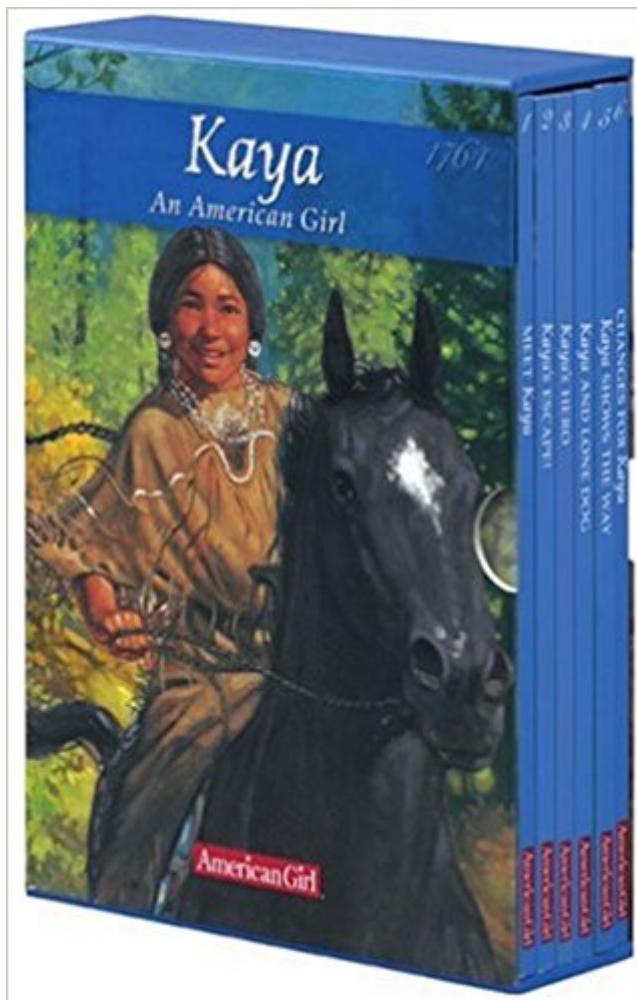


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# Kaya: An American Girl : 1764 / Box Set



## **Synopsis**

The perfect way to learn about Kaya is with this complete set of her six books in an attractive slipcase. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## **Book Information**

Age Range: 9 and up

Series: American Girl: Kaya

Paperback

Publisher: American Girl Publishing Inc; Slip edition (September 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1584855118

ISBN-13: 978-1584855118

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 6.3 x 2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (58 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

Pleasant Company has broken the mold of the format they have always used for their traditional American Girl stories in order to bring their readers a Native American character with courage, pride, and cultural integrity. You will not find school lessons, birthday parties, or Christmas celebrations in this series because they are all a product of European culture. What you will find in this series are stories that are full of fresh ideas for both the American Girl series and other similar historic fiction for this age group. The characters and the setting vividly draw you into the 1764 world of the Nez Perce. All of the stories are fast paced with interesting and original plots and characters. Because of the low predictability of the plot and the unfamiliarity of the setting, I would highly recommend these books for readers over age 8, and not younger. The first few books are particularly difficult to read. As an adult reader, I periodically had to reread a sentence or two to pick up on why or how something a few sentences later had occurred. I found that Books 3-6 did get easier to read than the first two books were, but this is still not a series for young children. What I

liked the most about the Kaya series was watching the development of her character. She makes poor choices in the first book because she does what is right for herself instead of looking after others. As the series progresses, you see Kaya learn from her mistakes and develop her own character from one who is immature to one who possesses many admirable qualities. She deals with many losses and changes with courage and by the last book, she is greatly rewarded for it. She learns to be more patient, to listen to the wisdom of her elders, and to make better choices for herself that include looking after others.

My 7 year old and I just finished Kaya set. We liked it but just didn't like it as much as some other AG sets (Kirsten and Julie). This was an important story to be written and read but not necessarily as light hearted and enjoyable as others. I think Kaya is better suited for older girls (10+). One of the main problems we had was the excessive descriptions of nature. It got pretty boring for my daughter, so I had to speed it along often. Our kids live in a fast pace world and don't have much patience for two page descriptions of the Salmon valley. Also the "namesake's" relationship with Kaya is not fully developed so for Kaya to mourn the death of this woman for so long is pretty far out. Here is what we liked: 1) Learning about Indian culture and beliefs. 2) Watching Kaya grow as a person from a selfish girl to responsible and brave young woman. 3) The dog and puppy stories are great, any kid who loves animals will enjoy that particular book. 4) Kidnapping of Kaya and her sister might give you an opportunity to discuss "stranger danger" and how to fight the kidnapper. 5) Exposure to ideas that you might not introduce your kids to (superstitions, sacrifices to skin people, human spirit in animal body etc). 6) Kaya's blind sister doesn't dwell on her handicap, she is a valued member of community and hard working. 7) Most little girls like horses, so they will enjoy the bond that Kaya has with her special horse. 8) Kaya has a strong family structure and supporting community. 9) Kaya is a hard worker and takes pride in being of help to her community. Negatives: 1) There is a scene in the first book where "switch woman" whips all the kids for Kaya's mistake.

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