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Information Sheet



## Catharine Queen of the Tumbling Waters

by Cynthia G. Neale

**"I'm not like your white women who lose their tongues and wits in a house full of men."**

So says Catharine Montour to her white captive during the Indian depredations of the 1750s. Catharine Montour, a métis, born during Pennsylvania's Long Peace, is nurtured by her grandmother, the celebrated Madame Montour, an interpreter for the British colonies. Her uncle, Andrew Montour, is also an interpreter and sits on the Council of the Iroquois. The Montours are an unconventional, yet highly regarded family who host diverse and fascinating assemblies of fur traders, missionaries, Indians, and colonial leaders in their home.

As the Long Peace ends and the French and Indian War, and eventually the American Revolution occur, Catharine, desiring only to live quietly by a waterfall in New York, becomes a

fearless, determined, and passionate leader who demands loyalty to peace in her village and for all. And then in 1779 when General John Sullivan leads the campaign to destroy all Iroquois villages, Queen Catharine, heroically guides her people to Fort Niagara.

Today as American exceptionalism prevails against the recognition of indigenous peoples, Catharine's relevant and fact-based story spans two wars and enlightens and makes visible the unwritten truths of early American history.

### **Bink Books**

**260 pp. • 6x9**

**\$20.95 (paperback) • \$9.99 (ebook)**

**ISBN 978-1-960373-02-1 (pb)**

**HISTORY / United States / Colonial Period (1600-1775)**

**HISTORY / United States / Revolutionary Period (1775-1800)**

**BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Cultural, Ethnic & Regional / Indigenous**

**SOCIAL SCIENCE / Ethnic Studies / American / Native American Studies**

**Publication date: April 19, 2023**

**Distribution: Ingram**

**Available through booksellers worldwide**

**Direct Wholesale (gift shops, museums, historical societies, etc): Contact**

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### **Reviews**

"Cynthia Neale has written a wonderfully descriptive novel that imaginatively narrates the hardships and triumphs of Catharine Montour, one of early America's most remarkable women. Neale vividly recreates the lost world of the early American frontier, where Catharine and her family navigated an uneasy borderland between colonists and Native peoples. Grounded in impressive historical research and empathy, *Catharine, Queen of the Tumbling Waters* reminds us of the human stories at the heart of times of great change." — Chad Anderson, Author of the *Storied Landscape of Iroquoia: History, Conquest, and Memory in the Native Northeast*

"Cynthia Neale's extensive research combined with her intuition and creativity tells an intriguing tale of Catharine Montour and the Native Americans of the Northeast as the British and French strive for dominance over the land. The stereotypical Indian woman living in a wigwam dissolves in this stimulating story as we gain a vivid picture of Catharine and the three generations of Montour women of French and Native heritage." — Gail Davis, Kanestio Historical Society, Director/Treasurer

"After reading Cynthia Neale's fascinating and meticulously researched novel, Catharine Montour became very real. Too many historical details can often deaden a story, but this novel that is packed full of history is anything but dull. In fact, I had a real sense I was meeting Catharine in the flesh, that this indeed could have been her life. Queen Catharine lives again . . . on the page." — Charlotte Dickens, poet/writer; Watkins Glen Writers Group Facilitator; president of Backbone Ridge History Group

"As a boy roaming Queen Catharine's land, she became a companion in my burgeoning imagination. Years later, as a volunteer for the library, I became convinced of her burial site and learned more about her life. Cynthia Neale's spellbinding novel captures the spirit of Catharine I loved as a boy into my adult years. I didn't want it to end!" — Norm West, local historian

"Cynthia Neale's beautiful novel is still with me months after reading it. She depicts Catharine so convincingly, it is as if she is channeling her spirit. To read this thoroughly researched story is to go back in time and enter a complex and dark period in U.S. history and get to know one of its heroines who would otherwise be forgotten. This is an important book." — Haviva Ner-David, rabbi and author of *Hope Valley* and *To Die in Secret*

**About the Author:** Cynthia G. Neale is the author of *The Irish Dresser, A Story of Hope during The Great Hunger (An Gorta Mor, 1845-1850)*; *Hope in New York City, The Continuing Story of The Irish Dresser*; *Norah: The Making of an Irish-American Woman in 19th-Century New York*; *The Irish Milliner*. Ms. Neale has also written a dessert and essay book, *Pavlova in a Hat Box, Sweet Memories & Desserts*. In addition to these works, Ms. Neale writes plays, screenplays, short stories, and essays. A screenplay, *The Irish Dresser Series*, adapted from her four novels is currently being pitched to producers. She holds a B.A. in Writing and Literature from Vermont College.