



Museum of the
Cherokee People

Reading List

Fiction

EVEN AS WE BREATHE

**By Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle
(Eastern Band of Cherokee
Indians)**

Nineteen-year-old Cowney Sequoyah yearns to escape his hometown of Cherokee, North Carolina, in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. When a summer job at Asheville's luxurious Grove Park Inn and Resort brings him one step closer to escaping the hills that both cradle and suffocate him, he sees it as an opportunity.

MAN MADE MONSTERS

**By Andrea L. Rogers (Cherokee
Nation)**

Following one extended Cherokee family across the centuries, from the tribe's homelands in Georgia in the 1830s to World War I, the Vietnam War, our own present, and well into the future, each story delivers a slice of a particular time period that will leave readers longing for more.

CROOKED HALLELUJAH

By Kelli Jo Ford (Cherokee Nation)
Crooked Hallelujah tells the stories of Justine—a mixed-blood Cherokee woman—and her daughter, Reney, as they move from Eastern Oklahoma's Indian Country in the hopes of starting a new, more stable life in Texas amid the oil bust of the 1980s. However, life in Texas isn't easy, and Reney feels unmoored from her family in Indian Country.

ᏌᏌᏌ GALVLOHI (SKY)

**By Roy Boney Jr. (Cherokee
Nation)**

ᏌᏌᏌ (Sky), the first full length release from award-winning artist, Roy Boney Jr., tells the story of a boy who learns his lineage is not what he expected. The story is rooted in Cherokee storytelling traditions with a dash of European literary horror wrapped up in the passion and lyricism of Boney's art. It is a tale for adults and children alike and highlights the brilliance of Cherokee fantasy.

WHERE THE DEAD SIT TALKING

**By Brandon Hobson (Cherokee
Nation)**

With his single mother in jail, Sequoyah, a fifteen-year-old Cherokee boy, is placed in foster care with the Troutt family. Literally and figuratively scarred by his mother's years of substance abuse, Sequoyah keeps mostly to himself, living with his emotions pressed deep below the surface. At least until he meets seventeen-year-old Rosemary, a troubled artist who also lives with the family.

BLOOD SISTERS

**By Vanessa Lillie (Cherokee
Nation)**

A visceral and compelling mystery about a Cherokee archeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs who is summoned to rural Oklahoma to investigate the disappearance of two women...one of them her sister.

CALLING FOR A BLANKET DANCE

**By Oscar Hokeah (Cherokee
Nation)**

Ever's relatives all have ideas about who he is and who he should be. His Cherokee grandmother, knowing the importance of proximity, urges the family to move across Oklahoma to be near her, while his grandfather, watching their traditions slip away, tries to reunite Ever with his heritage through traditional gourd dances. Through it all, every relative wants the same: to remind Ever of the rich and supportive communities that surround him.

DAUGHTERS OF THE DEER

By Danielle Daniel (Algonquin)

In this haunting and groundbreaking historical novel, Danielle Daniel imagines the lives of women in the Algonquin territories of the 1600s, a story inspired by her family's ancestral link to a young girl who was murdered by French settlers.

MAPPING THE INTERIOR

**By Stephen Graham Jones
(Blackfeet Nation)**

Walking through his own house at night, a fifteen-year-old thinks he sees another person stepping through a doorway. Instead of the people who could be there, his mother or his brother, the figure reminds him of his long-gone father, who died mysteriously before his family left the reservation. When he follows it he discovers his house is bigger and deeper than he knew.

IN SEARCH OF APRIL RAINTREE

By Beatrice Mosionier (Metis)

In this moving story of legacy and reclamation, two young sisters are taken from their home and family. Powerless in a broken system, April and Cheryl are separated and placed in different foster homes. Despite the distance, they remain close, even as their decisions threaten to divide them emotionally, culturally, and geographically. As one sister embraces her Métis identity, the other tries to leave it behind.

NEVER WHISTLE AT NIGHT

Edited by Shane Hawk (Cheyenne-Arapaho) and Theodore C. Van Alst Jr.

A bold, clever, and sublimely sinister collection of horror, fantasy, science fiction, and gritty crime by both new and established Indigenous authors that dares to ask the question: “Are you ready to be un-settled?”

PROBABLY RUBY

By Lisa Bird-Wilson (Cree-Metis)

This is the story of a woman in search of herself, in every sense. When we first meet Ruby, a Métis woman in her thirties, her life is spinning out of control. She’s angling to sleep with her counselor while also rekindling an old relationship she knows will only bring more heartache. But as we soon learn, Ruby’s story is far more complex than even she can imagine.

THE ONLY GOOD INDIANS

By Stephen Graham Jones (Blackfoot Nation)

Seamlessly blending classic horror and a dramatic narrative with sharp social commentary, *The Only Good Indians* follows four American Indian men after a disturbing event from their youth puts them in a desperate struggle for their lives. Tracked by an entity bent on revenge, these childhood friends are helpless as the culture and traditions they left behind catch up to them in a violent, vengeful way.

THE BERRY PICKERS

By Amanda Peters (Mi'kmaq)

Norma is often troubled by recurring dreams and visions that seem more like memories than imagination. As she grows older, Norma slowly comes to realize there is something her parents aren’t telling her. Unwilling to abandon her intuition, she will spend decades trying to uncover this family secret.

THE LOST JOURNALS OF SACAJEWEA

By Debra Magpie Earling (Bitterfoot Salish)

In this visionary novel, acclaimed Indigenous author Debra Magpie Earling brings this mythologized figure vividly to life, casting unsparing light on the men who brutalized her and recentering Sacajewea as the arbiter of her own history.

THE TRUTH ACCORDING TO EMBER

By Danica Nava (Chickasaw Nation)

A Chickasaw woman who can’t catch a break serves up a little white lie that snowballs into much more in this witty and irresistible rom-com by debut author Danica Nava.

GENOCIDAL LOVE: A LIFE AFTER RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

By Bevann Fox (Pasqua First Nation)

Presenting herself as “Myrtle,” residential school survivor and Indigenous television personality Bevann Fox explores essential questions by recounting her life through fiction. She shares memories of an early childhood filled with love with her grandparents—until she is sent to residential school at the age of seven.



JONNY APPLESEED

By Joshua Whitehead (Peguis First Nation)

Off the reserve and trying to find ways to live and love in the big city, Jonny becomes a cybersex worker who fetishizes himself in order to make a living. Self-ordained as an NDN glitter princess, Jonny has one week before he must return to the “rez”—and his former life—to attend the funeral of his stepfather.

THERE, THERE

By Tommy Orange (Cheyenne and Arapaho)

Three strangers converge and collide on one fateful day at the Big Oakland Powwow and together this chorus of voices tells of the plight of the urban Native American—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism.

AND THEN SHE FELL

By Alicia Elliott (Mohawk)

On the surface, Alice is exactly where she thinks she should be: She’s just given birth to a beautiful baby girl, Dawn; her charming husband, Steve—a white academic whose area of study is conveniently her own Mohawk culture—is nothing but supportive; and they’ve moved into a new home in a posh Toronto neighborhood. But Alice could not feel like more of an impostor.

MY HEART IS A CHAINSAW

By Stephen Graham Jones (Blackfoot Nation)

Jade narrates the quirky history of Proofrock as if it is a horror movie. But when blood actually starts to spill into the waters of Indian Lake, she pulls us into her dizzying, encyclopedic mind of blood and masked murderers, and predicts exactly how the plot will unfold.