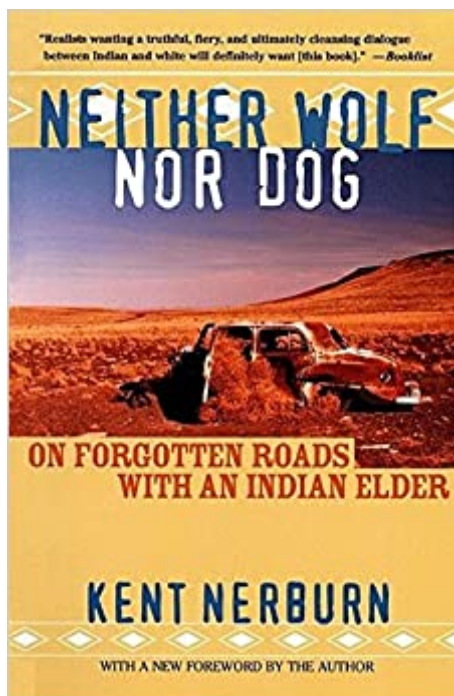


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# Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads With An Indian Elder



## Synopsis

In this 1996 Minnesota Book Award winner, Kent Nerburn draws the reader deep into the world of an Indian elder known only as Dan. It opens a world of Indian towns, white roadside cafes, and abandoned roads that swirl with the memories of the Ghost Dance and Sitting Bull. Readers meet vivid characters like Jumbo, a 400-pound mechanic, and Annie, an 80-year-old Lakota woman living in a log cabin. Threading through the book is the story of two men struggling to find a common voice. Neither Wolf nor Dog takes readers to the heart of the Native American experience. As the story unfolds, Dan speaks eloquently on the difference between land and property, the power of silence, and the selling of sacred ceremonies. This edition features a new introduction by the author. #147;This is a sobering, humbling, cleansing, loving book, one that every American should read. #151; Yoga Journal

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Non-Indian theologian and editor Nerburn attempts to "bridge the gap between the world into which I had been born and the world of a people I had grown to know and love" by narrating the fascinating toils and truths of Dan, a 78-year-old Lakota man. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Readers looking for another red-man-departs-wise-words-to-white-man-to-lessen-white-man's-guilt will be disappointed by the tone and content of this work. Realists wanting a truthful, fiery, and,

ultimately, cleansing dialogue between Indian and white will definitely want it. Nerburn reluctantly agrees to a meeting with Dan, a Lakota elder who asks him to construct a book from a motley collection of notes, diatribes, and political and social commentaries written over seven decades and kept in an old shoe box. Void of the hypocrisy rampant in many books that have whites adopting the ways of "the great spirit," Nerburn exposes the real truth, which whites are unwilling to face: that in "the hunger to own a piece of the earth, we had destroyed the dreams and families of an entire race." Joined by a dog named Fatback, Dan gives Nerburn the ride of his life as they cross the vast Midwest in Dan's Buick. Along the way, Dan alternates between rage and melancholy, and Nerburn between shame and confusion. Nerburn unintentionally touches nerve after nerve and elicits an almost unbearable flood of anguish and despair. The truth revealed in this book will be difficult for most whites to face, but it is painfully necessary if healing is ever to begin. Kevin Roddy --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants a deeper understanding of Native American thinking. It explains what cultural differences are really like for whites, and natives. I learned a lot, as well as had some questions answered. What do Native American's really think of us? Why did innocent people have to die? There are lots of thought provoking questions to chew on on how to reconcile being white and practicing Native American spirituality. A must read for anyone wanting a good read and wild adventure. I felt like I was right there with the characters. Such a beautifully written story. Can't wait to read more by the author.

