

Delve Deeper into Tribal Justice

A film by Anne Makepeace

This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Robert Surratt of the San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Tribal Justice*.

In Tribal Justice, two Native American judges reach back to traditional concepts of justice in order to reduce incarceration rates, foster greater safety for their communities and create a more positive future for youth. By addressing the root causes of crime, they are modeling restorative systems that are working. Mainstream courts across the country begin to take notice.

ADULT NONFICTION

Fletcher, Matthew. *Facing the Future: The Indian Child Welfare Act at 30*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 2009. The history of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is a tangle of legal, social, and emotional complications. Some state courts have found unusual legal arguments to avoid applying the law, while some states have gone beyond the terms of the Act to provide greater protections for Indian people. This collection brings together for the first time a multidisciplinary assessment of the law—with scholars, practitioners, lawyers, and social workers all offering perspectives on the value and importance of the ICWA.

Hayward, Robert. *The Thirteenth Step: Ancient Solutions to the Contemporary Problems of Alcoholism and Addiction Using the Timeless Wisdom of the Native American Church Ceremony*. Las Vegas, NV: Native Son Publishers, 2011. *The Thirteenth Step* is a powerful and true recounting of the life of Robert Hayward. Hayward's life story weaves the real and the mysterious, the personal and the universal into a uniquely gripping story of self-discovery

through his spiritual awakening within the Native American Church; an awakening that saved his life. *The Thirteenth Step* documents, for the first time ever, ancient ceremonies that have been conducted in the same manner for thousands of years, yet never shared with outsiders. Through Hayward's own journey of redemption, the reader will experience the words, wisdom, and teachings of The Native American Church, and encounter a spirituality that until now, has been accessible only to those born into the traditional Native American culture.

Luna-Firebaugh, Eileen. *Tribal Policing: Asserting Sovereignty, Seeking Justice*. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2007. What does it mean to be a tribal police officer? What are the complexities of that role? And how do tribal communities, tribal police departments, and other law enforcement agencies collaborate to address the alarmingly high rate of violent crime in Indian country? Author Eileen Luna-Firebaugh answers these and other questions in this well-documented text about tribal government and law enforcement in America.

Treuer, David. *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey through Reservation Life*. New York, NY: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2012. Celebrated novelist David Treuer has gained a reputation for writing fiction that expands the horizons of Native American literature. In *Rez Life*, his first full-length work of nonfiction, Treuer brings a novelist's storytelling skill and an eye for detail to a complex and subtle examination of Native American reservation life, past and present.

Vine, Deloria. *American Indians, American Justice*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 1983. Baffled by the stereotypes presented by Hollywood and much historical fiction, many other Americans find the contemporary American Indian an enigma. Compounding their confusion is the highly

publicized struggle of the contemporary Indian for self-determination, lost land, cultural preservation, and fundamental human rights a struggle dramatized both by public acts of protest and by precedent-setting legal actions. More and more, the battles of American Indians are fought and won in the political arena and the courts.

ADULT FICTION

Alexie, Sherman. *Ten Little Indians: Stories*. New York: Grove Press, 2003. Nine poignant and emotionally resonant stories about Native Americans who find themselves at personal and cultural crossroads. Even as they often make us laugh, Sherman Alexie's stories are driven by a haunting lyricism and naked candor that cut to the heart of the human experience.

Earling, Deborah Magpie. *Perma Red*. New York, NY: BlueHen Books, 2002. Louise White Elk dreams of both belonging and escape, and of discovering love and freedom on her own terms. But she is a red-haired, tough, and beautiful temptation, and at least three men, each more dangerous than the other, want to control and possess her: Police Officer Charlie Kicking Woman, who struggles between worlds; charismatic but scary Baptiste, who refuses to yield to anyone; and Harvey Stoner, who owns nearly everything.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Round House*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2012. The National Book Award-winning novel *The Round House* transports readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. It is an exquisitely told story of a boy on the cusp of manhood who seeks justice and understanding in the wake of a terrible crime that upends and forever transforms his family. Riveting and suspenseful, arguably the most accessible novel to date from the creator of *Love Medicine*, *The Beet Queen*, and *The Bingo Palace*,



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Erdrich's *The Round House* is a page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction—at once a powerful coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a tender, moving novel of family, history, and culture.

