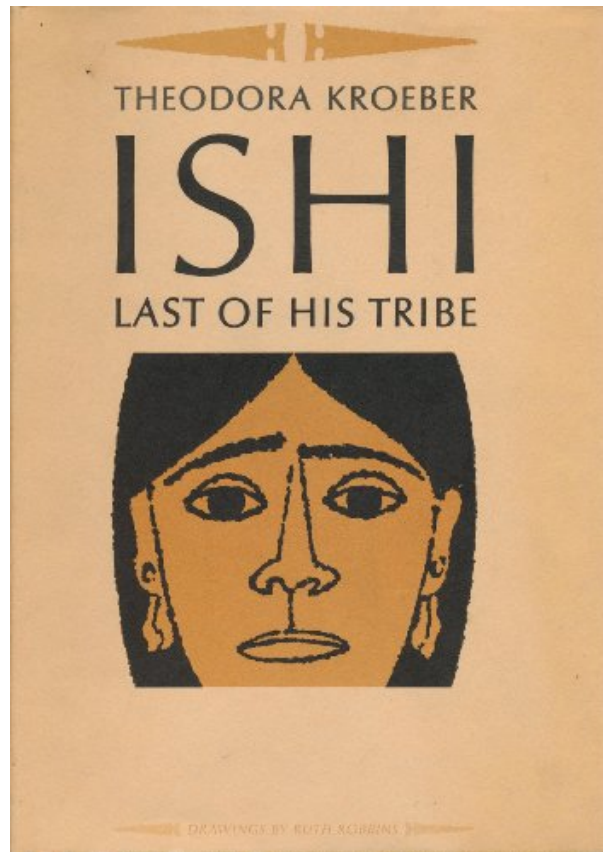
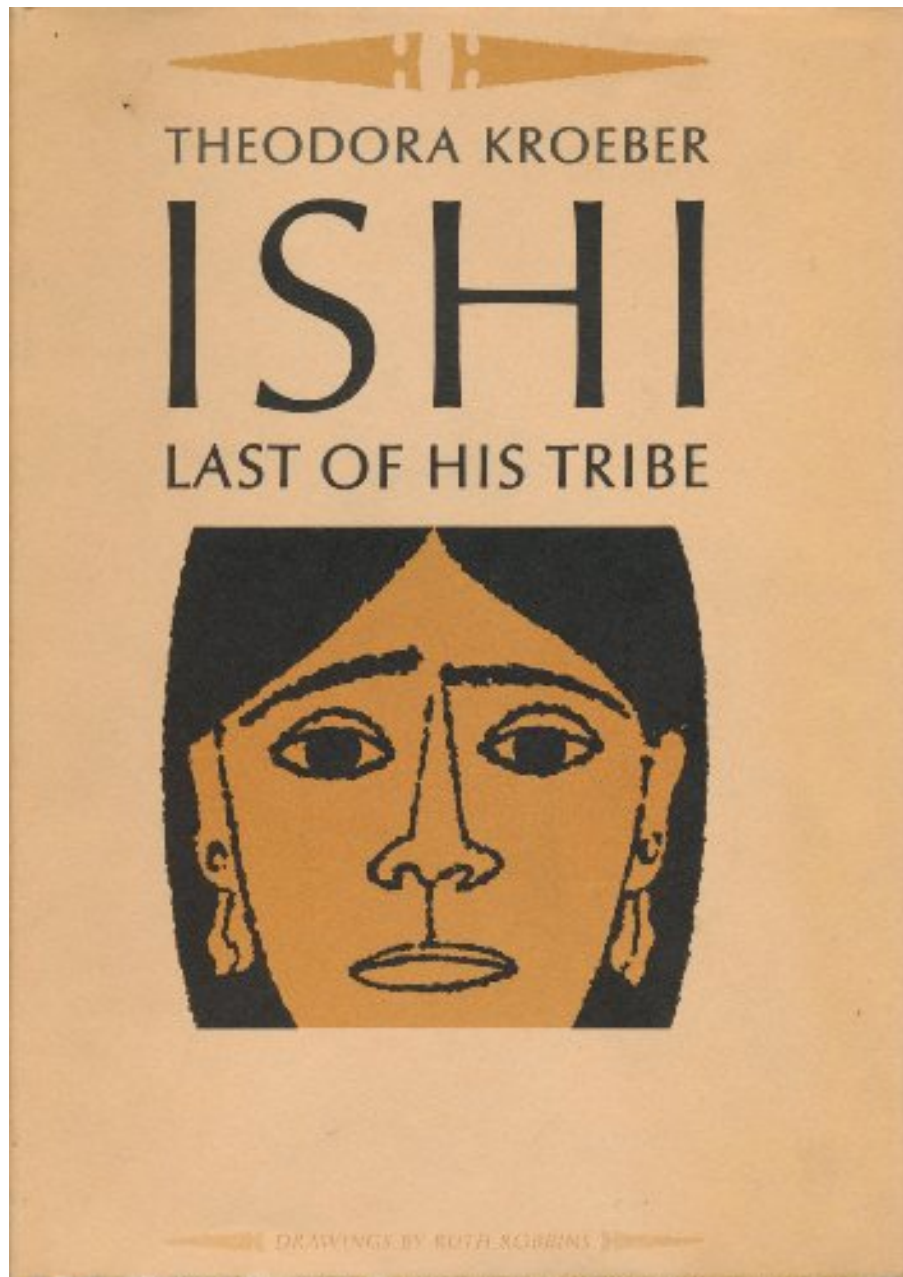


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From Goodreads: In the early 1900s a small band of California Indians in the Yahi tribe lived in concealment, resisting the fate that had all but wiped out their people -- violent death by the invading gold seekers and settlers. In time, members of the small group died, until there remained a single survivor -- the man who became known as Ishi. This book tells the haunting, heroic story of Ishi -- the boy, the man, the lone survivor of his tribe.

