



The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven

By Sherman Alexie

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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.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A collection of 22 powerful short stories by Spokane Indian writer Alexie.

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From Library Journal

This work chronicles modern life on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Victor, through whose eyes we view the community, is strongly aware of Native American traditions but wonders whether his ancestors view today's Indians--mired in alcohol, violence, and an almost palpable sense of despair--with sympathy or disgust. In spite of the bleakness of reservation life, the text brims with humor and passion as it juxtaposes ancient customs with such contemporary artifacts as electric guitars and diet Pepsi. The author of two previous poetry collections, Alexie writes with grit and lyricism that perfectly capture the absurdity of a proud, dignified people living in the squalor, struggling to survive in a society they disdain. Highly recommended for all fiction collections. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/15/93.

- *Dan Bogey, Clearfield Cty. P.L. Federation, Curwensville, Pa.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

With wrenching pain and wry humor, the talented Alexie, a Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian--and previously a small-press author (*The Business of Fancydancing*, a collection of poetry and prose-- not reviewed--etc.)--presents contemporary life on the Spokane Indian Reservation through 22 linked stories. Here, people treat each other (and life) with amused tolerance--although anger can easily erupt in this environment of endemic alcoholism and despair. The history of defeat is ever-present; every attempt to hold onto cultural tradition aches with poignancy: Thomas-Builds-the-Fire is the storyteller everyone mocks and no one listens to; Aunt Nezzy, who sews a traditional full-length beaded dress that turns out to be too heavy to wear, believes that the woman "who can carry the weight of this dress on her back...will save us all." Meanwhile, young men dream of escape--going to college, being a basketball star--but failure seems preordained. These tales, though sad and at times plain-spokenly didactic, are often lyrically beautiful and almost always very funny.

Chapters focus on and are narrated by several different characters, but voices and perspectives often become somewhat indistinguishable--confusing until you stop worrying about who is speaking and choose to listen to the voice of the book itself and enter into its particular sensibility. Irony, grim humor, and forgiveness help characters transcend pain, anger and loss while the same qualities make it possible to read Alexie's fiction without succumbing to hopelessness. Forgiveness seems to be the last moral/ethical value left standing: the ability both to judge and to love gives the book its searing yet affectionate honesty. (First printing of 25,000; First serial rights to *Esquire* and *Story*) -- Copyright ©1993, *Kirkus Associates, LP*. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jose Reed:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They can be reading whatever they have because their hobby will be reading a book. Consider the person who don't like

examining a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will want this The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven.

Melvin Belknap:

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Sheri Williams:

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Joseph Lafond:

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