



Museum of the
Cherokee People

Reading List

Biographies & Memoirs

MEMOIRS OF ROBERT YOUNGDEER: MARINE, CHIEF, AND PROUD AMERICAN

**By Robert S. Youngdeer (Eastern
Band of Cherokee Indians)**

Youngdeer describes growing up in Cherokee, attending boarding school, joining the Marines, and being wounded in at Guadalcanal in World War II, for which he received the Purple Heart. He became an Army Paratrooper, and then worked as an Indian Policeman on reservations with the Lakota, Choctaw, Apache, Anishinaabe, Inuit, and more.

MANKILLER: A CHIEF AND HER PEOPLE

**By Wilma Mankiller (Cherokee
Nation) and Michael Wallis**

In this spiritual, moving autobiography, Wilma Mankiller, former Chief of the Cherokee Nation and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, tells of her own history while also honoring and recounting the history of the Cherokees. Mankiller's life unfolds against the backdrop of the dawning of the American Indian civil rights struggle, and her book becomes a quest to reclaim and preserve the great Native American values that form the foundation of our nation.

DOG FLOWERS: A MEMOIR, AN ARCHIVE

By Danielle Geller (Navajo Nation)

A daughter returns home to the Navajo reservation to retrace her mother's life in a memoir that is both a narrative and an archive of one family's troubled history.

FROM THE ASHES: MY STORY OF BEING METIS, HOMELESS AND FINDING MY WAY

By Jesse Thistle (Metis)

Facing struggles many of us cannot even imagine, Jesse knew he would die unless he turned his life around. Through sheer perseverance and newfound love, he managed to find his way back into the loving embrace of his Indigenous culture and family.

A MIND SPREAD OUT ON THE GROUND

By Alicia Elliot (Mohawk)

Elliot's deeply personal writing details a life spent between Indigenous and white communities, a divide reflected in her own family, and engages with such wide-ranging topics as race, parenthood, love, art, mental illness, poverty, sexual assault, gentrification, and representation. Throughout, she makes thrilling connections both large and small between the past and present, the personal and political.

HEART BERRIES: A MEMOIR

**By Terese Marie Mailhot (Seabird
Island Band, First Nations)**

Having survived a profoundly dysfunctional upbringing only to find herself hospitalized and facing a dual diagnosis of post traumatic stress disorder and bipolar II disorder, Terese Marie Mailhot is given a notebook and begins to write her way out of trauma.

CROSSINGS: A DOCTOR- SOLDIER'S STORY

By Jon Kerstetter (Oneida)

A searing, beautifully told memoir by a Native American doctor on the trials of being a doctor-soldier in the Iraq War, and then, after suffering a stroke that left his life irrevocably changed, his struggles to overcome the new limits of his body, mind, and identity.

CALL ME INDIAN

By Fred Sasakamoose

(Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation)

This isn't just a hockey story; Sasakamoose's groundbreaking memoir sheds piercing light on Canadian history and Indigenous politics, and follows this extraordinary man's journey to reclaim pride in an identity and a heritage that had previously been used against him.

CARRY: A MEMOIR OF SURVIVAL ON STOLEN LAND

By Toni Jensen (Metis)

In prose at once forensic and deeply emotional, Toni Jensen shows herself to be a brave new voice and a fearless witness to her own difficult history—as well as to the violent cultural landscape in which she finds her coordinates. With each chapter, Carry reminds us that surviving in one's country is not the same as surviving one's country.