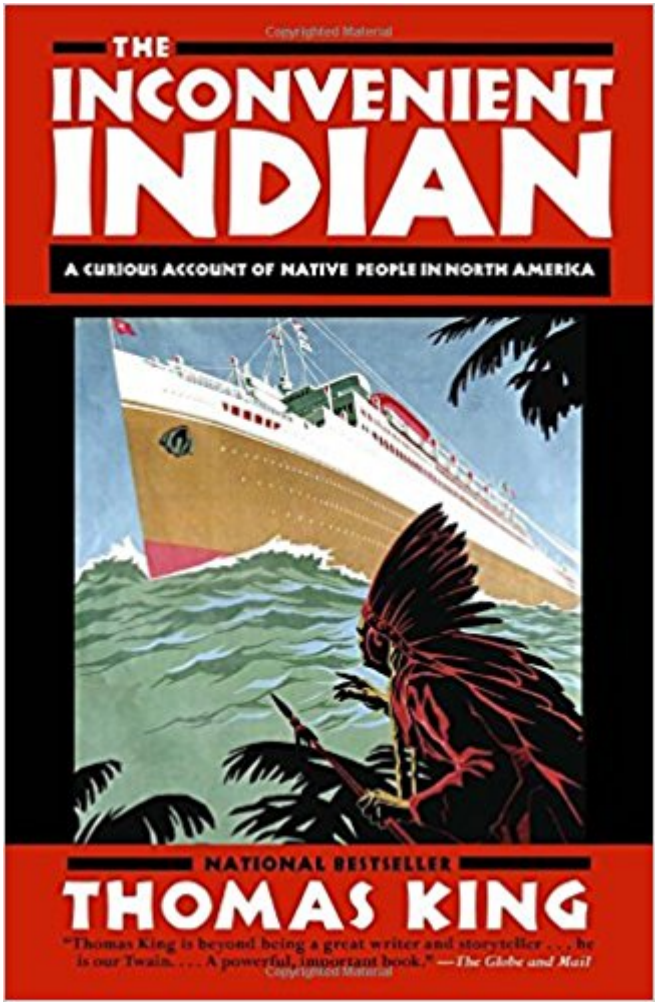
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The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account Of Native People In North America



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Synopsis

Rich with dark and light, pain and magic, The Inconvenient Indian distills the insights gleaned from Thomas King’s critical and personal meditation on what it means to be "Indian" in North America, weaving the curiously circular tale of the relationship between non-Natives and Natives in the centuries since the two first encountered each other. In the process, King refashions old stories about historical events and figures, takes a sideways look at film and pop culture, relates his own complex experiences with activism, and articulates a deep and revolutionary understanding of the cumulative effects of ever-shifting laws and treaties on Native peoples and lands.
Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â This is a book both timeless and timely, burnished with anger but tempered by wit, and ultimately a hard-won offering of hope--a sometimes inconvenient but nonetheless indispensable account for all of us, Indian and non-Indian alike, seeking to understand how we might tell a new story for the future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

National BestsellerWinner of the 2015 CBC Bookie Awards - Non-FictionWinner of the 2014 RBC Taylor PrizeWinner of the 2014Ã Â British Columbia’s National Award for Canadian Non-FictionWinner of the 2013 Canadian Booksellers Association Non-Fiction Book of the YearFinalist for CanadaÃ Â Reads 2015Finalist forÃ Â 2014 Hilary Weston WritersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ Trust Prize for Non-FictionFinalist forÃ Â 2013 Trillium Award"[The Inconvenient IndianÃ Â is] essential reading for everyone who cares about Canada and who seeks to understand native people, their issues and their dreams.Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â . Thomas King is beyond being a great writer and

