



Ten Little Indians

By Sherman Alexie



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Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist: A “stellar collection” of stories about navigating life off the reservation, filled with laughter and heartbreak (*People*).

In these lyrical, affectionate tales from the author of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, characters navigate the crossroads of culture, battle stereotypes, and find themselves through everything from politics to basketball. Richard, the narrator of “Lawyer’s League,” grows up in Seattle, the son of “an African American giant who played defensive end for the University of Washington Huskies” and “a petite Spokane Indian ballerina.” A woman is caught in a restaurant when a suicide bomb goes off in “Can I Get a Witness.” And Estelle Walks Above (née Estelle Miller), studies her way off the Spokane Indian Reservation and goes on to both enjoy and resent the company of the white women of Seattle—who see her as a shamanic genius, and look to her for guidance on everything from sex and fashion to spirituality.

These and the other “warm, revealing, invitingly roundabout stories” in *Ten Little Indians* run the gamut from earthy wit to sobering emotional truth, mapping the outer reaches of the human heart (*The New York Times Book Review*).

From a *New York Times*–bestselling and National Book Award–winning author, these tales, “rambunctious and exuberant, bristle with an edgy and mordant humor” (*Chicago Tribune*).

This ebook features an illustrated biography including rare photos from the author’s personal collection.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Sherman Alexie, a gifted poet and storyteller, plows familiar yet fertile ground in his third collection of short stories, *Ten Little Indians*. The book contains nine stories populated by at least one American Indian (usually of Alexie's Spokane heritage, and mostly living in Seattle), but "little" is a bit of a misnomer; the book addresses human (not necessarily Indian), rituals, ceremony, love, loss, insecurity over life choices, and personal sacrifices. A lot of intense basketball is played, too.

When Alexie is at his best, his stories function at a profoundly sad level, where broken down characters are broken down even more, but are fierce-willed enough to attempt Phoenix-like transitions. Unfortunately, the weakest stories appear first, where characters and situations seem far too contrived or forced, the dialogue wooden, and questions or exclamatory sentences appear annoyingly in bunches. In the last half of the book, a married couple, once intensely in love but now lost in life's routines, deal with infidelity ("Do You Know Where I Am?"); a bright basketball prospect attempts a comeback--twenty years after giving up the game ("Whatever Happened to Frank Snake Church?"); and a transient Indian finds his grandmother's regalia in a pawn shop and seeks to quickly raise the lofty purchase price ("What You Pawn I Will Redeem"). Brilliant turns of phrase abound, such as ceremonies being "pitiful cries to a disinterested God," or when a gym rat plays against "Basketball-Democrats who came to the court alone and ran with anybody and Basketball-Republicans who traveled in groups of five and only ran with each other." *Ten Little Indians* is an uneven collection, but contains some significant, memorable stories. --*Michael Ferch*

From Publishers Weekly

Fluent, exuberant and supremely confident, this outstanding collection shows Alexie (*The Toughest Indian in the World*, etc.) at the height of his powers. Humor plays a leading role in the volume's nine stories, but it's love, both romantic and familial, that is the lens through which Alexie examines his compelling characters. His range stretches from the strange to the poignantly antic. In "Can I Get a Witness" an Indian woman is caught inside a restaurant when a suicide bomber blows himself up; in "Do Not Go Gentle" a father buys a vibrator dubbed "Chocolate Thunder" and uses it as a spiritual talisman to successfully bring his seriously injured baby out of a coma. In one of the book's finest stories, "The Search Engine," Corliss Joseph, an intrepid 19-year-old Spokane Indian college student, finds an obscure 1973 volume of Indian poetry and tracks down the author, an aging forklift operator with painful memories of his foray into the literary world. Basketball looms large in a number of these stories, from the thoughtful "Lawyer's League" to the superb final entry, "What Ever Happened to Frank Snake Church?" Loose, jaunty and salted with long, hilarious, inspired riffs--"What kind of life had she created for herself? She was a laboratory mouse lost in the capitalistic maze. She was an underpaid cow paying one-tenth mortgage on a three-bedroom, two-bath abattoir"--these are still cohesive, powerful narratives, expanding on Alexie's continuing theme of what it means to be an Indian culturally, politically and personally. This is a slam dunk collection sure to score with readers everywhere.

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From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-Nine extraordinary short stories set in and around the Seattle area, featuring Spokane Indians from all walks of urban life. In "The Search Engine," a student of English poetry stumbles upon a book of poems by another member of her tribe and goes on a vision quest to find him. But no brief description does justice to the rich complexity of this story or the others; adjectives such as incisive, ironic, emotional, political, tragic, triumphant, angry, loving, exuberant, and wise come to mind, and Alexie puts

everything together in a deceptively casual, often dazzling way. In bursts of exposition, using colloquial language and uncensored thoughts, he creates characters so richly layered and situations so colorfully detailed that readers finish each tale with a feeling of having encountered a real person or event. They include a woman caught in a terrorist attack; a homeless, alcoholic man on a quest to recapture his grandmother's lost regalia; a lawyer who pays too high a cost for being too focused on his ambition; and a feminist mother, as remembered by her adult son. Woven throughout are themes that satirize Native American images, such as the great storyteller and the spiritual master; yet even as the characters are self-deprecating about these stereotypes, Alexie slyly, in unexpected ways, ultimately demonstrates their truth. Those familiar with this author's earlier work will find his charm, originality, and sheer humanity in full measure here.

Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Guadalupe Winn:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book can be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the reserve untitled Ten Little Indians can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Jeff Sanchez:

Precisely why? Because this Ten Little Indians is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret that inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to delay having that book? If I have been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Luis Herrick:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this Ten Little Indians book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, leaking every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still hesitation Ten Little Indians as good book not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one reserve that can break don't assess book by its protect, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this kind of!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

Mary Abrams:

As a scholar exactly feel bored for you to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some reserve, they are complained. Just small students that has reading's soul or real their hobby. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading very seriously. Any students feel that reading through is not important, boring and can't see colorful photos on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important for you personally. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Ten Little Indians can make you feel more interested to read.

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