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# The Lone Ranger And Tonto Fistfight In Heaven



## Synopsis

Sherman Alexie's darkly humorous story collection weaves memory, fantasy, and stark reality to powerfully evoke life on the Spokane Indian Reservation. The twenty-four linked tales in Alexie's debut collection "an instant classic" paint an unforgettable portrait of life on and around the Spokane Indian Reservation, a place where "Survival = Anger x Imagination," where HUD houses and generations of privation intertwine with history, passion, and myth. We follow Thomas Builds-the-Fire, the longwinded storyteller no one really listens to; his half-hearted nemesis, Victor, the basketball star turned recovering alcoholic; and a wide cast of other vividly drawn characters on a haunting journey filled with humor and sorrow, resilience and resignation, dreams and reality. Alexie's unadulterated honesty and boundless compassion come together in a poetic vision of a world in which the gaps between past and present are not really gaps after all. The basis for the acclaimed 1998 feature film *Smoke Signals*, the *Chicago Tribune* noted, "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven . . . is for the American Indian what Richard Wright's *Native Son* was for the black American in 1940." The collection received a Special Citation for the PEN/Hemingway Award for Best First Fiction. This ebook edition features a new prologue from the author, as well as an illustrated biography and rare photos from Sherman Alexie's personal collection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

These stories are interconnected by a core set of characters who don't get anywhere by mainstream standards, but don't get overwhelmed by their lack of success because they didn't expect much to begin with. This leaves the reader with an uneasy sense of optimism that arises from the narrative's suspension of conventional norms about how to communicate or interact with others. Couldn't anything be possible when there are no apparent guidelines about how to live a life? Even some of the supernatural happenings described begin to seem plausible, given the author's gift of seamlessly blending tangible and spiritual elements into his storytelling. The always dysfunctional, often disturbing and sometimes hilariously funny behavior described drives home what growing up Indian in contemporary American society might feel like. At the same time, I can't help drawing a few parallels between growing up half a century ago in a frequently inebriated Irish family. Great storytelling would seem to be a universal refuge from chaos on the home front no matter what cultural crucible defines you.

In this 20th anniversary edition the stories of Sherman Alexie ring ever as personal, lyrical and insightful as they did two decades ago. Having grown up just next door to the setting of these tales in Pend Oreille County, the scenes and city were as clear in my mind as ever. What was new when I first read it and again in reading this edition, was the peak into a very real and enduringly dynamic Native American culture. What Alexie is able to do in these context of these stories is open the reader up to the complex personhood behind the stereotypes; behind the rhetoric. I remember reading this as a young man in High School and how, even then, Thomas Builds-the-Fire spoke to me. Alexie acknowledges more readily now the autobiographical nature of these stories in many ways and it is in him we see not just Vincent but Thomas. Thomas was the modern day historian and wise man of the tribe though no one was willing to see it. He spoke the stories and words that needed to be spoken and needed to be heard both inside and outside of the reservation. Alexie does that as well, in this and in other books, capturing snapshots that speak to the humanity of history and its inherent subjectivity. This is what storytelling should be, telling us what we need to know that we had not realized and were even perhaps intent on avoiding. Things will never be what

they were for any culture prior to expansionism, but hey, there is always a rising basketball star to put our hopes in. Worth getting the Anniversary Edition just for the final two additional stories.

Sometimes beautiful, sometimes ugly; good vs bad. The road to destruction and yet a life of dreams where "imagination" takes you to places unknown. I feel that the author does not expect everyone to react well to this book as it is very vivid ! As he says "the pressure of straddling two worlds.

A collection of short stories, very much from the Native American point of view. I was born and grew up in border towns around the Navajo Reservation, and this was familiar, and sad. Poverty, disappointment, failure, alcoholism, depression...but a wry sense of humor too. If you want a real look at modern-day Native Americans, this would be it. But it might be disillusioning.

I was inspired to read this after seeing the film "Smoke Signals." I found the collection of short stories enjoyable and accessible. In an age when many people substitute politics as a pseudo religion, using stories as a form of veiled ideological evangelism, Alexie sticks to telling us stories of those he's known and grown up with. No "Indian spiritual and good/white man money-lover and bad" stereotypical dynamic here; just interesting stories of people in a different and complex American culture. On a personal note, when the stories were somewhat 'trip' and surrealistic, I didn't enjoy them as much. But that's just a matter of taste. The majority of these were right up my alley, and a good, solid bout of my kind of storytelling.

This is an early collection of related stories from the author of "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian." The stories interconnect, and together paint a picture of growing up on the reservation in Eastern Washington State. Unlike in his novels, there isn't any clean conclusion to this collection, but rather a portrait of how life is, and I think maybe how life is for a lot of people, some of whom aren't Indians at all. An excellent collection, and well worth your time to read. The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven (20th Anniversary Edition)

Used at Western Washington University around 2009. This is a fantastic book and I'm glad I was required to read it in school. Like most people, I rely on honest product reviews to make purchase decisions. Because the experience of others has been so helpful to me, I try to provide honest, helpful reviews to assist other shoppers in selecting the right products for them. I hope my review has been helpful to you!

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