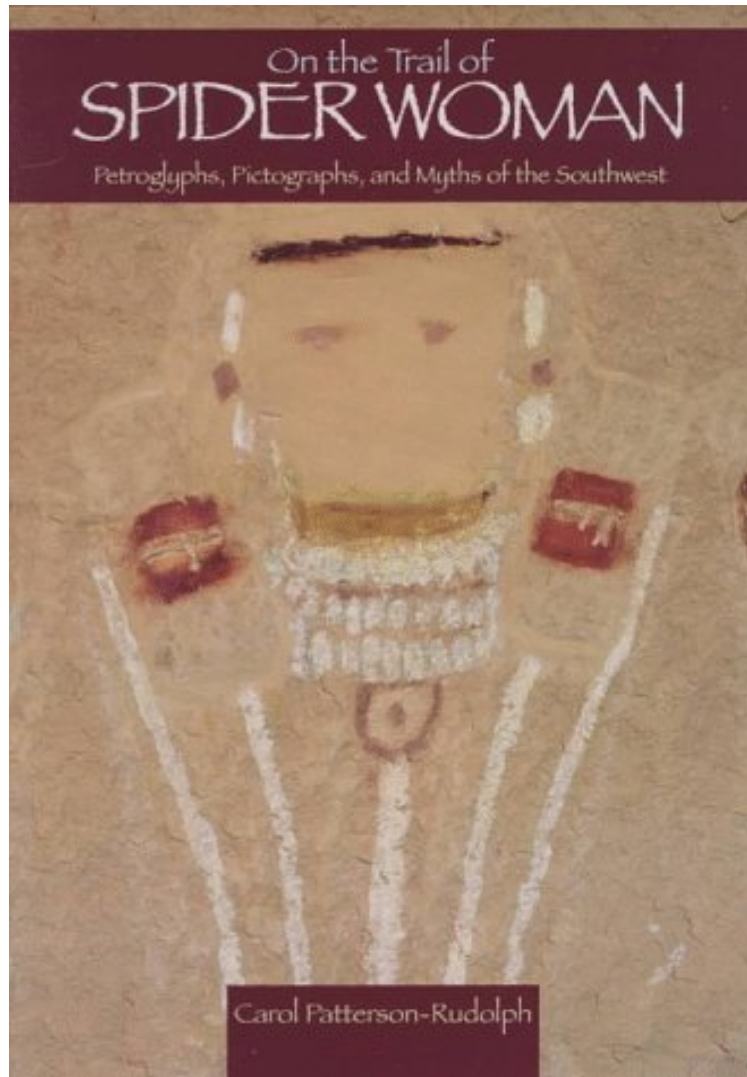


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On the Trail of Spider Woman: Petroglyphs, Pictographs, and Myths of the Southwest

Carol Patterson-Rudolph

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Carol Patterson-Rudolph : On the Trail of Spider Woman: Petroglyphs, Pictographs, and Myths of the Southwest before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Trail of Spider Woman: Petroglyphs, Pictographs, and Myths of the Southwest:

This book weaves together the stories of tiny elusive Spider Woman as she is mythologised by the Keresan Pueblo,

Hopi and Navajo people. Each tribe sees this mythic figure differently, yet there is no need to depict her in a realistic form. Instead she is described in symbols that reflect her attributes. She is a metaphor for something small and invisible yet very powerful. She represents creativity, spirit, old age, and wisdom. The myths are those that were left in the petroglyphs and pictographs of the San Juan Basin, south-eastern Utah, and north-western New Mexico. Both the myths and the petroglyphs need to be understood from the perspective of the native people who made them. The petroglyphs refer to the myths and encapsulate definitions of the cosmos; they describe dreams, spirits and all the elements a person needed to survive. These are some of the many places where Spider Woman dwells. The petroglyphs and pictographs are a veil between the observer and other transcendental realms. They are a portal through which to enter the world of Spider Woman.