



Legacy

Waubgeshig Rice

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Legacy is the first novel by Waubgeshig Rice, whose collection of stories;Midnight Sweatlodge was the Gold Medal Winner of the Independent Publisher Book Awards, 2012 for Adult Multicultural Fiction. Set in the 1990s, Legacy deals with violence against a young Indigenous woman and its lingering after-shocks on an Anishinaabe family in Ontario. Its themes of injustice, privilege and those denied it, reconciliation and revenge, are as timely as today's headlines.

‘With Legacy, Waubgeshig Rice places himself squarely at the forefront of the next wave of Native authors. Bold, envisioned storytelling. A hands down pleasure to read.’ – Richard Wagamese

Legacy Details

Date : Published September 1st 2014 by Theytus Books Ltd.

ISBN :

Author : Waubgeshig Rice

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, Canada

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From Reader Review Legacy for online ebook

Sue says

Why I read it:

Because it's Waub's book! This is now in our local library system if you want to check it out.

What I thought:

The ending of the first chapter was devastating and I took some time after that chapter to calm my heart before finishing the rest of the book. There were moments during reading that I was in awe that a real life person I know had imagined/researched/written/published this thoughtful, detailed and powerfully honest novel but otherwise it was really easy to be totally immersed in the story, and care for the characters. I really appreciated the care Waub takes in getting it right so that readers can both celebrate resilience while understanding the longstanding impact of trauma.

Rick says

I thought Legacy was a strong first novel by Waub Rice. I have been looking forward to reading this book for awhile, since Waub grew up in the same area where I now live. I found his depiction of Rez life, racism, and the legacy of residential schools to be powerful. I also thought the exploration of the varied ways families and individuals deal with sudden tragedy offered insights for all readers. Any criticisms of the book I might offer would really just be quibbling, considering the overall strength of the characterization and themes in the book. The central theme of the legacy each of us leaves behind was thought-provoking and intelligently explored. Overall, Legacy is well-worth reading.

Janet says

In the middle of it. It is stunning. I've made such a personal connection to it in my own life, my own childhood that was marked by profound loss and that I've been trying to come to terms with ever since. The following quote is resonating in my head and heart as I write this. A quote from Maria, reflecting on the death of her parents and murder of her sister. Maria is 20 and in the midst of a healing ritual in the woods with her Aunt....."I don't know if I ever really been happy since I was a kid. I feel like the lost important people in my life were taken from me, and the rest just abandoned me. And then I feel like I'm just feeling sorry for myself, and I get angry again. At myself." Prior to this her Aunt made this profound observation....."that's how we Healed. We shared our struggles in sacred places like the sweat lodge. But all those traditions were taken away from us. What were we supposed to do? Drink the pain away? It's a quick fix but it works only temporarily.....I want you to remember you didn't cause these problems. You just need to know that you control how you handle them.....but before you do this you have to talk....." I'm only on page 95 but already I can tell this one is going to stay with me forever....."

This when I had finished it:

Really good books tell stories that can't be neatly wrapped up in a bow - much like life. This is about loss and grief, despair, restitution, and, ultimately, the legacy that you create. I couldn't put it down.....and feel the need to read again moments after I have turned the last page and read the last word....

Louise says

Such a sad, sad story, from beginning to end.

Stephanie says

Beautiful story about a family of First Nations people that are still coping after the loss of their parents from a drunk driving accident. Each chapter is one of the 5 kids, each at different points in their lives and how they will determine the legacy they want to leave.

Sheri says

A very powerful, moving story. I have wanted to read this book since reading about it's impending publication a few years ago. I finally bought a copy from Goodminds.

This heart wrenching novel is told from various family member's point of view about their struggles. An Anishinaabe family can't seem to escape their legacy. It is one of violence, injustice and prejudice. This family can not seem to break free from the horrors of their life. The results of losing their family members are crippling. When it seems that everything is going to be alright, something else happens to ruin their chances. This is what life looks like when trauma occurs.

John says

Waubgeshig Rice's Legacy is a powerful debut novel, a most worthy follow up to his first book, the four story collection *Midnight Sweatlodge*, which I've previously discussed. Legacy, although showing a few first novel weaknesses, cements Waubgeshig Rice's position as a Canadian author to watch, and, more importantly, as a storyteller to be paid attention.

As I mentioned, Legacy has a few first novel problems -- perhaps a few every novel problems. The vocabulary a few times feels like Rice is straining for a 25 cent word, for example. But the problems are few and forgivable. Rice has mad a fine start on transitioning from the short story to the novel. That having been said, Legacy has much in common with *Midnight Sweatlodge* beyond the obvious Anishinaabe setting.