storyteller, a lauded academic and educator. He is a towering intellectual. For native people in Canada, he is our Twain; wise, hilarious, incorrigible, with a keen eye for the inconsistencies that make us and our society flawed, enigmatic, but ultimately powerful symbols of freedom.Ã Â The Inconvenient IndianÃ Â is less an indictment than a reassurance that we can create equality and harmony. A powerful, important book."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Richard Wagamese,Ã Â The Globe and Mail"King is a Canadian icon.Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â . The Inconvenient Indian is labelled a history book but it is about Canada today. I suggest teachers include a copy in every school classroom. It made me a better Canadian and more compassionate person." Ã¢â ¬â •Craig Kielburger, co-founder of Free the Children, defending The Inconvenient Indian at Canada Reads 2015"Every Canadian should read Thomas KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s new book,Ã Â The Inconvenient Indian.Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â . It’s funny, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s readable, and it makes you think. If you have any kind of a social conscience,Ã Â The Inconvenient IndianÃ Â will also make you angry." Ã¢â ¬â •Toronto Star"Sharply intellectual and informative, yet humourous and delightfully human, King unearths the myths and misunderstandings about Aboriginal peoplesÃ¢â ¬â •and there is certainly a lot to dig up. If it’s an act of solidarity and outstanding creative non-fiction you’re after, get yourself a copy ofÃ Â The Inconvenient Indian." Ã¢â ¬â •Amber Dawn,Ã Â National Post"Thomas King is funny. And ironic, sarcastic, clever and witty. His writing style is direct, offbeat and accessible.Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â . [The Inconvenient Indian is] a riveting, sweeping narrative that illuminates, horrifies, stupefies and educates. This book is a must-read for anyone who wants to better understand the enormous divide that persists between many aboriginals and non-aboriginals." Ã¢â ¬â •Edmonton Journal"The Inconvenient Indian may well be unsettling for many non-natives in this country to read. This is exactly why we all should read it. Especially now." Ã¢â ¬â •Vancouver Sun"The Inconvenient Indian is a book of stories with a lot of history in it. It may well be the best analysis of how Native people have existed, and still exist, in North America.Ã Â .Ã Â .Ã Â . What a gift this book is. What gratitude we owe this wise and gracious and frisky writer. . . . Even if you think you know North American Aboriginal history, you will be richly engaged by the stories [King] tells. And if you donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know it, this is a fine place to begin." Ã¢â ¬â •The Chronicle Journal"King uses stories to turn history upside down. Or perhaps it is more accurate to say that he presents history with a candour and honesty rarely found in usual accounts of the interaction of aboriginals and non-aboriginals." Ã¢â ¬â •The Winnipeg Free Press"What makes it all palatable, and at times nearly pleasurable, is KingÃ¢â ¬â„¢s gift of irony. HeÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a master of the lethal one-liner. . . . Ã Â King wants to make his readers smile even as they wince. . . . This book includes painful reminders of the huge injustices done to Indians in the past. It also sets out a few reasons why the

future may be better." Ã¢â ¬â •Calgary Herald"Brilliantly insightful. . . . Humour aside, this is an unflinching, occasionally fierce work. Natives are often chided for dwelling too much on the past, yet if this book proves anything, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s that it behooves all of us to do a lot more of exactly that." Ã¢â ¬â •Quill & Quire "The Inconvenient Indian [is] a remarkable narrative of native culture, policy, and history in North America. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s also a powerful reality check." Ã¢â ¬â •The Hill Times"Subversive, entertaining, well-researched, hilarious [and] enraging. . . . In this thoughtful, irascible account, and in characteristically tricksterish mode, King presents a provocative alternative version of CanadaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s heritage narrative." Ã¢â ¬â •RBC Taylor Prize Jury"The Inconvenient Indian exposes and makes accessible, perhaps for the first time, our perspective of events that have shaped this continent. King is reclaiming our true lived experience in the tradition of our storytellers and artists. He brings humour, razor sharp analysis and insight, compelling every reader to confront the uncomfortable and urgent reality of our peoples today. His voice makes a fundamental contribution to the effort required to engage in understanding and respect for a dignified and just way forward for all who today call this land home." Ã¢â ¬â •National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo"An extremely informative book, well-researched, well-written. Mr. King will alarm you with his cleverness and originality." Ã¢â ¬â •Tomson HighwayÃ Â "Fascinating, often hilarious, always devastatingly truthful, The Inconvenient Indian is destined to become a classic of historical narrative. For those who wish to better understand Native peoples, it is a must read. For those who don’t wish to understand, it is even more so." Ã¢â ¬â •Joseph BoydenÃ Â "Not since Eduardo Galeano’s astonishing trilogy, Memory of Fire, have I read an account of European contact and the Amerindian experience asÃ Â full of wit, compassion, humour, irony and pathos as this wonderful and brilliant new book by Thomas King. At moments I found myself laughing aloud, at others wiping a tear from my eye." Ã¢â ¬â •Wade Davis"A book of incredible range and genius. From the iconography of the Ã¢â ¬Ëœ‌Indian,Ã¢â ¬â„¢ sedimented in everyday objects from butter to missiles, to the ongoing economic war waged against First Nations peoples across North America, Thomas King is magisterial in this devastating and comprehensive dissection of history, contemporary politics and culture. His analysis is incisive, the seam of irony running through his prose, as affable as a filet knife." Ã¢â ¬â •Dionne Brand

