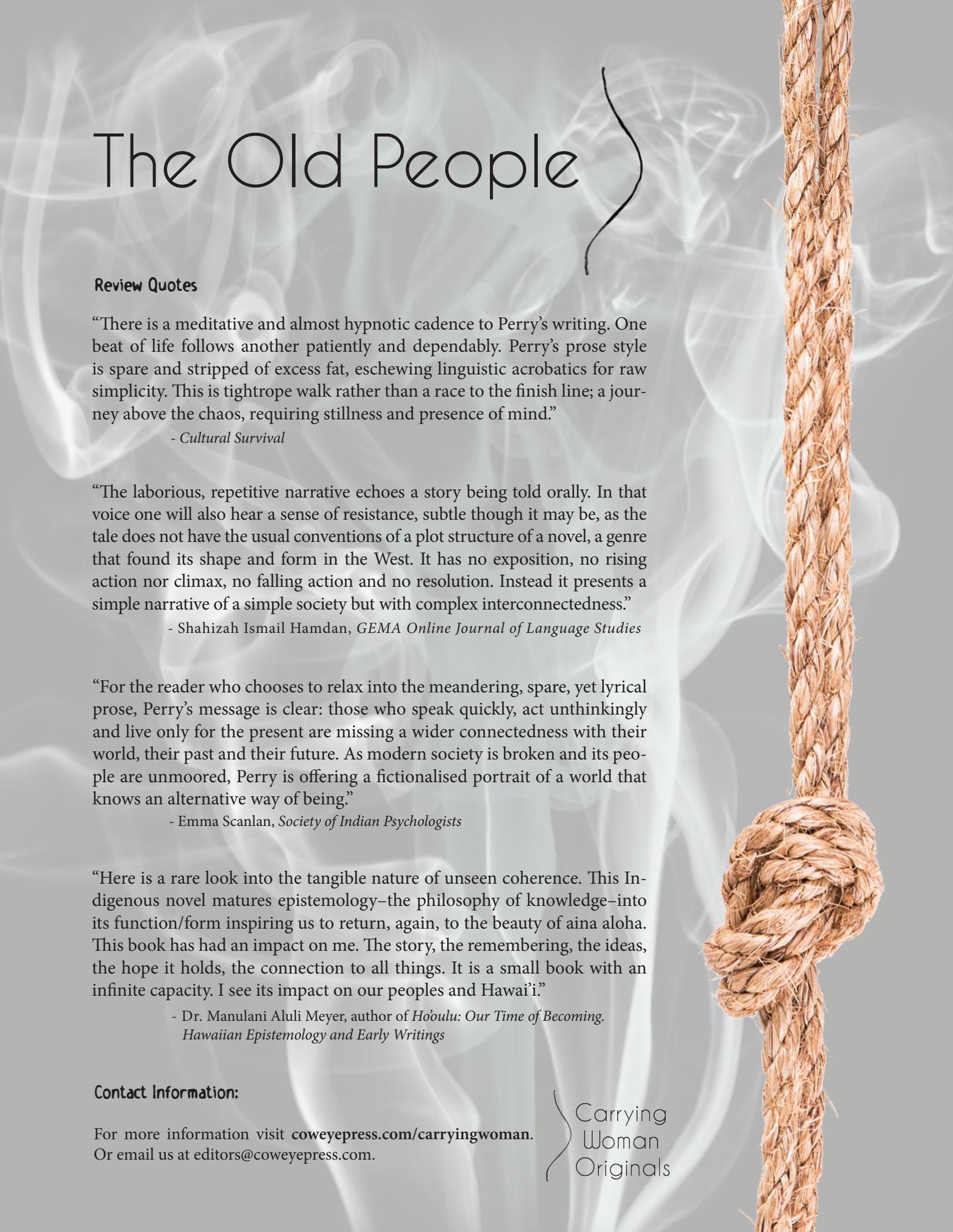
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Review Quotes

“There is a meditative and almost hypnotic cadence to Perry’s writing. One beat of life follows another patiently and dependably. Perry’s prose style is spare and stripped of excess fat, eschewing linguistic acrobatics for raw simplicity. This is tightrope walk rather than a race to the finish line; a journey above the chaos, requiring stillness and presence of mind.”

- *Cultural Survival*

“The laborious, repetitive narrative echoes a story being told orally. In that voice one will also hear a sense of resistance, subtle though it may be, as the tale does not have the usual conventions of a plot structure of a novel, a genre that found its shape and form in the West. It has no exposition, no rising action nor climax, no falling action and no resolution. Instead it presents a simple narrative of a simple society but with complex interconnectedness.”

- Shahizah Ismail Hamdan, *GEMA Online Journal of Language Studies*

“For the reader who chooses to relax into the meandering, spare, yet lyrical prose, Perry’s message is clear: those who speak quickly, act unthinkingly and live only for the present are missing a wider connectedness with their world, their past and their future. As modern society is broken and its people are unmoored, Perry is offering a fictionalised portrait of a world that knows an alternative way of being.”

- Emma Scanlan, *Society of Indian Psychologists*

“Here is a rare look into the tangible nature of unseen coherence. This Indigenous novel matures epistemology—the philosophy of knowledge—into its function/form inspiring us to return, again, to the beauty of aina aloha. This book has had an impact on me. The story, the remembering, the ideas, the hope it holds, the connection to all things. It is a small book with an infinite capacity. I see its impact on our peoples and Hawai’i.”

- Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer, author of *Hōʻulu: Our Time of Becoming. Hawaiian Epistemology and Early Writings*

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