



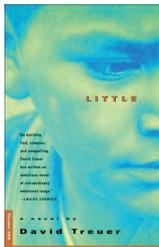
SUMMARY

Part memoir, part journalism, part history, this is novelist David Treuer's first full-length foray into the world of nonfiction, where his novelist sensibilities take *Rez Life* far beyond a clinical description of the confusing and generally misunderstood reservation system.

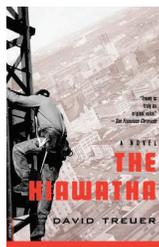
He covers the arrival of the European colonists to the birth and growth of the modern day system like all good histories should be told – as a story, infused with interviews with neighbors and anecdotes about growing up on Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota.

Through Treuer's own experiences and his extensive research, the reader begins to understand reservations as complex and ever-changing, and as an important entity on emotional, legal, and spiritual levels. We leave him knowing that – like the book itself – 'rez life' will always be resistant to any kind of categorization, and the people who live it are here to stay.

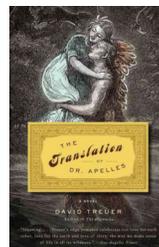
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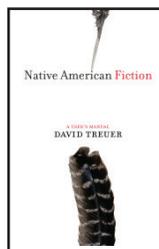
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An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life

"Powerful, important reading."
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Rez

Life

DAVID TREUER

Rez Life:
An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life

by David Treuer

ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS

Rez Life



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What problems do communities face on the reservations? Off? How have they changed?
2. What does 'sovereignty' mean for reservations, emotionally and legally, and what does it mean to you? Do all these definitions match? Should they?
3. What place do memories have in the book and in our own lives?
4. Where is the line between memory and history? Is it distinct? Is it important?

5. Have reservation issues touched your life? If so, how? If not, why not?
6. Family and heritage are clearly important in *Rez Life*. How do your relationships with your family and heritage dictate the manner in which you live your life? Does this feel like a responsibility or a blessing? Both?
7. Change is almost as hard to affect as it is to accept. What changes have reservations undergone since their inception? Do you think reservations should attempt more change? Where and why?
8. What role does the United States Government play in reservation politics?
9. Nationalism and a kind of isolationism are both themes in *Rez Life*. How do reservations provide community and support and how do they take it away?
10. Do you find the end of the book is ultimately uplifting? Why or why not?

ABOUT DAVID TREUER



Raised on Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota, the son of a holocaust survivor and a tribal court judge, David Treuer attended Princeton University after graduating from Bemidji high school. There he worked with authors Toni Morrison, Paul Muldoon, and Joanna Scott.

After graduating in 1992 he published his first novel, Little, in 1995, which was a recipient of a Minnesota Book Award. Since then he has had work published in Esquire, TriQuarterly, The Washington Post, the LA Times, and at Slate.com.

He has a PhD in anthropology and is a professor of literature and creative writing at USC, splitting his time in between Leech Lake Reservation and Los Angeles. His third novel, The Translation of Dr. Apelles, was named the Best Book of the Year by The Washington Post, TimeOut, and City Pages. He is the recipient of the Pushcart Prize, and fellowships from the NEH, Bush Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Learn more about the author at www.davidtreuer.com



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