



War Dances

By Sherman Alexie

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In his first new fiction since winning the National Book Award for *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, best-selling author Sherman Alexie delivers a virtuoso collection of tender, witty, and soulful stories that expertly capture modern relationships from the most diverse angles. *War Dances* brims with Alexie's poetic and revolutionary prose, and reminds us once again why he ranks as one of our country's finest writers.

With bright insight into the minds of artists, entrepreneurs, fathers, husbands, and sons, Alexie populates his stories with average men on the brink of exceptional change: In the title story, a son recalls his father's "natural Indian death" from alcohol and diabetes, just as he learns that he himself may have a brain tumor; "The Ballad of Paul Nonetheless," dissects a vintage clothing store owner's failing marriage and courtship of a Puma-clad stranger in airports across the country; and "Breaking and Entering" recounts a film editor's fateful confrontation with an thieving adolescent.

Brazen and wise *War Dances* takes us to the heart of what it means to be human. The new beginnings, successes, mistakes, and regrets that make up our daily lives are laid bare in this wide-ranging new work that is quintessential

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War Dances By Sherman Alexie Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From National Book Award–winner Alexie comes a new collection of stories, poems, question and answer sequences, and hybrids of all three and beyond. In a penetrating voice that mixes humor with anger, Alexie pointedly asks, If it is true that children pay for the sins of their fathers, then is it also true that fathers pay for the sins of their children? Many of the stories revolve around the complexities of fatherhood; in the title story, the Native American narrator recalls his alcoholic father's death as he confronts his own mortality, and *The Ballad of Paul Nonetheless* is the tale of an eccentric vintage clothing salesman whose sexual attraction to his wife fades following the birth of their children. The collection also contains stirring defenses of artistic integrity; *Fearful Symmetry* is an incisive account of working as a young screenwriter for a Hollywood studio, and the poem *Ode to Mix Tapes* endorses hard work as the key ingredient behind any creation. Alexie unfurls highly expressive language, and while at times his jokes bomb and the characters' anger can feel forced, overall this is a spiritedly provocative array of tragic comedies. (Oct.)

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Review

“Sherman Alexie is not a finicky writer. He is often messy and in-your-face in a way that can make you laugh (or shudder) when you least expect to. . . . *War Dances* is Alexie’s fiercely freewheeling collection of stories and poems about the tragicomedies of ordinary lives.” —*O, the Oprah Magazine*

“Alexie has a wry, subversive sensibility. . . . The structure [in *War Dances*] is sophisticated yet playful, a subtle way to bring lightness to heavy topics such as senility, bigotry, cancer, and loneliness. . . . A mix tape of a book, with many voices, pieces of different length, shifting rhythms, an evolving story.” —*Los Angeles Times*

“Smart modern stories interspersed with witty and deep-feeling verse.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Sherman Alexie mixes up comedy and tragedy, shoots it through with tenderness, then delivers with a provocateur’s don’t-give-a-damn flourish. He’s unique, and his new book, *War Dances*, is another case in point.” —*Seattle Times*

“Alexie’s works are piercing yet rueful. He writes odes to anguished pay-phone calls, to boys who would drive through blizzards to see a girl, to couples who need to sit together on airplane flights even though the computer thinks otherwise. . . . [A] marvelous collection.” —*Miami Herald*

“*War Dances* taps every vein and nerve, every tissue, every issue that quickens the current blood-pulse: parenthood, divorce, broken links, sex, gender and racial conflict, substance abuse, medical neglect, 9/11, Official Narrative vs. What Really Happened, settler religion vs. native spirituality, marketing, shopping, and war, war, war. All the heartbreaking ways we don’t live now—this is the caring, eye-opening beauty of this rollicking, bittersweet gem of a book.” —PEN/Faulkner judge Al Young

“Few other contemporary writers seem willing to deal with issues of race, class, and sexuality as explicitly as Alexie . . . [“*War Dances*” is] a virtuoso performance of wit and pathos, a cultural and familial critique and a son’s quiet, worthless scream against the night as his father expires . . . [that] reminds me of the early 20th Century master of the short form Akutagawa Riyunosuke. . . . Yet again Sherman Alexie has given us a hell

of a ride.”—Barnes & Noble Reviews

"*War Dances* is maybe the most personal book Alexie has ever published, and it's certainly one of his most readable. The closest thing to a historical precedent for this book is *Palm Sunday*, Kurt Vonnegut's wildly entertaining self-described 'autobiographical collage' of anecdotes, fiction, reminiscences, and other work. . . . Each piece firmly builds on some part of the other, like the songs on a good mix tape. . . . The asymmetrical collection on display in *War Dances* works as a supremely gratifying reading experience."—*The Stranger*

"Penetrating . . . Alexie unfurls highly expressive language . . . [in] this spiritedly provocative array of tragic comedies."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Encounter [Alexie's work] once and you'll never forget it."—*Library Journal*

"Alexie is at his best in this collection of hilarious and touching stories."—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

"[With *War Dances*], Sherman Alexie enhances his stature as a multitalented writer and an astute observer of life among Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest. . . . [An] edgy and frequently surprising collection."—*Bookpage*

"Remarkable . . . Wonderful . . . [Alexie's] work reveals both the light and dark within native American life. A paradox in his writing is that you can be in the middle of delighted laughter when he will hit you with a sentence so true to the core of a character's pain that you suck your breath or are startled to realize you are crying."—*The Globe and Mail*

"Alexie is a master storyteller whose prose is laced with metaphoric realities of life, mixed with triumph and tragedy. . . . *War Dances* is vintage Alexie . . . [and] should be savored. . . . Fans will not be disappointed."—*The Grand Rapids Press*

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drive through blizzards to see a girl, to couples who need to sit together on airplane flights even though the computer thinks otherwise. . . . [A] marvelous collection.”—Connie Ogle, *Miami Herald*

“Sherman Alexie is a rare creature in contemporary literature, a writer who can make you laugh as easily as he can make you cry. He’s also frighteningly versatile, as a poet, screenwriter, short story author, and novelist.”—Ben Fulton, *The Salt Lake Tribune*

“Remarkable . . . Wonderful . . . [Alexie’s] work reveals both the light and dark within native American life. A paradox in his writing is that you can be in the middle of delighted laughter when he will hit you with a sentence so true to the core of a character’s pain that you suck your breath or are startled to realize you are crying.”—Gale Zoe Garnett, *The Globe and Mail*

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“May be his best work yet . . . An odd grab bag of images, insights, and loose ends . . . yet each piece asks a similar set of questions: What’s the point of all this? If there is a point, what’s the point of that? And isn’t life really goddamn funny? . . . A book about searching.”—Mike Dumke, *Chicago Reader*

“Complex . . . Unpredictable . . . Thought-provoking.”—Michelle Peters, *Winnipeg Free Press*

“Beautiful . . . [Alexie] tells wryly amusing, bittersweet stories. . . . He makes you laugh, he makes you cry. Perfect reasons to read him.”—Frank Zoretich, *Albuquerque Journal*

“Penetrating . . . Alexie unfurls highly expressive language . . . [in] this spiritedly provocative array of tragic comedies.”—*Publishers Weekly*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Debbie Luken:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled War Dances. Try to make book War Dances as your buddy. It means that it can to become your friend when you sense alone and beside that of course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let's make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Larry Murray:

This book untitled War Dances to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this e-book you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

Sean Mills:

Precisely why? Because this War Dances is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Katherine Hood:

In this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more special than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of several books in the top list in your reading list is War Dances. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking upwards and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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