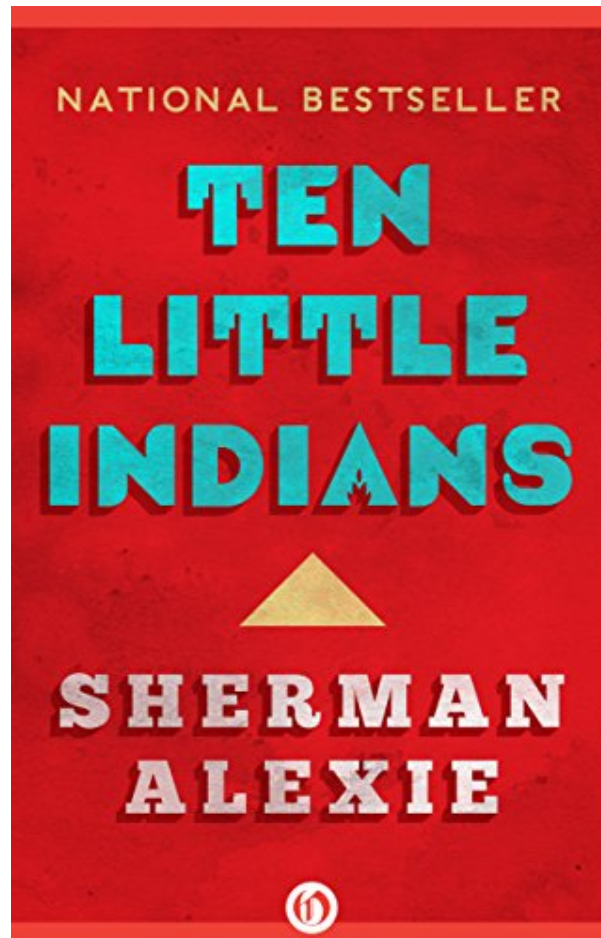


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When Alexie is at his best, his stories function at a profoundly sad level, where broken down characters are broken down even more, but are fierce-willed enough to attempt Phoenix-like transitions. Unfortunately, the weakest stories appear first, where 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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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.

- Sales Rank: #55200 in eBooks
- Published on: 2013-10-15
- Released on: 2013-10-15
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Wonderful Read

By Wendy B. Smith

Sherman Alexie's voice in these stories is true, honest and engaging. These stories not only lead you into the world of the Indian, they also allow you to experience hope, joy, and despair as Alexie's characters do. Highly recommend this collection and so glad I have more of Alexie to read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Ten Little Indians All Grown Up

By Karen Wills Cunningham

This is a fine set of stories that capture the broad spectrum of urban Native Americans and their lives. Set in Seattle, it depicts the wry humor, desperation, failures and triumphs of Spokane natives living in Seattle. It could only have been written by one who knows them well.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Entertaining, thought provoking, inspiring

By mwright

I usually am a reader of novels, not so often short stories. This collection really caught my attention, and I devoured them one after another in one sitting. They made me think about my own life even though my heritage is not Native American, and I am inspired to write my own!

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