



Well Traveled

Margaret Mills , Tedy Ward

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Gideon Makepeace, a young man of twenty, knows who he is and what he likes: decency, men and women too, horse training, and fun... and in Livingston, Montana, in the lush autumn of 1895, he finds he likes a Lakota Sioux Indian better than he might ought to.

Jedediah Buffalo Bird is seriously wounded and seeking medical care, and Gideon helps Jed when some bigoted townsfolk might have done otherwise. Jed, who knows the wild far better than Gideon and feels indebted to him, agrees to repay him by being his guide to San Francisco.

Their trip takes them across thousands of wild miles, through the mountains men mine and the Indian reservations dotting the plains. Facing a majestic West, they learn from each other about white folks and Indians alike. Gideon's interest in Jed is clear from the start, but will Jed give up the life he knows for a young, brash white man he has perhaps come to love? Or will he push Gideon away in favor of the peace of nature and the personal freedom of having nothing to lose?

Well Traveled Details

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From Reader Review Well Traveled for online ebook

Td says

4.5-A tiny bit slow for me in a couple of spots, rounded up for overall great story-telling.

What a wonderful, believable journey. I certainly felt transported to another time and place and once there I wasn't jolted out by nonsense. Young, charming, delightful, sometimes manipulative Gideon commanded my attention from the very beginning. Gideon alone was worth reading this book for although it didn't take long for Jedediah to worm himself in there too and just about every other character played a significant role as well. I'm very glad I went along for ride.

T.J. says

A hell of a surprise. One of those books that I can't understand why it's not more popular. Has a terrific sense of place and the two leads are solidly fleshed out. The sex is hot, the story logical and realistic for the time it's set in, and it's somewhat of a longer read. Again, why haven't more people read this?

Natalie says

This story is very different from anything else I've read in the m/m romance genre, but I loved it so much. The characters are incredibly well-drawn, and the authors create a wonderful sense of time and place without bludgeoning the reader with too much historical detail. The story manages to be moving and erotic while maintaining a sort of lovely economy of language that feels utterly authentic. Highly recommended. I'll be rereading this for sure.

Chappy says

AMAZING!!!

What a gem, this book had everything...including a super hot Sioux named Jed and an all-around great guy named Gideon. Read it.

Breann says

This was simply *wonderful*. There wasn't one thing I didn't love about it.

The relationships were real.

This issues were real.

The men were *good* men.

The banter was fun.
The setting played like a movie in my head.
The sex was hot.
The writing was superb.

What more could I want? Nothing. Really.

Set in the late 1800's, Gideon Makepeace is about to head back to San Francisco to where his family is playing in a wild west show. On his way through town he finds Jedediah Buffalo Bird badly injured and in desperate need of medical care. Unfortunately, there aren't many doctors willing to help an Indian. Gideon stops his travels to be a Good Samaritan to Jed and help him through his injury. I seriously adored Gideon and his charming ways. Really, Jed didn't stand a chance against this man. I don't think anyone would. He was just a genuinely kind person, willing to help out anyone who might be in need. So when he saw Jed needed help, he automatically offered. In return, Jed agrees to accompany Gideon in his journey west. Jed has some real prejudices against white men and has a hard time accepting that Gideon would just do something like this just because. But, of course, Gideon was able to charm him into seeing things his way and once Jed was better they were off to San Fran.

"Gideon...why did you come here?"

"Cause this is where you are, Jed. And I've decided that that's where I want to be - wherever you are."

Oh, their journey was wonderful to witness. There was nothing face paced or action packed about this novel. But there didn't need to be. There were some interesting characters they met along the way and some important friendships were made. But, the focus was really on these two men and their unlikely, opposites attract type relationship. Gideon is a care-free white man who can charm the pants off anyone. Then Jed, an Indian who is a very quiet natured, protective and cautious of everyone he meets. And yet they fit together so well and complimented each other perfectly. I heart them. Completely.

Natasha says

I think I'll give this one a solid 4.25 stars!

The romance in this book was like a slow burn. I can't remember the last time I read a book quite like this. It's refreshing. The best way I can explain it is that the romance comes so slowly, inch by inch, and you feel it every step of the way.

The plot was amazing. After the first chapter or two I kind of predicted this book going one way where I'd decided in my mind that "this" would happen and then they'd face "this" together and they'd overcome "this" obstacle, but I was so wrong, and I've never been happier to be wrong.

The best way to describe this is that there is no melodrama. This book has no drama simply for the sake of drama, it has hardships that two amazing characters learn to face together. I don't often read a lot of m/m romance books where it's MCs vs Others instead of MC vs MC and I loved that about this book.

There were parts that made me want to cry. If you've read this book, you'll know what part(s). I was holding back ugly sobs when reading about it and it was a horrifying real experience for me, reading through that part.

