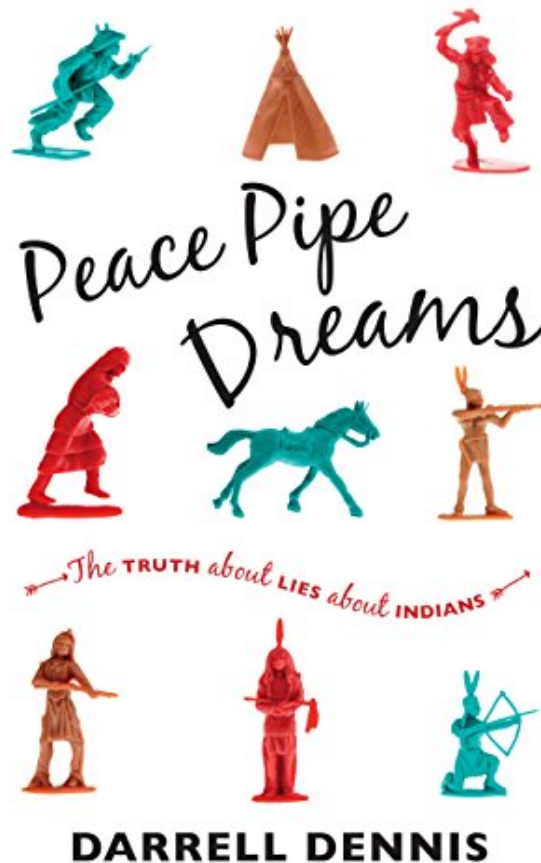


PEACE PIPE DREAMS: THE TRUTH ABOUT LIES ABOUT INDIANS BY DARRELL DENNIS



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About the Author

Darrell Dennis is a playwright, broadcaster, actor and comedian. His one-man show *Tales of an Urban Indian* was nominated for two Dora Awards and was produced for multiple tours across North America. His feature film adaptation of *Tales* was one of thirteen international screenplays accepted to the Sundance Screenwriters Lab. He is also known for his role in two CBC TV series; he played Frank Fencepost on *The Rez*, and Brian Potter on *Northwood*. Dennis also co-wrote and hosted the groundbreaking CBC Radio program *Revision Quest*, which ran for four seasons and won the prestigious New York Festival Award. As a comedian, he has performed in televised galas at the Winnipeg Comedy Festival and the Just For Laughs Festival. Dennis currently lives in Los Angeles, California.

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PEACE PIPE DREAMS: THE TRUTH ABOUT LIES ABOUT INDIANS BY DARRELL DENNIS PDF

Darrell Dennis is a stereotype-busting, politically incorrect Native American/Aboriginal/Shuswap (Only he's allowed to call himself an "Indian." Maybe. Under some circumstances). With a large dose of humour and irreverence, he untangles some of the truths and myths about First Nations: Why do people think Natives get free trucks, and why didn't he ever get one? Why does the length of your hair determine whether you're good or bad? By what ratio does the amount of rain in a year depend on the amount of cactus liquor you consume?

In addition to answering these burning questions, Dennis tackles some tougher subjects. He looks at European-Native interactions in North America from the moment of first contact, discussing the fur trade, treaty-signing and the implementation of residential schools. Addressing misconceptions still widely believed today, Dennis explains why Native people aren't genetically any more predisposed to become alcoholics than Caucasians; that Native religion doesn't consist of worshipping rocks, disappearing into thin air, or conversing with animals; and that tax exemptions are so limited and confusing that many people don't even bother.

Employing pop culture examples, personal anecdote and a cutting wit, Darrell Dennis deftly weaves history with current events to entertain, inform and provide a convincing, readable overview of First Nations issues and why they matter today.

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Myth Conceptions

By L. King

In a book that's funny, angry, laid back and informative at the same time, Darrel Dennis rants, riffs and puns his way through a minefield of harmful stereotypes that have been held about North America's largest invisible visible minority. His first subject is the problem of politically correct naming of First Nations, and even he has run into problems. "Indian" for the non-native is totally un-PC, as one of my children recently and vociferously reminded a tour guide, but acceptable within native communities, and at times even embraced, especially as the term is legally embedded into treaty rights with Canadian and American governments.

One of Dennis' big issues is stereotypes about drugs and alcohol. Natives are statistically no better or worse than northern Europeans in this respect, nor is there a genetic disposition. Another is the too high suicide rate in native populations attributed to structural social and economic disadvantages. No less important is his discussion abuse of native children and their communities perpetrated by the system of residential schools which occurred in Canada, the US and Australia. This is a shameful episode in our collective history on this continent that needs to be acknowledged.

There's lots of good information and argumentation. Recommended for personal reading and school libraries where it should be put on display so that both teachers and students get a chance to see it and read it. The argumentation excellent, but it could be improved with a more extensive bibliography of sources used instead of Dennis' advice to just look it up on the Internet. Many of the examples of legal inequality that Dennis covers are Canadian, so possibly he should consider an edition with more Americanized references for the US market.

Recommended!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Learn the truth about Indians in Canada, written in an easy to understand and enjoyable style

By Heather Pearson

Who are these people we live amongst. They live in towns, in cities and on reserves. I say that we, the foreign arrivals to this land, live among them even though they are the smaller population. We used to call them Indians but now they are referred to as First Nations, Metis and Inuit, or by the proper name of their Nation. They were here first and choose to share their land with us, the newcomers.

With this being true, why is it that so many Canadians know so little about our neighbours and much of what we claim to know is wrong. What little I learned in school was from fourth grade and comprised the role that some un-named Indians helped Laura Secord carry word to General Brock about an invasion across the Niagara River. Wow, not much. Probably something was discussed about teepees and long houses and buffalo, but that was the end of it.

Talk about inadequate.

As an adult, I'm much wider read and have learned quite a bit, but still feel that I am missing the majority of this significant history. Darrell Dennis's book *Peace Pipe Dreams: The Truth about Lies About Indians* has cleared up a lot of mis-information and gaps that I had. This book should be required reading in all Canadian civics classes as well as for all persons desiring to become Canadian citizens.

It is well written, with clear explanations and examples where required. Topics that could have been heavy

and sleep inducing are kept to manageable bites of information. The depth of details should be suitable for most readers. Source information is cited for those wanting further information.

Peace Pipe Dreams answered many questions I had about the First Nations and many more that I didn't even know I needed to ask. It also had me laughing at un-expected points; who knew that Darrell is such a funny guy (he is a comedian when he's not a writer).

I highly recommend this book for all Canadians who love their country. It's important to learn the truth about where it came from.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

I can't wait to finally have time to read this ...

By Rävén

I can't wait to finally have time to read this book. I know the author who works with Native Voices at the Autry!

See all 3 customer reviews...

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