I have been telling my friends about this book (and the two sequels--The Wolf at Twilight and The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo). They are really important books for us all to read. Perhaps most of us already know that the early American Government essentially 'stole' the land from the Native American tribes who had been on the land for many many generations, and we have heard at least some of the stories of the bad events that went down. And many of us already know that the Native American ways are much more sensitive to the natural world than most of us are today... But Kent Nerburn's narrative gives a power and perspective to the 'facts' of the story. The story is told by Nerburn, the white 'outsider', and also through the eyes of Dan, the Lakota elder, who comes to trust Nerburn with his deepest observations and Native American perspective. I read the 3 books in quick succession. They are compelling books, and they will stay with me for a long time.

The words, thoughts, and story of Dan, the old Lakota man who Nerburn chronicles in this book, are

the strength of this book. Dan was a very smart, insightful and remarkable fellow. Although the majority of what he talks about concerned his own experiences and the history of the Lakota there is plenty of really good advice and commentary on life for anyone who will read and heed. But in reading you will get a perspective on American history that is hard to find elsewhere. If nothing else it will give some insights into the mindsets and traditions of the Lakota. And even if that is all you get from this book it will be time well spent. The only reason I didn't give it five stars is although Nerburn does a great job capturing the mood and events as well as the dialogue, he puts a little too much of himself into the narrative. And when he does it usually came off as him complaining. But that is the story's only flaw and it is a small one.

Kent Nerburn has written a powerful book that avoids the traps of a white guy writing about Indians and is true to both sides of the divide. He fulfilled his promise to Dan, the Lakota elder who was the reason for the whole project. It is Dan's book. Mr. Nerburn did his utmost to stay out of the way and tell a powerful and moving story. Being a white guy, Dan's assessment of white people often made me squirm. His anger is never far from the surface, but his intent was to inform, rather than shame. As white readers, we can assume the shame of genocide without his help. But feeling shamed isn't the issue. Catching a glimpse into the emotions of a culture Whites have done their level best to utterly destroy is something that should be taught in schools everywhere. People need to understand. In a nutshell, "Neither Wolf Nor Dog" nails the difference between White and Red: White people care about freedom; Red people care about honor. There is so much to be learned if we open our minds and our hearts. I don't think you can read this book without feeling a seismic shift in your core.

Several friends have mentioned this book over the years and so I finally decided to read it. It is a truly wonderful read and a book that I highly recommend everyone read. A movie is being made as well and I cannot wait until it is done so I can see it. I am sure it will get more people interested in this very important book. Be warned, you will want to immediately read the other two books in the series as well. Both are also great, but this one is the best in my opinion.

Very sensitive oral presentation of Nerburn's calling to listen to a Lakota tribal elder explanation of Indian life past and present clarifying who the Indian is today and who they were in the past. Also incorporates an explanation of the native ways such as listening more than talking and what is valued most in their culture. Told with fictional names other than the author's and told with purpose

to explain in the native voice and not as 'Dan' perceives as the white perception or version. Notable is the poverty of the reservation but seemingly countered by a strong family connection and the purpose of the book is to dispel misperceptions of native American life. You develop a real bond and respect for each individual that Nerburn encounters particularly Dan.

Enjoyed this book. A kinda-sorta documentary, fictionalized characters, insight on being a white man trying to understand Indians, a particular elder to be more precise, "Native Americans", First People. It's a journey, an education. I followed it up with *The Wolf @ Twilight*. I have to say one must have an interest in this subject, to hang in there. I read them both pretty quickly, for me. Got a little anxious reading some parts as it feels redundant, but that is part of the learning process, listen-repeat- listen again- Got It? I think I Got It and now I'm ready to read book 3! *The Girl Who Sang to The Buffalo*.

Nerburn shares his experience of meeting with an elder native who has asked him to write the book he has been pondering for most of his life. Dan, the elder, through story and experience s, helps this author and the readers to understand a culture that most of us have only learned about through fictional movies. In the identification with another culture, there is a seed of hope that, perhaps, today's societies may understand the other. It should be required reading in every U.S. school curriculum.

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