THOMAS KING is one of Canada’s premier Native public intellectuals. For the past five decades, he has worked as an activist for Native causes and an administrator of Native programs, and has taught Native literature and history at universities in the United States and Canada. He is the bestselling author of five novels, including Medicine River, described as "precise and elegant" by

The New York Times; Green Grass, Running Water, which Newsweek called "a first class work of art

I found this book listed on a college must read list, so I looked it up on , read the opening and was immediately hooked. I liked Thomas KingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s sense of humor and writing style. This is one of the best written books I have ever read, especially where History is concerned. Thomas King is a brilliant writer who draws the reader in with historical facts, funny anecdotes, and his own personal experiences with being a Native American. The humor was inserted at just the right moments to help ease the tension arising amidst the tumultuous events that happened in North America for the last four hundred years. I was thoroughly disappointed when I read the last word of the book, because it was over. I want more! My favorite line is, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Most of us think that history is the past. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not. History is the stories we tell about the past. ThatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s all it is.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (pg. 3)This book isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t always an easy read, but it is one that everyone should read. Thank you, Mr. King, for creating this exciting and thought-provoking book.

I have several books on the subject of the European colonization of the North American continent and the brutal occupation and "ethnic cleansing" employed in the process. I am not Native American being totally of northern European descent. I have studied the many cultures of the many "First People" Nations and have many friends and acquaintances among them. My library of books on this subject include the "history" of this process from both points of view. I also have many novels by Native American writers as well as those of my own ethnic origin. I was initially surprised by the humor and lack of much ill will present in the works of fiction and of historical accounts in the writings and movies by Native American writers, but still presenting the story in a clear eyed view from their point of view. The European writers through the ages tend to either justify or distort this history or, more recently, bemoan the the injustice to the point of magnifying the degree almost to distortion in the other direction. I have several of Thomas King’s books including novels as well as historical accounts, and all of his writings have me laughing through tears. I can only say again that this is the best on the subject ever.

The very best book i have ever read about the tangled history between Native Americans and the English, French and other invaders on this continent! With a wry sense of humor and crisp satiric bent, Thomas King has written a thoughtful, carefully researched account of what happened (and

continues to be happening) to Natives who have been trampled on for centuries. Leavened by good humor and personal experiences, King's book should be required reading in every school in Canada and the U.S., in every place of worship, and in every home. After spending my entire career studying Native American literatures, I only wish that this book had been available to me and my 100's of students in my high school and college classes! You have written a masterpiece, Dr. King!

A set of confronting and illuminating stories about how Native Americans, First Nations, Metis and Inuit have been repeatedly screwed by the system. While I learned a lot from this book, the style and narrative were frustrating and jumbled. There was no real story or logic or thesis - just a sequence of anecdotes and history lessons, with lots of tangents and exhaustive lists. Could have benefited from some heavy editing.

A eye-opening visit to the legitimate concerns of native peoples in both Canada and the US. Filled with insights, historical facts and wry comments. This would be an excellent read for anyone who wants to be informed regarding the on-going exploitation of native peoples - from Colombus to today's protest of the North Dakota Pipeline.

First rate!! Insightful with humor. Have most, if not all, of his writing. Cannot rate high enough.

I have discovered a gem! For anyone who wants to learn about North American (not just Canadian) history and society, this is an essential book. And above all else, Thomas King's writing style is compelling. This man certainly knows how to tell you a story which keeps you entertained, while at the same time makes you reflect and re-think about things in our history in a new light.I am a fan. I am now reading The Medicine Man!

This is a very revealing book. It allowed me to rediscover the dark facts about my culture that years of education and a career have pushed aside in order to justify my overt compliance with Western beliefs.

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