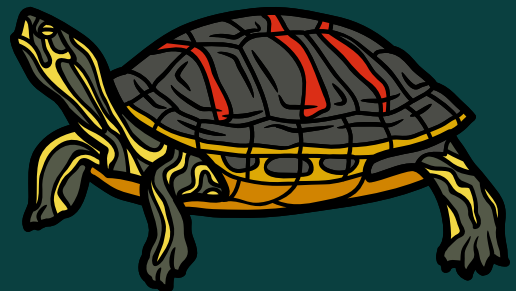
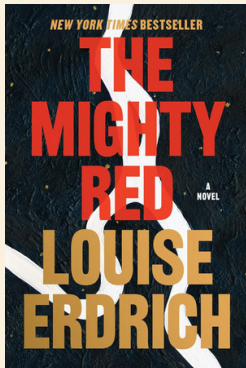




# Native American Authors Book Club



# Fiction



## ***The Mighty Red* by Louise Erdrich**

In Argus, North Dakota, a collection of people revolve around a fraught wedding. Gary Geist, a terrified young man set to inherit two farms, is desperate to marry Kismet Poe, an impulsive, lapsed Goth who can't read her future but seems to resolve his. Hugo, a gentle red-haired, home-schooled giant, is also in love with Kismet. He's determined to steal her and is eager to be a home wrecker. Kismet's mother, Crystal, hauls sugar beets for Gary's family, and on her nightly runs, tunes into the darkness of late-night radio, sees visions of guardian angels, and worries for the future, her daughter's and her own.

Available at:

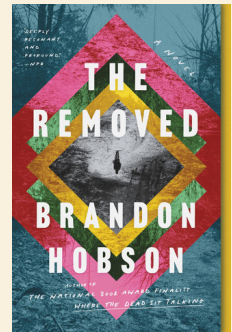
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## ***The Removed* by Brandon Hobson**

In the fifteen years since their son Ray-Ray was killed in a police shooting, the Echota family has been suspended in private grief.

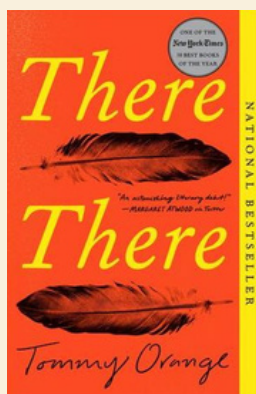
With the family's annual bonfire approaching—an occasion marking both the Cherokee National Holiday and Ray-Ray's death—Maria, Ray-Ray's mother, attempts to call the family together once more. But as the bonfire draws near, each of them feels a strange blurring of the boundary between normal life and the spirit world. Drawing deeply on Cherokee folklore, the novel blends the real and spiritual to excavate the deep reverberations of trauma—a meditation on family, grief, home, and the power of stories on both a personal and ancestral level.



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## ***There There* by Tommy Orange**

This novel follows twelve characters from Native communities all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize.

Among them is Jacquie Red Feather, newly sober and trying to return to the family she left behind. Dene Oxendene, pulling his life together after his uncle's death and working at the powwow to honor his memory. Fourteen-year-old Orvil, coming to perform traditional dance for the very first time. Together, this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native Americans grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion, sacrifice and heroism.

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# Memoir



## Carry by Toni Jensen

Toni Jensen grew up around guns: As a girl, she learned to shoot birds in rural Iowa with her father, a card-carrying member of the NRA. As an adult, she's had guns waved in her face near Standing Rock, and felt their silent threat on the concealed-carry campus where she teaches. And she has always known that in this she is not alone. As a Métis woman, she is no stranger to the violence enacted on the bodies of indigenous women, on indigenous land, and the ways it is hidden, ignored, forgotten.

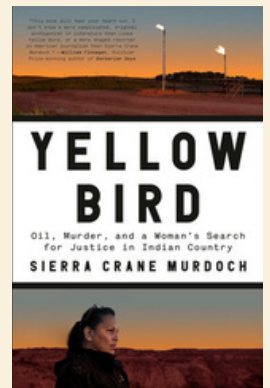
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In Carry, Jensen maps her personal experience onto the historical, exploring how history is lived in the body and redefining the language we use to speak about violence in America.