I loved both Gideon and Jed. Who wouldn't? They were both unique and not your typical characters, but as my friend Breann put in her review, these men were good men. That really resonates with this book. Sometimes bad things happen to good people, and rarely, like in this book, good people happen to good people.

I loved the pace of the book. It didn't feel slow, but it felt relaxed, which again I think suits the theme of the book perfectly.

Can I add a moment of kickass respect for Jed? You know why. Jed does something in the book that each of us wishes we could do when we're faced with situations that they were faced with. It's one of those times where you think in your head: "someone should just _____!" but someone rarely does. But Jed does. And he's totally badass.

I loved the ending. It wasn't a big dramatic ending, but man, was it ever a happy ending. The book didn't need a dramatic ending because the book wasn't like that. It's like the book seemed very self aware. Overall, amazing story. I'd recommend it to anyone.

Feliz says

We first meet Gideon Makepeace when he's getting ready to leave Livingston, Montana where he had taken up a summer job training horses. Gideon is bound for San Francisco to reunite with his folks who are members of a big traveling "Wild West" show. Enter halfbreed Lakota Jedediah Buffalo Bird, currently a fatally injured man who is bullied by a band of white Livingstonians who don't want his kind in their town. Without hesitating, Gideon steps in to save the Indian, takes him to the doctor's and finally helps him find shelter in a friendly brothel. With selfless care, Gideon nurses Jed back to health, using up the money that had been designed to pay his and his horse's fare and of course, missing his train.

Even while caring for Jed, Gideon feels very attracted to the good-looking man. He thinks that nothing can come of it, of course – for one he can't take advantage of a sick and possibly dying man, and then it's unlikely that the Indian would share Gideon's leaning towards men. But while talking to Jed during the man's lucid moments Gideon discovers that the Indian appeals to him in more than just one way, and he realizes that they might get along well as traveling companions, if nothing else. Thus Gideon more or less coaxes Jed into guiding him overland to San Francisco after he has recovered – and Jed agrees readily enough, even though he mocks Gideon by calling him soft and pampered.

Their journey begins, and soon Gideon finds out that he is, indeed, soft and pampered compared to Jed. His admiration grows, and so does the attraction. It doesn't take too long until their relationship turns sexual, after all, as Jed admits and acts on his own attraction to Gideon; and the dreaded long journey soon turns into the best time Gideon's ever had. Still, even though Jed seems to develop feelings for Gideon, he takes an effort in keeping the young white man on arm's length, because he obviously thinks their different races can never meet eye to eye.

Being friends with the Indians that travel with the show makes Gideon a lot more understanding about Jed than his contemporaries usually are, and since Gideon is a traveler himself, he can even relate to many of

Jed's reservations. On the other hand, listening to Jed, watching him and generally being with him changes Gideon's point of view about many things. He's openminded enough to allow those changes and in no way above adopting some of Jed's opinions and manners.

Practically from the first moment of his life, Jed has seen his people mistreated by white men, and has experienced his share of mistreatment first-hand. Taken from his people at a young age and forced into a "civilized" education by Catholic nuns, Jed harbors deeply ingrained distrust and prejudices against whites. Since the entire story is told from Gideon's third – person POV, we get Jed only through Gideon's eyes, but even so, we watch him change too as he spends time with the often naive and rash young white man, opening first his body, then his heart to Gideon.

The characterizations were incredibly good. Gideon was every little bit the twenty – year old happy-go-lucky selfish adolescent, often trampling on Jed's and other people's feelings out of sheer ignorance. Just as often, though, he showed consideration and understanding far above his years, which hinted at the innate goodness of his heart and also cast a very positive light at his upbringing. In fact, even though we don't meet Gideon's family in person, they are mentioned often enough to become alive, and they grew on me, too. I was even more impressed by the way Jed was drawn, a powerful, three – dimensional and fully fleshed character even though he doesn't speak much and we don't get into his head. He had so many layers. At first traditionally brought up as a Lakota, he internalized his people's ways and clung to them through the time he was forced to spend in the boarding school. He is older, better – educated and more experienced than Gideon (and even Gideon thinks him the smarter one), but he is also wary out of habit and used to expect the worst from white men in general. In a way, Jed was the more close-minded of the two, and I could only admire the author duo for resisting the urge to make Jed a "noble savage" or a larger-than-life saint in disguise, giving him depth, flaws and humanity instead.

Jed's deeply ingrained misgivings are what keep him from truly committing to Gideon, even though he has come to love the young white man, to a point where leaving him almost tears Jed apart. And this is what Gideon has over Jed: Gideon has the kind of faith it takes to stand by his man, unconditionally and at any cost. Maybe, just maybe, Jed loves Gideon enough to learn trusting him completely, heart, body and soul.

