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Wicked Dew



Synopsis

Winner of the Native Writers Circle of the Americas First Book Award in 2008, Wicked Dew collects Steve Russell's published and previously unpublished poetry under one cover. Steve Russell is Cherokee, born and raised in Oklahoma, an upbringing reflected in his poetic voice. He dropped out of high school in the 9th grade. After serving in the US Air Force from 1964 to 1968, Russell acquired three university degrees and is retired from a first career as a trial court judge in Texas and a second career as a professor at Indiana University. He is currently a columnist for Indian Country Today and still sits as a judge when assigned and works with graduate students as emeritus faculty. His poems have appeared in Moccasin Telegraph, South Dakota Review, the Messenger Journal of Cherokee Literature, and numerous anthologies. His previous book, Sequoyah Rising, is published by Carolina Academic Press. His academic publications have appeared in Sweden, Great Britain, India, and The Netherlands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have loved these stories for years and I'm delighted Judge Russell has finally put them out in a collection. When a story sticks with you over the years and moves you the same ways it did when you first read it, that's a good sign. I have remembered The Year They Drilled For Oil that way. The story takes you into the dust filled days of bad smells, sour air, wilting trees, and finally a secret smile as it is blessedly over. Was there enough money to explain it to the pear trees? The avenging golden-cheeked warbler in Eleven Mile Hill, the men not named Juan Valdez, the disruptive grandmother at graduation, each of these has stayed with me for years because Russell drives straight into the United States of America with a poet's clear-eyed observation, a lawyer's sharp wit and a poor boy's wonder. There is an American Indian perspective that is elemental to the United States, like oil, history and lies. Russell brings his Oklahoma raising to New York, DC, academia, Albuquerque, and gives the reader another way to see the world, not so different but bent lightly into an unexpected arc. I did not know that naked hunger in a poet's words could bend my mind as lightly as a butterfly. I recommend.

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