

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)

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

Reception of the novel 22:15

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Virgil's healing journey 31:14

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Frybread and other foods 47:00

Resources for learning more about native social justice 52:29

David's upcoming projects 55:30

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: [@WanbliWeiden](#)

[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

"Turning Heart." Reprinted in the *Best American Mystery and Suspense 2022* anthology.

"Sundays." *Never Whistle at Night*, anthology coming September 2023.

"Casa Bonita." Excerpt from *Winter Counts. The Colorado Book*, coming in 2024.

"Colfax and Havana." *Denver Noir* anthology, 2022.

"Hooch." *The Perfect Crime* anthology, 2022.

"Skin." *Midnight Hour* anthology, 2021.

"Spork." *Transmotion*, 2016.

"Sourtoe." *Tribal College Journal*, 2014.

"Winter Counts." *Yellow Medicine Review*, 2014.

"Saltines." *Criminal Class Review*, 2012.

"Apollo." *Foundling Review*, 2010.

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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