This book breathed authenticity in every little detail, down to every word and gesture, down to the way Gideon and Jed talk, dress, eat and have sex. Every now and then, the authors' moralizing forefinger peeked up just the tiniest little bit, as the journey brings them through wild and untamed land in contrast to small, rural towns, mining sites and big cities on the verge of industrialization. It never turns to preaching, though, it just colors Gideon's experience; in fact, the growing awareness for the destruction of the land was part of Gideon's growth process.

I know I've complained about the use of the word Indian in another book recently; curiously, this didn't bother me here. For one, Gideon saying it or even using the term "Injun" fit both the time and Gideon's character – he IS thoughtless at times, although willing to overcome his ignorance. For another, Jed used the various referrals to himself and his people in a very subtle way, calling himself Lakota when he felt comfortable with Gideon, and Sioux or Indian when he wanted to create distance. It's another part of Gideon's character development that he became aware of those subtleties, among Jed's many other little peculiarities the more attention he paid to Jed, the more he fell in love with him – and I loved the way I, as the reader, was included in this slow progress through Gideon's eyes.

This was a beautiful, thought – provoking, heartfelt story. As I said above, I recommend it wholeheartedly.

Read the full review at reviewsbyjessewave.com

Lala says

I don't care for historical westerns.

I really don't care for road-trip stories.

But. I enjoyed the hell out of this book. The clever writing, banter, the relationship that felt so real, the heroes who were just plain *good* men.. I fell in love with Gideon & Jed and their integrity..the fact that they really *liked* and respected each other.

4 Feel-Good stars.

Vivian says

Late nineteenth century American West story that's very pleasurable, but a slow meandering read-- much like the main characters journey both emotionally and physically. They travel together from Montana to Oakland, CA and each stop along the way is a fleshing out of the societal difference between Jed (Lakota) and Gideon (trick rider for a traveling show). Their relationship develops slowly and is good, but there's nothing here that I'd call particularly unique for the genre.

Ami says

This 'old' book (hey, it was released in 2010 – for MM romance genre, I considered it old *ha!*) came into my periphery by way of a personal challenge. Back in January, I did a personal reading challenge with MM historical as the theme. This was one that I listed because of the positive reviews of my friends. I didn't get the chance to read it back in January but it stayed on my list.

Well, I finally read it and it was a really well-written and wonderful book!! I admit, the beginning was rather slow; as we got to meet Gideon Makepiece, a young 20-year-old horse trainer and Jedediah Buffalo Bird, a mix-breed of Native American. However, once I got into the rhythm of the story telling, and how Gideon and Jed made their way to take the trip across thousand miles from Montana to California – just by walking and on horse ... I simply couldn't stop reading.

It was a journey – yay, road trip! – between these two men with different race and different background, and it was just the two of them, in open space ... talking about life, exchanging stories, learning cultural tradition, and I was charmed. Gideon was easily the more friendly and approachable of these two men. He was such a decent young man and he had a positive attitude. He took care of Jed because it was the right thing to do, no matter what skin color Jed had. Jed was more reserved, more careful – understandable remembering his history – but it was easy to see that Gideon got under his skin.

This was the kind of a subtle and lovely story that just warmed my soul (I got choked up near the end, it was romantic to me). Not that everything was happy, though – being a white man going together with a Native American, there was an additional threat, which was not easily hid compared to them being lovers because

white men didn't easily accept Native Americans in that time period. Then there was also a sad story involving a family that Gideon and Jed met along their journey. However, it felt authentic and made up for one engaging read.

I don't read many western historical books but if I can find more like these one, I will be a very happy reader.

Dreamer says

Sweet m/m love story of 20 year old Gideon, a wild west show employee and Jed, a half-breed Lakota Indian crossing America from Montana to San Francisco with subsequent adventures.

"I know you'll be turning around and going home, after. But don't slip off, okay? Don't slip off when I'm expecting to see you in the morning. I think it'd break my heart."

Vio says

Loved, loved so much! Even if you're not a fan of westerns or historicals read this book, it's absolute romance at it's best. I can't even express into words what a wonderful journey of self discovery and love. Gideon and Jedediah are wonderful together, perfectly matched with beautiful and special moments together "dreamy sigh". Highly Recommended for lovers of great writing and romantics at heart.

Ingie says

4 1/2 Stars - Well written and beautifully described about two men from different cultures who feel attraction, which slowly grows into friendship and maybe love.

Some romances are so much more than just a romance in which I get a beautiful love story. This is such a novel. It has everything. It's well written, it's filled with reflections on events and situations. It also reflects important social issues regarding discrimination against the U.S. people who were then called Indian's (Native Americans). This sweet growing love story is allowed to develop slowly and become, for me, therefore that much more credible. ~ And don't worry; That doesn't mean we have to wait 200 pages for a kiss, the attraction (and steam) is there much earlier. ~ It is also heart-touching, without in any way being sentimental, it's fun, always interesting, and above all it touches and makes me feel good.