- Sales Rank: #1498961 in Books
- Published on: 1964-01-01
- Number of items: 2
- Binding: Hardcover
- 209 pages

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24 of 25 people found the following review helpful.

Ishi, the last of his tribe: NOT the "last wild indian"

By Karen Garcia

I've read this historical novel aloud to both "regular" fifth graders and to Special Education children. All of them have become entranced with Kroeber's wonderful descriptions of day-to-day Yahi life, and with Ishi's tragic story. The fact that Ishi was a real person made it even more tangible to them. This story is undoubtedly romanticized, but it describes life as it probably really was for a small surviving group of California Indians during the encroachment of the "Saldu" (foreigners). They try valiantly to retain the vestiges of their very complex culture, but tragedy inevitably ensues. The majority of the book describes Ishi's life before he personally came in contact with the White people he has feared and from whom he has hidden during most of his life. It's difficult to find books that accurately describe Native American life pre-contact, in a way that is understandable to young children. I highly recommend this book, especially if you can tie in some of the recent controversy about Ishi's brain, which was removed from his body for study after his death (against his explicit wishes) and was only recently repatriated to Native California people. It's a great lead-in for a discussion about Native People's rights in modern America.

Karen Garcia

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

A must-read for all American citizens.

By A Customer

I first decided to read this book because I was named after Ishi, and I wanted to find out why. When I finally read Kroeber's novel, I was struck with a mixed sense of pride at being able to identify with such an honest, spiritual, and kind-hearted man; disgust at how ignorantly and inexcusably the white man in power treated Ishi's people, and hence has continued to treat Native Americans throughout this country; and awe at the beauty and grace with which Kroeber writes. I am also a high school English teacher in a rural New England town. I teach this novel, and am continually struck by its ability to speak to teenagers who, for the most part, are not aware of this component of American history. Though the novel is partly fictional, as we cannot truly know, for instance, the conversations that Ishi had in the "watgurwa" with his elders as a teenage boy,

Kroeber reveals to us a story based on very real, and very human, events. We read about the unwavering respect for the natural world that is so inherent in Yahi culture, and so lacking in modern American culture. We see Ishi's growth from a boy to a man as he takes on the important responsibilities of feeding and protecting his family. We also watch as innocent Yahi are killed with the white man's "firesticks" so that their scalps can be cut off and exchanged for money. Every American citizen should know what happened to Ishi and his people; for it is American history at its best, and, unfortunately, at its worst.

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Ishi: Touching Story of Cruelty to Native American

By Ashley Steepleton

The book, *Ishi: Last of His Tribe*, by Theodora Kroeber is a well written book, which deeply describes the life of a Yana Indian. The Yana are one of the last Native American Indian Tribes left in America. She uses great adjectives and Indian words to help the readers understand. People who are intrigued by Native Americans, wars, teenage lives, and the true cruelty of human beings will be interested in reading *Ishi*. *Ishi* is a young Yana Indian boy, on the verge of manhood, getting ready for the responsibilities of having to feed and fend for his family who have supported *Ishi* his whole life, and have a family of his own. A group of white people come to the lands of the Yana and try to capture the land that has belonged to Yana tribes for centuries. The white people slaughter the Yana tribes unmercifully, and take the land for themselves. *Ishi* has to watch the people he has grown up with his whole existence and the ways of his people be demolished, and he is left alone in the world. *Ishi* teaches people who read it a part of American history which is normally not talked about or read about. The book uses the non-fiction happenings of the Yana and adds fictional situations and turns *Ishi* into a beautiful story of hate and overcoming obstacles. As I read the book, I felt mixed emotions. I felt proud at being able to identify with *Ishi*. *Ishi* was the last of his people, he really did not have much to live for, and no one was left that he could relate to. Everyone feels alone and outcast at some point in their lives, and this book helps people understand and relate to *Ishi* and how he feels. He was a truthful, deep, spiritual person and he was plucked from his life and tossed into a world which was strange and new to him. If any of the readers have ever had to move from one town to another, they know what *Ishi* is feeling. I also felt hatred towards how the white men ignorantly destroyed this peaceful tribe's way of life without even feeling remorse for their actions. It is horrible how they just slaughtered the tribe, with 'fire sticks' and scalped the Yana for money. It is repulsive how the white men treated the Yana and all the Native Americans, who were on this continent before us and had been living respectably and peacefully, and had such a deep understanding of the land and how to treat it and use it wisely. *Ishi* was easy to comprehend, with the wordings of Theodora Kroeber. Everyone in America should know about what happened to the innocent Yana tribes and the innocent Yana people, such as *Ishi*, and see American history for what it really is, and what it really was and what the invading, torturous, white man and his government did to begin the longest war in history (500 years) against the peaceful, loving, spiritual NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN.

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