



## One Stick Song

By Sherman Alexie

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Poetry. Native American Studies. "Whether slyly identifying irony as a white man's invention, or deftly moving from prose-like multilayered narratives to formal poetry and song structures, this fifth collection from poet, novelist, and screenwriter Alexie demonstrates many of his skills. Most prominent perhaps is his ability to handle multiple perspectives and complex psychological subject matter with a humor that feeds readability: 'Successful non-Indian writers are viewed as well-informed about Indian life. Successful mixed-blood writers are viewed as wonderful translators of Indian life. Successful Indian writers are viewed as traditional storytellers of Indian life.' Poems such as the title one, a haunting chant for lost family, and 'The Theology of Cockroaches,' do some vivid scene setting: '...never/woke to a wall filled with cockroaches/spelling out my name, never/stepped into a dark room and heard/the cockroaches baying at the moon.' At times Alexie allows his language, within the lineated poems almost exclusively, to slacken into cliché. The opening, multipart prose piece 'The Unauthorized Biography of Me' is arguably the strongest in the book, juxtaposing roughly chronological anecdotes with 'An Incomplete List of People I Wish Were Indian' and the formula 'Poetry = anger x imagination.' Other poems tell of 'Migration, 1902' and 'Sex in Motel Rooms'; describe 'How It Happens' and 'Second Grief'; and develop 'The Anatomy of Mushrooms.' Alexie's latest is as powerful and challenging as his previous excellent books, and should only add readers to his ever-widening audience"—*Publishers Weekly*.

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## One Stick Song By Sherman Alexie Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Whether slyly identifying irony as a white man's invention, or deftly moving from prose-like multilayered narratives to formal poetry and song structures, this fifth collection from poet (The Business of Fancydancing; etc.), novelist (Indian Killer; etc.) and screenwriter (Smoke Signals) Alexie demonstrates many of his skills. Most prominent perhaps is his ability to handle multiple perspectives and complex psychological subject matter with a humor that feeds readability: "Successful non-Indian writers are viewed as well-informed about Indian life. Successful mixed-blood writers are viewed as wonderful translators of Indian life. Successful Indian writers are viewed as traditional storytellers of Indian life." Poems such as the title one, a haunting chant for lost family, and "The Theology of Cockroaches," do some vivid scene setting: "...never/ woke to a wall filled with cockroaches/ spelling out my name, never/ stepped into a dark room and heard/ the cockroaches baying at the moon." At times Alexie allows his language, within the lineated poems almost exclusively, to slacken into cliché. The opening, multipart prose piece "The Unauthorized Autobiography of Me" is arguably the strongest in the book, juxtaposing roughly chronological anecdotes with "An Incomplete List of People I Wish Were Indian" and the formula "Poetry = anger x imagination." Other poems tell of "Migration, 1902" and "Sex in Motel Rooms"; describe "How it Happens" and "Second Grief"; and develop "The Anatomy of Mushrooms." Alexie's latest is as powerful and challenging as his previous excellent books, and should only add readers to his ever-widening audience. (Sept.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Alexie, author most recently of the short story collection *The Toughest Indian in the World* [BKL Ap 1 00], expresses an anger as large and molten as the earth's core; but like the earth, which conceals its heat beneath forests and oceans, he cloaks his with mordant humor and a rough-and-ready lyricism. In this bracing collection of poems and poem-tight prose pieces, he targets lies and hypocrisy. Alexie mocks the mealy-mouthed cant of the politically correct and, in a lashing poem titled "Open Books," the arrogance of a certain ilk of poet, then, elsewhere, tempers his rage with tenderness. His hard-hitting poems are loosely knit and suitable for performance, but his prose pieces are constructed as diabolically as barbed wire, especially the clever yet emotionally resonant essay "The Warriors," in which musings on baseball segue into thoughts on friendship and such frank disclosures as his confession that although television once had him convinced that white women were sexier than brown women, life taught him the truth about love. *Donna Seaman*  
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From Kirkus Reviews

Distinguishing poems from prose in this mixed-genre collection is simple: the poems feature line breaks and copious repetition. To readers who require further elucidation, Alexie offers this inane equation: "Poetry = Anger x Imagination." Even if that were true, much of his anger about the mistreatment of Indians (*not*, he firmly declares, "Native Americans") in America is diluted (divided?) by sentimentality. The material, often about reservation life, appears to be autobiographical, although Alexie seems to enjoy challenging readers' perceptions of reality—especially white readers. "Why Indian Men Fall in Love with White Women" (a frequently recurring theme, incidentally) is set in a donut shop, although "it wasn't / a donut shop but something else entirely." The desired effect of such a gesture must be irony—Alexie avers elsewhere that "Indians recognize irony when [they] see it." But the author himself must not see it when he sarcastically rebukes a critic for inquiring about the oral tradition ("It doesn't apply at all because I typed this. And when I'm typing, I'm really, really quiet"), since almost none of the poems works effectively on the page. This is the stuff of slams. Still, there is much welcome humor in Alexie, and many of the prose passages about his

reservation childhood are imbued with a touching lyricism. One wishes for more poems like the fine, if ponderously titled, "A Poem Written in Replication of My Father's Unfinished Novel Which He Would Read to His Children Whenever He Was Drunk." Novelist Alexie (*The Toughest Indian in the World*, p. 400, etc.) ultimately has two things to declare in this book: he is a poet and an Indian. But the evidence supports only the latter claim. -- Copyright © 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mike Jones:**

The reason? Because this One Stick Song is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who else write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

#### **James Hose:**

One Stick Song can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing One Stick Song although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

#### **Jamie Treat:**

The book untitled One Stick Song contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy way. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice study.

#### **Maurice Conner:**

That publication can make you to feel relax. This book One Stick Song was bright colored and of course has pictures on there. As we know that book One Stick Song has many kinds or type. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Private eye Conan you can read and believe that you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are make you bored, any it offers you feel happy, fun and rest. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading which.

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