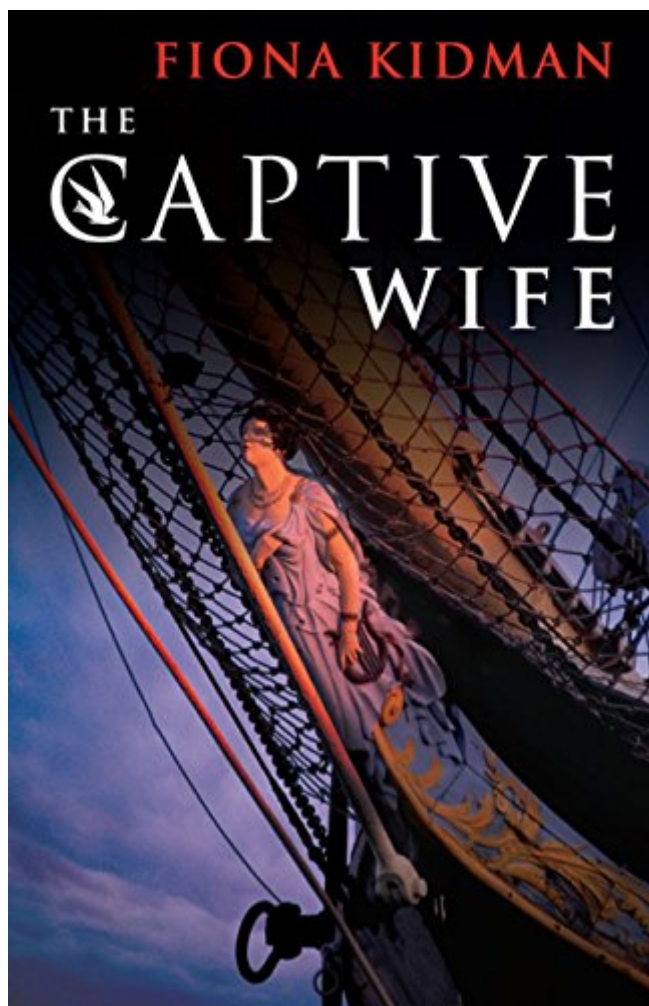


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# The Captive Wife



## Synopsis

A prize-winning historical novel that has become a New Zealand classic. When Betty Guard steps ashore in Sydney, in 1834, she meets with a heroine's welcome. Her survival during a four-month kidnapping ordeal amongst Taranaki Maori is hailed as nothing short of a miracle. But questions about what really happened slowly surface within the Āwhiāwhiā governing circles of the raw new town of Sydney. Jacky Guard, ex-convict turned whaler, had taken Betty as his wife to his New Zealand whaling station when she was fourteen. After several years and two children, the family is returning from a visit to Sydney when their barque is wrecked near Mount Taranaki. A battle with local Maori follows, and Betty and her children are captured. Her husband goes to seek a ransom, but instead England engages in its first armed conflict with New Zealand Maori when he is persuaded to return with two naval ships. After her violent rescue, Betty's life amongst the tribe comes under intense scrutiny. Based on real events, this is the compelling story of a marriage, of love and duty, and the quest for freedom in a pioneering age.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was fascinated by this novel, and not least by its variety. Two voices express themselves, a young woman transported from England and a rough whaler settled in New Zealand. They are in love in spite of everything. Everything includes being shipwrecked, captured by tribes. losing children, being looked down on for having lived with the natives. Did I mention that we get a very good look at the history of New Zealand, very alive and still very well researched as regard class distinctions and treatment of the tribes. Read it. From Cecilia

Having just visited New Zealand, this book fills in some of the gaps in our experience. The Maori culture is very unique and sometimes hard to understand. Well researched.

An enjoyable and thoughtful story of early settlement between Australia and New Zealand and the moods and cultures of those times.

Good book. Gave good perspective on Australia and New Zealand in 1800's.

A good read.

loved the characters their strengths and weaknesses what adventurers they were cannibals heroes villains not much different to today anyway

Only the second book I have read by Fiona Kidman, A great read.

As an immigrant to New Zealand I find it fascinating when history is brought alive for me - the best way of engaging with, beginning to understand and remembering it is with richly textured stories full of 'people' like this one.

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