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The Plymouth Papers

By Clifton Snider

Spout Hill Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 210 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.5in. The Plymouth Papers is a unique, multilayered historical novel about an American founding myth. It is the story of the Mayflower and the founding of the first permanent colony in New England told from multiple points of view and focusing on one of the most interesting Mayflower passengers, Stephen Hopkins, and his family, particularly his sons, Giles and Caleb, and his daughter, Ruth. It is also the story of the Indians, primarily the Wampanoag, without whom the so-called Pilgrims would not have survived. What is unique about the story is that it explores not only the relationship Giles has with his wife, a half-Wampanoag woman, but also the relationships Caleb has with a Wampanoag man and Ruth has with a two-spirit woman-man, Pequas. Needless to say, these characters do their best to hide these relationships from the Puritans, whose penalties for homosexuality include whipping, branding, and even death. The Plymouth Papers are discovered on Cape Cod during the Civil War by Caleb Taylor, a book publisher, abolitionist, and self-described devotee of Emerson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne from Boston. The Plymouth Papers are documents from the 17th...


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