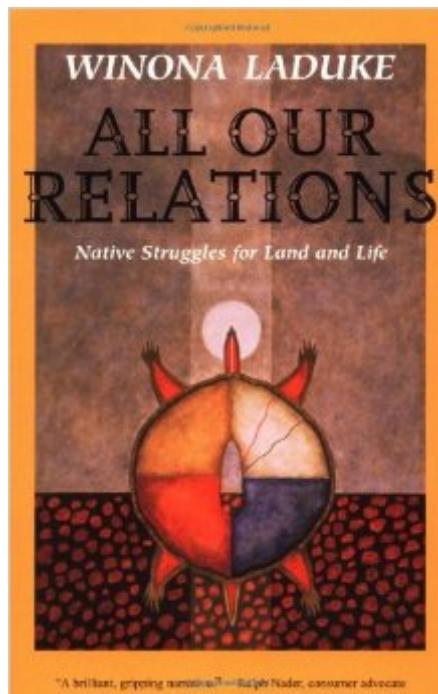


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All Our Relations: Native Struggles For Land And Life



Synopsis

This eagerly awaited non-fiction debut by acclaimed Native environmental activist Winona LaDuke is a thoughtful and in-depth account of Native resistance to environmental and cultural degradation. LaDuke's unique understanding of Native ideas and people is born from long years of experience, and her analysis is deepened with inspiring testimonies by local Native activists sharing the struggle for survival. On each page of this volume, LaDuke speaks forcefully for self-determination and community. Hers is a beautiful and daring vision of political, spiritual, and ecological transformation. All Our Relations features chapters on the Seminoles, the Anishinaabeg, the Innu, the Northern Cheyenne, and the Mohawks, among others. "One of the pleasures of reading All Our Relations is discovering the unique voices of Native people, especially Native women, speaking in their own Native truths." -Women's Review of Books "...as Winona LaDuke describes, in moving and often beautiful prose, [these] misdeeds are not distant history but are ongoing degradation of the cherished lands of Native Americans." -Public Citizen News "...a rare perspective on Native history and culture." -Sister to Sister/S2S "Hers is a beautiful and daring vision of political, spiritual, and ecological transformation. All Our Relations is essential reading for everyone who cares about the fate of the Earth and indigenous peoples." -Winds of Change "No ragtag remnants of lost cultures here. Strong voices of old, old cultures bravely trying to make sense of an Earth in chaos." -Whole Earth

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Spoon-fed news by large media corps, few were aware that Winona LaDuke ran for the vice presidency under Ralph Nader in the 2000 elections. Even fewer know that she is also a Native American eco-philosopher with a critical perspective on the health and future prosperity of America. All Our Relations is particularly instructive, in that LaDuke surveys the entire American landscape (and by landscape, I am not merely referring to the political landscape), showing the deep connections that exist between local cultures, their environments, and the corporate-governmental giants that often compromise their health. Although LaDuke has specifically focused on Native American communities, the stories are engaging and instructive for Americans in general. Informative, powerful, and transformative, LaDuke here provides an antidote for our increasing alienation from the land and biota that sustain us. A must read for any conscious American.

LaDuke quickly, compassionately, and thoroughly takes us by the hand and introduces us to a good number of various Native American landscapes, into many clever, tough portals of indigenous survival ingenuity...and clearly illustrates what is good for 'them' is good for anyone living currently on planet earth. Our common domicile's fragility is met with good, strong protectiveness and tenacious, wise intent from the active folks LaDuke interviews. It is especially humbling and informing - her style of writing reaches in and takes you calmly down a harrowing road from which you cannot forget the lessons you learned: quite a feat. Definitely a keeper for your bookshelf, and a good one to recommend and give to graduating kin, enviro-friends, and the unsuspecting uninitiated. Wow. Informative, insightful, just plain brilliant.

La Duke, the 1996 (and hopefully 2000) US Green Party nominee for the Vice-Presidency, has written one of the most enlightening and comprehensive accounts of the consequences of environmental injustice in the United States. Combining historical context with descriptions of the landscape of contemporary struggles, La Duke shows how First Peoples in North America have been not only forcibly evicted from their land, but how their current homes are serving as the dumping ground for the detritus of White Consumerism. Each chapter tells the stories of various tribes who have been burdened by nuclear waste, poor agricultural lands, and polluted water. In each case native peoples have developed strong organizations to fight for social justice. The insightful analysis presented here makes one excited by the prospect of a LaDuke Vice-presidency. She is much more aware of the importance of community action and limiting corporate power to protect the environment than the current US Vice President whose administration abandoned any pretext of environmentalism during the course of misguided policies that know-towed to the wishes of corporate polluters.

I think in light of other reviews it makes some sense to underscore that this book is not about environmentalism in the traditional sense, but about the connection between the environment and people. LaDuke's great contribution to the environmental debate is her all-too-rare understanding that there is a connection between the earth and the people that live on it. Not in some hocus-pocus new age way, but a real, scientific connection between people (particulary Native people, because of their lifestyle) and polution. My lone criticism is the charicaturization of corporations in this book. GM does pollute, but consumers are also to blame. Nevertheless, LaDuke is undoubtedly correct in connecting the dots between industrialization, militarism and environmental pollution and she does so in a way that few authors have ever done. A fantastic book that stands in stark contrast to Earth in the Balance as a real manifesto for true environmentalists.

La Duke is an inspiration to young environmentalists all over the world irrespective of their lineage. This book clearly resonates her strong beliefs and convictions about environmental issues through numerous case examples. However, I was hoping that there would be more in terms of research inquiry about the causes of environmental injutsice. Why is it that tribal leadership, and often a large constituency within a tribe, often repudiate much of the environmental ethic which is presented here? It is easy to dismiss this question by saying that the government or corporations are to blame, but I personally think that there is more at play than just external manipulation. I would urge La Duke to respond to some of her critics within the Native American establishment in her next work -- which I am sure will be just as compelling and positively provocative. Also it may be useful to have a chapter responding to environmental historians such as Calvin Luther Martin. I think a good work responding to these revisionists is needed from a seasoned and erudite Native voice such as La Duke.

To think this woman could be our Vice President today. Most people don't even know that Winona LaDuke ran for Vice President on Ralph Nader's ticket. An articulate and passionate writer, LaDuke presents an awareness of the plight of America unsurpassed by any other. She knows what's wrong. She knows what needs to be done. She knows who is doing the work, how and why. She presents her advocacy as human, heartfelt and real. I learned things about what is happening to this country that I would never have known otherwise. You certainly don't see it in the news, and you don't learn about it in school. We're in trouble, folks, and it's not too late to do something about it. With more power she could have made such a difference! But she continues to work on the issues,

and it is so important that more people are aware of her work. Please, please, please read this book. It is the most important book you will read all year.

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