I really, really enjoyed this great novel about two strangers who will join on a journey from Livingston, Montana to San Francisco, California in year 1895. Don't miss it - pick it up!

Gideon Makepeace, a young "show artist" who is good at horses training and shooting spot, is about to take the train to San Francisco to join his family and *Bill Tourney's Wild West Show*. By chance, he becomes witness to an assault of **an Indian, Jed**, which he then helps to care for injuries.

The train runs and Gideon's travel funds dwindle but Gideon's now new friend, Jedediah Buffalo Bird a Lakota Sioux Indian, promises to show and follow him, by foot and horse, all the way west across the wide plains and still unpopulated districts to the destination, San Francisco. The journey begins....

‘A pice of him - the wrong pice - kind of wanted Jed to take the lead, because he'd gotten a glimpse of Jed's ass spread across the saddle and liked it.’

To be part of these men on their journey of nearly three hundred pages is a delight. The story is told from Gideon's point of view, and I'm just slowly familiar with Jed. Neither I, or Gideon really knows what Jed feel, want, will do next, etc. AND just that fact makes this story so compelling from the first page to the last.

There isn't love from the first sight (thanks for that!) but two opposites that find each other.

Gideon is a bit cocky but also always happy, outgoing, adventurous, talkative, kind, generous and of course a little horny. He is perhaps more hungry for men than women, but he isn't "thinking" so much about why, how, when, etc. It becomes as it gets and he is always happy with a fun adventure, in bed or out of bed. Gideon is a lovely little lump of sugar - I love him like the cute young "boy" he is. A guy who is now becoming an adult and maybe will sees new goals in life?

Jed is a few years older (I think) with a lot of sad and dark experiences of life, in his own and on the whole for the Indians and the land they lived in. He has a strong integrity and emit only a tiny bit about himself. Jed prefers to walk rather than ride, to be silent rather than talk, show with action instead of words, etc. Jed is the secret, *Unknown Lover* - and I just love him too. He is so wise and realistic for the bitter reality, but perhaps dare he now also open his heart and take a chance?

‘...Jed dropped to his knees beside Gideon and reached out one hand, two slender fingers pressing against Gideon's lips. “Shh,” Jed said...’

A grandiose, yet so beautifully understated and a bit slowly told story. It's a dark time in ways, and a lot of people suffer, but this story is always warm and nicely told with big care and love for these both characters. None is a great (grand) hero, it's only two people meeting love.

It's sweet, tender, hot and amazing good to read. Superb, I was captured.

I Like - a great novel - male love in the old wild west.

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*This M/M western novel was recommended to me by my nice friend Vio. Thank you for a really great recommenation, Vio!*

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## **Simsala says**

An adorable `odd-couple` on a journey from Montana to San Francisco in 1895.

A funny, sexy and heartwarming lovestory in a vividly described setting - without dismissing the harsh reality for Indians and Gays alike. The perfect book for frosty winternights.

Definitely recommended!

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## **Shell says**

4.5 Stars

This was a story of opposites attract, as so often happens, even in real life. Sometimes the best things for us are the least like us.

Gideon Makepeace is a 20 year old "white man." He's intelligent, loud-mouthed, charming to a fault and loves a home cooked meal and a roof over his head. Jedediah Buffalo Bird is a bit older than Gideon, although it's never really said how much older. He's a Lakota Souix Indian from North Dakota, he's quiet, almost to the point of being mute at times, and he would rather spend his nights on the ground, under the stars than in a hotel.

Gideon meets Jed at the boarding stable for his horse in Livingston, Montana, as he's leaving for San Francisco, California: to meet up with a traveling wild west show he's a part of. At the time, Jed is injured, his one leg swollen and pus filled after being gored by a boar. He is also on the ground, being pushed around and threatened by a few of the locals, simply because he is an Indian. Gideon steps in, talks the other men down and immediately seeks medical help for Jed's wound. By the time Jed gets to the doctor he is in bad shape, the infection has set into his leg and it takes multiple visits from the doctor and numerous cleanings of the wound by Gideon to get him back on his feet again.

In repayment for Gideon's help, Jed offers to guide him to San Francisco. Thus, the two men set out on a journey across what used to be the wilderness of the west; running into various cities, a tribe of Shoshone Indians, an angry rattler and a household recently ravaged by raiders along the way. By far though, the best discovery the men make on the six week adventure, is each other. They may be a mismatched pair, especially for the time, but love doesn't care about unimportant things such as that and they end up falling in love. Once to San Francisco though, Jed has to make a choice: will he stay with Gideon and if he does where will they go, what will they do and if he chooses to walk away, will Gideon really let him? Any man worth loving is one worth fighting for, right?

I was charmed by this dissimilar duo; they made me smile, brought me close to tears, and had me rolling with laughter.

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