Hale, Janet Campbell. *The Jailing Cecelia Capture*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 1987. Cecelia Capture Welles, an Indian law student and mother of two, is jailed on her thirtieth birthday for drunk driving. Held on an old welfare fraud charge, she reflects back on her life on the reservation in Idaho, her days as an unwed mother in San Francisco, her marriage to a white liberal, and her decision to return to college. This mixed inheritance of ambition and despair brings her to the brink of suicide.

McCarthy, Cormac. *Blood Meridian or the Evening Redness in the West*. New York: Vintage Books, 1992. Based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s, it traces the fortunes of the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennessean who stumbles into the nightmarish world where Indians are being murdered and the market for their scalps is thriving.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Ellis, Deborah. *Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids*. Toronto: Greenwood Books, 2013. For two years, author Deborah Ellis traveled across the United States and Canada interviewing Native children. The result is a compelling collection of interviews with children aged nine to eighteen. They come from all over the continent, from Iqaluit to Texas, Haida Gwaai to North Carolina, and their stories run the gamut—some heartbreaking; many others full of pride and hope.

Krasner, Barbara. *Native Nations of the Southwest*. Mankato, MN: The Child's

World, 2016. This book introduces the main native nations of the southwestern United States, including the Apache, Hopi, Navajo, Pima, Pueblo, Quechan, Tohono O'Odham, and Zuni. The nations' historical significance, cultural highlights, and contemporary life are all examined through respectful text and well-chosen photos. Additional features to enhance comprehension include informative sidebars, detailed maps, a glossary of key words and phrases, sources for further research, and a section on how to say common phrases in the native language.

Leatherdale, Mary Beth. *Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices*. Toronto: Annick Press, 2014. A powerful and visually stunning anthology from some of the most groundbreaking Native artists working in North America today. Truly universal in its themes, *Dreaming in Indian* will shatter commonly held stereotypes and challenge readers to rethink their own place in the world. Divided into four sections, 'Roots,' 'Battles,' 'Medicines,' and 'Dreamcatchers,' this book offers readers a unique insight into a community often misunderstood and misrepresented by the mainstream media.

Russell, Craig. *Alternatives to Prison: Rehabilitation and Other Programs*. Philadelphia, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2007. This book helps in understanding various alternatives to incarceration including: rehabilitation, community service, boot camps, day reporting, house arrest, and other alternatives to prison.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Carvell, Marlene. *Sweetgrass Basket*. New York, NY: Dutton Children's Books, 2005. In prose poetry and alternating voices, Marlene

Carvell weaves a heartbreakingly beautiful story based on the real-life experiences of Native American children. Mattie and Sarah are two Mohawk sisters who are sent to an off-reservation school after the death of their mother. How Mattie and Sarah protect their culture, memories of their family life, and their love for each other makes for a powerful, unforgettable historical novel.

Elkeles, Simone. *Leaving Paradise*. Woodbury, MN: Flux, 2007. Teen Caleb Becker got drunk at a party, got behind the wheel, and hit Maggie Armstrong. After a year in jail, Caleb returns home, but nothing is the same in his community. Caleb and Maggie are both shunned, until the truth of what really happened the night of the accident emerges, and everything changes once again.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Touching Spirit Bear*. New York, Harper Collins Publisher, 2001. The Napra Nautilus Award-winning novel *Touching Spirit Bear* is a poignant coming-of-age story of a boy who must overcome the effects that violence has had on his life. After severely injuring Peter Driscal in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given another option: attend Circle Justice, an alternative program that sends juvenile offenders to a remote Alaskan Island to focus on changing their ways.

Yeahpau, Thomas. *X-Indian Chronicles: The Book of Mausape*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2006. In stories and poems mixing magical realism with unflinching reality, a young American Indian author offers a raw, graphic view of life on a reservation, a place where bitterness toward the white man lingers, where the enemy often appears in liquid form, where misogyny often raises its ugly head, and where a new generation's pop culture infiltrates ancient beliefs.

