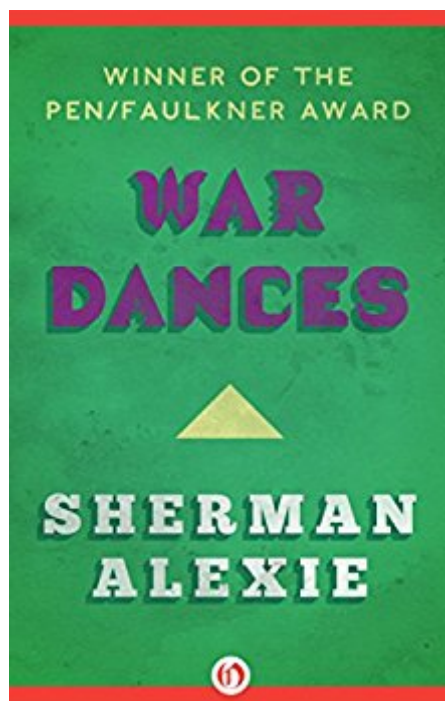


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War Dances



Synopsis

A bestselling collection of stories and poems from literary icon Sherman Alexie, Winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, *War Dances* blends short stories, poems, call-and-response, and more into something that only Sherman Alexie could have written. Ordinary men stand at the threshold of profound change, from a story about a famous writer caring for a dying but still willful father, to the tale of a young Indian boy who learns to value his own life by appreciating the deaths of others. Perceptions change, too, as "Another Proclamation" casts a shadow over Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, and "Invisible Dog on a Leash" limns the heartbreak of shattered childhood illusions. And nostalgia for antiquated technology is tenderly rendered in "Ode to Mix Tapes" and "Ode for Pay Phones." With his versatile voice, Alexie explores love, betrayal, fatherhood, alcoholism, and art in this spirited, soulful, and endlessly entertaining collection, transcending genre boundaries to create something truly unique. This ebook features an illustrated biography including rare photos from the author's personal collection.

Book Information

File Size: 2788 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media (October 15, 2013)

Publication Date: October 15, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00FEZ25AY

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #230,225 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > American > Native American #20 in Kindle Store > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States > Native American #271 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > United States > Native American

Customer Reviews

War Dances by Sherman Alexie, Grove Press, 209 pp. Sherman Alexie is as interesting a person as

he is a writer. A few years back I heard him do an interview with national conservative talk show host, and Seattle-based, Michael Medved. Although Alexie declared himself somewhat left on the political spectrum, I found him to be one of the most delightful (and I'm not a guy who uses that word often, but it fits) interviews I've ever heard. While so many folks, on both sides can sound downright mean, Alexie is honest, self-deprecating, insightful, and quite funny. Why did I start this review of *War Dances* with a review of Alexie's interview prowess? Well, because I found many of the reasons I liked the book are the same reasons I'd liked the interview. While at times I laughed, saddened, and even winced, I was sucked in by every word. While the stories appear to be "all over the place," you sense there is a common thread running through the stories--and there is. And these are stories that feel so real the fact they're fiction, often feels vice versa. So real. And for me, as a Seattle cop, my day job, it rang incredibly real in one particular story. A father is home alone, in Seattle's Central District, (my beat) working as a freelance film editor. There's a knock at the door at three in the afternoon. Determining that no one of any worth comes to anyone's door at that time of day, he ignores the knock and returns to his work. A minute or two later he hears a window break, and confronts a burglar who's broken in. The remainder of the story is fascinating, but I can tell you this specific type of burglary, this M.O., Modus Operandi, is unfortunately way too common in the neighborhood Alexie describes.

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