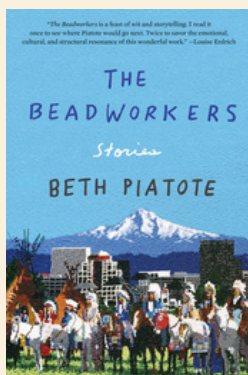
## Yellow Bird by Sierra Crane Murdoch

When Lissa Yellow Bird was released from prison in 2009, she found her home, the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, transformed by the Bakken oil boom. In her absence, the landscape had been altered beyond recognition, her tribal government swayed by corporate interests, and her community burdened by a surge in violence and addiction. Three years later, when Lissa learned that a young white oil worker, Kristopher "KC" Clarke, had disappeared from his reservation worksite, she became particularly concerned. No one knew where Clarke had gone, and few people were actively looking for him.

Drawing on eight years of investigation, Murdoch has produced a profound examination of the legacy of systematic violence inflicted on a tribal nation and a tale of extraordinary healing.



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## The Beadworkers by Beth Piatote

Told with humor, subtlety, and sparseness, this mixed-genre collection by Beth Piatote finds unifying themes in kinship, longing, and return.

A woman teaches her niece to make a pair of beaded earrings while ruminating on a fractured relationship. An eleven-year-old girl narrates the unfolding of the 1960s Fish Wars as her family is propelled to its front lines. In 1890, as tensions escalate at Wounded Knee, two young men at college—one French, the other Lakota—each contemplate a death in the family. In the final, haunting piece, a Nez Perce-Cayuse family is torn apart as they debate the fate of ancestral remains in a moving revision of the Greek tragedy Antigone.

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# Nonfiction

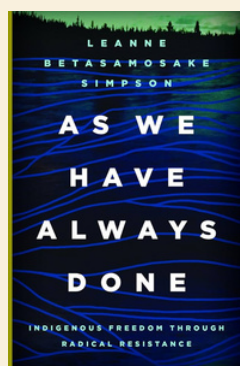
## ***Our History is the Future* by Nick Estes**

In 2016, a small protest encampment at the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota, initially established to block construction of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, grew to be the largest Indigenous protest movement in the twenty-first century, attracting tens of thousands of Indigenous and non-Native allies from around the world. Its slogan "Mni Wiconi"—Water is Life—was about more than just a pipeline. Water Protectors knew this battle for Native sovereignty had already been fought many times before, and that, even after the encampment was gone, their anti-colonial struggle would continue.

A historian by trade, Estes draws on observations from the encampments and from growing up as a citizen of the Oceti Sakowin (the Nation of the Seven Council Fires) and his own family's rich history of struggle.



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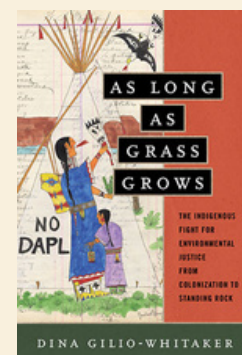
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## ***As We Have Always Done* by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson**

Across North America, Indigenous acts of resistance have in recent years opposed the removal of federal protections for forests and waterways in Indigenous lands, halted the expansion of tar sands extraction and the pipeline construction at Standing Rock, and demanded justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women. In *As We Have Always Done*, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson locates Indigenous political resurgence as a practice rooted in uniquely Indigenous theorizing, writing, organizing, and thinking.

## ***As Long as Grass Grows* by Dina Gilio-Whitaker**

Through the unique lens of "Indigenized environmental justice," Indigenous researcher and activist Dina Gilio-Whitaker explores the fraught history of treaty violations, struggles for food and water security, and protection of sacred sites, while highlighting the important leadership of Indigenous women in this centuries-long struggle. *As Long As Grass Grows* gives readers an accessible history of Indigenous resistance to government and corporate incursions on their lands and offers new approaches to environmental justice activism and policy.



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For those who want to support independent, Indigenous-owned booksellers. This list is not comprehensive of all Indigenous-owned bookstores in the U.S., but based on website availability and shipping times.

**Birch Bark Books, Minneapolis, MN**

**Books and Burrow, Pittsburgh. KS**

**Resistencia Books, Austin, TX**