Date: 7/28/23

Name of Podcast: Read. Return. Repeat. A ReadICT Podcast.

Episode Title and Number: Life in the Vast Plains (Season 3, Episode 6)

Episode Summary: Sara and Daniel interview author David Heska Wanbli Weiden to discuss his novel *Winter Counts*, a gritty crime novel taking place on the Lakota Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. This episode explores ReadICT category 10, a book set in the Great Plains, and how place can be inextricably linked to one’s identity, especially for Native Americans.

Guest Bio:

![Photo credit: Aslan Chalom](photo)

David Heska Wanbli Weiden, an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Nation, is the author of *Winter Counts* (Ecco, 2020), which was nominated for an Edgar Award for Best First Novel. The book was the winner of the Anthony, Thriller, Lefty, Barry, Macavity, Spur, High Plains, Electa Quinney, Tillie Olsen, CrimeFest (UK), Crime Fiction Lover (UK) Awards, and was longlisted for the Hammett Prize, Shamus Award, Colorado Book Award, Reading the West Award, and the VCU Cabell First Novel Award. The novel was a New York Times Editors’ Choice, an Indie Next pick, main selection of the Book of the Month Club, and named a Best Book of the year by NPR, Amazon, Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, The Guardian, and other magazines.

(Source: Davidweiden.com)

Topic Index:

- David talks about *Winter Counts* 2:44
- Landmarks mentioned in the novel 5:50
- The Major Crimes Act of 1885 and its impact on Native American nations 13:45
- Native history, culture and politics in *Winter Counts* 19:45
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Books recommended in this episode:
Should It Be Told? By Agnes Downey McPeak
A Mother’s Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy by Sue Klebold
Woman of Light by Kali Fajardo-Anstine
A Complicated Kindness by Miriam Toews
Please Join Us by Catherine McKenzie
The Terminal List by Jack Carr
Finding Me by Viola Davis
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Game On: Tempting Twenty-Eight by Janet Evanovich
Bats of the Republic: An Illuminated Novel by Zachary Thomas Dodson
Louisiana Longshot: A Miss Fortune Mystery by Jana DeLeon
The Deep by Rivers Solomon
Fables (Graphic Novel Series) by Bill Willingham

Special Thanks to our reading community on Facebook and callers to our book review hotline for sharing their recommendations!
Resources & Links:
About David Heska Wanbli Weiden

David’s Website
Instagram: @wanbliweiden
Twitter: @WanbiWeiden

Metropolitan State University of Denver Faculty Bio
Regis University Faculty Bio

Books by David Heska Wanbli Weiden

Spotted Tail (2019)
Winter Counts (2020)
Wisdom Corner (release date TBA)
Native Noir anthology (release date TBA)

Short Stories by David Heska Wanbli Weiden
“Skin.” Midnight Hour anthology, 2021.

For more of David’s writing, visit davidweiden.com/other-writing
Authors mentioned in this episode
Craig Johnson
Stephen Graham Jones
Louis Owens
Tommy Orange
Rebecca Roanhorse
Morgan Talty
Rebecca Makkai

Native American Social Justice Organizations
Native American Rights Fund
Lakota People’s Law Project
One Spirit Group (Pine Ridge)
Sicangu Community Development Corporation

More resources can be found at davidweiden.com/book-clubs
Other Resources

Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota

Rosebud Sioux (Lakota) Tribe: History & Culture

Pine Ridge Reservation: Home of the Oglala Sioux (Lakota) Tribe

National Geographic: The heartbreaking, controversial history of Mount Rushmore (October 28, 2020)

Treaty of Fort Laramie (1868)

Carhenge (Alliance, NE)

Casa Bonita (Denver, CO)

5280.com: Inside the reopening of Casa Bonita with Trey Parker and Matt Stone (July 2023)

Wall Drug (South Dakota)

Major Crimes Act of 1885

Associated Press: US has treaty duty to fund policing on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, judge rules (May 26, 2023)

Topic.com: The trap-house busting vigilante of Pine Ridge Reservation (Issue No. 21, 2019)

Mother Jones: A fistful of dollars (November/December 2010)

PBS.org: Lakota accounts of the Massacre at Wounded Knee

PBS.org: Six CEOs and no operating room: the impossible job of fixing the Indian Health Service (December 10, 2019)

Cronkite News: Healing through culture: increasing access to Native American practices to treat mental health (November 4, 2022)

Psychology Today: Authentic equity: honoring indigenous healing practices (May 6, 2023)

South Dakota Public Broadcasting: Waniyetu Wowapi (winter count)

Dakota News Now: Winter weather posing particular challenges for South Dakota’s reservations (December 23, 2022)

Reckon.news: As Native Americans contend with more extreme weather, some die waiting for help (January 11, 2023)

Crime Reads: Why indigenous crime fiction matters (September 9, 2020)

Crime Reads interview: Shop talk: David Heska Wanbli Weiden takes his craft seriously and his coffee very strong (March 3, 2022)

TCKpublishing.com: How to use a beat sheet to plot your novel or screenplay
Matador Network: [How Native American chefs are working to decolonize indigenous cuisine (July 13, 2020)]

The Sioux Chef

Food & Wine Magazine: [Only Nebraskans know the Runza (September 29, 2017)]

Full Transcript: [http://wichitalibrary.org/BooksMore/Podcast/Pages/rrr_s3e6.aspx]

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