The story of the Gibson family in Legacy is in many ways a series of separate but deeply interlaced and interdependent short stories. Where *Midnight Sweatlodge* is a set of thematically linked short stories, Legacy is the interlaced story of a single Anishinaabe family dealing with the implications of Legacy, all the legacies of human existence, from the legacies our younger selves leave our future selves, to the sins and violations of the father and the mother visited upon the sons and daughters to the seventh generation. While Legacy is specifically about Anishinaabe life and death in the modern world, in the City and on the Reserve, Rice isn't

swinging a clumsy ethnic sledgehammer.

Legacy is a story obviously close to Rice, a young, social media savvy writer/journalist who has succeeded in Ottawa, apparently without compromise, while keeping at least one foot firmly back home on the shore of Georgian Bay. But Legacy is not a novel "for" Anishinaabe or Indigenous People any more than Gordon Pinsent's classic "The Rowdyman" is a film for Newfoundlanders or H. G. Wells' Ann Veronica is a novel "for" Edwardian British shop girls. That I feel the need to point it out perhaps says something unfortunate about lingering "mainstream" Canadian views of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit art and literature.

I see no point in summarizing Rice's story. The best summary is always to say "Read it!" Instead, a metaphor. Legacy is, to put it simply, an illustration of how five siblings play the hands they've been dealt in life, and the hands they themselves deal by living. Truly, the hands they begin with are all very similar, but the game of life always has a multitude of hidden players, and outcomes are always unpredictable. Near the end, on page 189, someone says to someone (no spoilers here):

You had a chance to redefine that legacy.

That sentence is, I think, key to understanding Rice's novel. We are rarely given the chance in life to redefine a legacy. If the chance comes, we must seize it. Maybe I have included a spoiler.

-- Read the rest of my review of "Legacy" at: <http://behindthehedge.wordpress.com/2...>

Jackie says

Rice illustrates what injustice feels like for the people in his novel. This is a sad tale of the intertwining paths of an Anishinaabe family. I loved the local feeling the writing gave off. This story takes place mainly on a First Nation on the north shore of Lake Huron. You can feel the author's love of the area. This book will fill you with hope and it will fill you with despair. As the title implies, it will ask you what legacy do you want to leave.

Miss says

Je peux d'ores et déjà vous dire que l'auteur n'est pas avare de détails. Tout est décrit avec une extrême précision faisant en sorte que vous pouvez imaginer chaque scène, chaque geste sans trop de difficulté. Bien que beaucoup de lecteurs adorent cette délicate attention, malheureusement pour moi, cela fit en sorte que le récit était parfois lourd à mes yeux.

Chronique : <http://bookivores.over-blog.com/2017/...>

Laura says

this book wasted no time in getting real. exploring a family of siblings and their ways that they individually and together approached family tragedy. an important read in light of the many missing and murdered indigenous women.

Claire Thompson says

Interesting seeing the different trajectories of of siblings from one family. Thought provoking. The ending surprised me.

Reyhani says

I would recommend this book to all; especially to those of us who have ever wondered about Aboriginal Canadians' present and history. Very powerful book.

Greg Olson says

This was a difficult book to read. In some ways it reminded me of Dana Lone Hill's equally powerful *Pointing With Lips*. Both books take an unflinching look at contemporary Native families navigating life on and off their home reserves. Like Lone Hill, Rice makes no apologies for his characters, the choices they make and the lives they lead, nor does he portray them as hapless, even when they are victims. Rice has pointed out on social media that, while *Legacy* is bleak, it carries a sense of optimism and hope. I agree. Waubgeshig Rice has a ways to go as a writer, but he is still young and the stories he has to tell are important ones that need to be written and read. I look forward to reading his future books and watching him grow as a writer and story teller.

Florence Lyon says

This is a heart wrenching story about a family affected by tragedy and loss. Through each chapter, we witness the before and after lives of the Gibson siblings. We see a promise of hope as they are helped by relatives and friends in easing their suffering, rising from substance abuse while rediscovering Aboriginal healing traditions and proceeding on their own paths. We see hope for the future, for their children as we witness some gradually using their experience and newfound skills to help others in their communities.

I enjoyed the parts describing the beauty of nature and the refreshing Georgian Bay area. I appreciated learning about the herbs and plants gathered and used during ceremonies.

I admit to being brought to tears while reading parts of this book on the morning commute in Ottawa, covertly wiping tears. It's a compelling read from a talented young Canadian author. Recommended.

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