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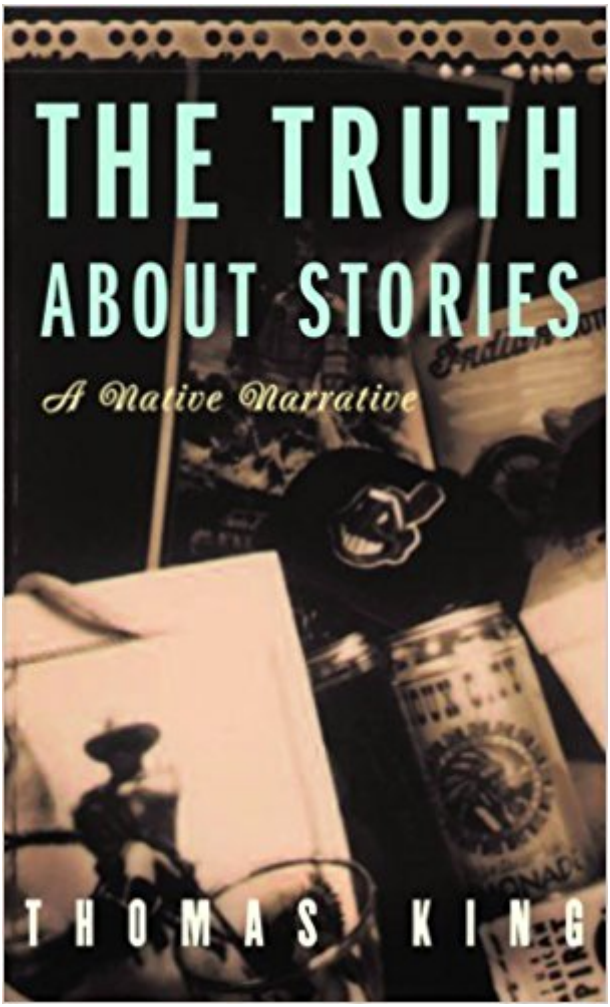
The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative (Indigenous Americas)



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Synopsis

"Stories are wondrous things. And they are dangerous." In The Truth About Stories, Native novelist and scholar Thomas King explores how stories shape who we are and how we understand and interact with other people. From creation stories to personal experiences, historical anecdotes to social injustices, racist propaganda to works of contemporary Native literature, King probes Native culture’s deep ties to storytelling. With wry humor, King deftly weaves events from his own life as a child in California, an academic in Canada, and a Native North American with a wide-ranging discussion of stories told by and about Indians. So many stories have been told about Indians, King comments, that "there is no reason for the Indian to be real. The Indian simply has to exist in our imaginations." That imaginative Indian that North Americans hold dear has been challenged by Native writers - N. Scott Momaday, Leslie Marmon Silko, Louis Owens, Robert Alexie, and others - who provide alternative narratives of the Native experience that question, create a present, and imagine a future. King reminds the reader, Native and non-Native, that storytelling carries with it social and moral responsibilties. "Don’t say in the years to come that you would have lived your life differently if only you had heard this story. You’ve heard it now."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Trust a novelist and English professor to get to the heart of how stories and storytelling shape our perceptions. Oral stories, King asserts, are public, requiring interaction with an audience. Gathering

oral stories into book form compromises the narratives; once set on the page, a story loses its context and voice. And written stories are usually private; no matter how many people read a particular book, each person reads that story as an individual. While King primarily considers narratives by and about Indians, his unusual treatise also includes coverage of a lengthy stay in New Zealand, identity politics, Native American history, and the experience of being the only middle-aged member of an amateur basketball team. Ultimately, King exhorts listeners to accept the responsibility of stories, writing, "Take it. It’s yours. Do with it what you will. But don’t say in the years to come that you would have lived your life differently if only you had heard this story. You’ve heard it now." This is a wonderful study of the power of words. Rebecca MakselCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Illuminates the relationship between storytelling and the Native North American experience.

This is a marvelous book, it shares something really special with the reader, lets you in on the unique perspective of a Native American boy/man, and it also teaches you many things about the history that some might not be very familiar with. I loved it for that, because here we see things not from the mainstream’s perspective, not from the perspective of the white man (which is way more common) and that lets us see things that many of us might have not been aware of.

An interesting analysis of Indian (North American Native) story telling. Although the theme of an Indian story is fairly constant among narrators, the details of the narration can vary widely among them. Difference are pointed out between Indian story telling and the more structured writing of western literature, which are really the differences between an oral tradition and a written tradition. King is a superb writer with an penchant for irony. Love it.

This book is so wonderful, hilarious and so easy to read.

This book was amazing!! I love the author’s style and found the book to be very eye opening. I have recommended this book to multiple friends.

This was delightful, engaging, deep, funny, painful, perceptive, really good writing. It’s memoir, it’s essay, it’s story, all mixed together, in King’s very distinctive voice.

Everybody gets a book for their birthday this year. My three sons will get this book. I've read it 3 times. Enough said

Feels like he's speaking to the reader. King is a great writer, and his stories are entirely relatable, even as they make me look at the world in a new way.

This is a wonderful relaxing and soothing read. I purchased this for work on Australian Aboriginal people, but it is American Indian narrations. It is written eloquently and is a book for bedtime reading as it does not tax the brain, but opens up a whole new world view and understanding of 'others' worldview

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