



## Tiopa Ki Lakota

*D. Jordan Redhawk*

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Wi Ile Anpo is a girl born to Lakota warrior, Wanbli Zi. But the tribal shaman has a vision that Anpo is wicakte - a two-souled person embodying both male and female spirits. She will become a great warrior and a great asset to her people. During a vision quest, Anpo finds that her life will be intertwined with the lives of a sacred white buffalo and a pale skinned woman with yellow hair, yet both will be wounded by her actions. Kathleen McGlashan Stevens has been captured by renegade Indians, and thrust into a terrifying and foreign culture where she must learn to survive. The sacred white buffalo brings Anpo and Kathleen together. As their relationship develops, Anpo wonders: Can she change her destiny, or is she fated to wound the woman she loves?

## Tiopa Ki Lakota Details

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Author : D. Jordan Redhawk

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# From Reader Review *Tiopa Ki Lakota* for online ebook

## Astrid says

One of my favorite lesfic books

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## Jenna says

Wonderful. Absolutely wonderful. This has just become my favorite historical novel, my favorite historical romance, one of my favorite lesbian romances, and one of my favorite books in general. There are very few novels that I ever reread, but this will be one of them. The attention to detail here is second to none.

The story borrows a number of familiar themes and uses some well-trodden formulas, but they all work together spectacularly to tell a tale that's greater than the sum of its parts. The use of spirit visions to build tension was particularly well done, and I found myself responding to them with the same hope, excitement and fear with which Anpo faced them. The danger hung over the story like an axe poised to fall, and each page that passed without the vision coming true heightened the suspense until I felt certain I was developing stomach ulcers.

The main characters, as well as the supporting characters, are very easy to relate to. Having a Native American as the protagonist was inspired, and I really found myself loving her. This is not because she was so likable as a person, though she was. It's not because she was a woman or a lesbian, though she was both of those. It's because she felt real and spoke with a voice I've never heard before, a voice that was uniquely her own.

Ms. Redhawk's research was constantly evident, but it never felt as though she were trying to prove she'd read reams of historical data. There weren't any of those long, unwieldy chunks of text filled with dates and facts from a Wikipedia page; there were people living, working and interacting as I imagine members of the Lakota tribe really would have, and I was able to visit a time and place I'll never be able to see in real life.

Criticisms are hard to find here. I will say that the frequent use of Lakota words made reading a bit awkward on a Kindle, and I found myself keeping the book open on both my phone and my Kindle in order to have quick access to the glossary on one while reading on the other. Still, that's a very small price to pay. The language did add a layer of immersion that would've been lacking without it. When I return to the book in years to come and find the words familiar, that familiarity will wrap around me like a blanket.

Coming into this book, I'd read several depressing novels in a row and played an unbelievably dark video game (*Life is Strange*) and, knowing what I do about Manifest Destiny, I was nervous that I was in for yet another traumatic night of crying in a corner. I'm not going to discuss the resolution, but if you share similar concerns, click the spoiler to find out whether or not those concerns are justified. (view spoiler)

A final thought here. I do think that being gay helped me get a little bit more out of the story; visiting a culture that valued gay and transgender people because of who they were, rather than despite it, was like dreaming of a better future that happened hundreds of years in the past. Even so, I do not feel that being gay is in any way necessary to find the beauty in this book. That beauty is there for everyone who can feel, and the words sing a song that anyone can understand.

5 stars. Read this book.

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### **Dide says**

I almost didn't buy this book because I thought I had read it before but am I glad I didn't make that mistake. I would have deprived myself of such beautiful story of love and culture. I have a number of books by the author and truly enjoy them. This was no exception. A very soul encouraging read.

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### **Larry Garrett says**

A great love story set around the time of the American Revolution, of a white women captured by Indians and given into slavery to a warrior who had seen her in a vision quest. It follows their life from before they meet until the vision is full filled with all the twist and turns of trying to make what you see become what you want. A very good explanation of how the Indians lived and believed and the love they came to share. Very well written with the correct amount of emotion to keep you reading but still be believable. Well worth the read!

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### **Genny says**

This book was difficult to put down. The Lakota world seems true to the times and pulls you in. It shows community building and beliefs and ceremony that bind the tribe. The characters grab you and make you want to know what happens next. It also contains a wonderful love story that builds slowly and ends happily. I highly recommend it.

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### **M says**

Good, very good indeed.

The author has demonstrated an impressive ability to present an authentic environment for a classic love story. The story has a quality about it that feels mythical in it's portrayal of the Native Americans - demonstrating their honour and wisdom at every turn.

How much of this is a fantasy, I'm not sure - apologies I know very little about Native American culture although I feel that might be about to change - I have a vague memory of a film with Dustin Hoffman, where as a member of a Native American tribe there was a character that, while male, lived as a woman and this was totally accepted. Would it be possible (if unlikely) for a woman to be born and identified as "male" from birth?

Whatever the historical realty, this is a well craft and compelling novel that I enjoyed thoroughly.

I am looking forward to reading more of her back catalogue.

### **Renee says**

As a lesbian and a Lakota woman, when I first heard about the book, I was torn: excited to see a Native lesbian lead and worried because the writer already used the word "shaman" and I knew it was taking place in the 1700s. With that and knowing the author was not Native herself and already making the "shaman" error, I wondered how many more mistakes would be made and if once again, I'd see another disrespectful atrocity committed against my people in a work of fiction.

I was honestly surprised to the depth of research the author did and her honest commitment to try to not offend by leaving out intimate details of our ceremonies, dances, etc. Use of the word, "shaman", was perhaps the author's only fatal flaw, which I tried to overlook for the sake of the story.

My people have holy people and medicine people, no shamans. The use of the word alone is enough to send most Native people (including myself) into a blinding rage.

Aside from that, her only other error seems to be from lack of further knowledge of the Lakota language. Female Lakota all have "Win" at the end of their name, short for "winyan". This is so when they are spoken of, it is understood, that the person is a female.

The story itself was great with enjoyable dialogue and memorable characters. It has become my favorite lesbian romance so far.

I am still hoping for an all Native love story, but for marketability purposes, I can see where I may never see that in any work of fiction whether it's in a novel or on tv. However, to see a Native as the hero and the "dominant" one for lack of a better word was refreshing. I don't think I could have handled another Dances with Wolves knock off...

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### **Cristina says**

This is a beautiful love story between two women who belong to two different worlds. I have loved every part of this book: the characters - main and secondary - the plot, the drama, etc. Everything has been fascinating and captivating. It's been long time since I've enjoyed a book like this.

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### **M says**

Amazing story! Could not put this book down. Redhawk did a wonderful job of making the reader get lost into the world of the Lakota. I greatly enjoyed learning of the Lakota culture and about wicakte, the two-souled person. The love story of Anpo and Kathleen, two people destined to be together, was just WOW! This book is among my Top 5

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## **Procrastireader says**

Slow start, the good parts started at about the last hundred pages of the book, then I couldn't put it down. Give this book a chance :)

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## **Stephanie says**

This was sooo good! I loved reading this. Literally could not stop. So interesting reading about the Lakota Native Americans. Reading about their reverence for two spirited people.

I will warn you though-i cried....hard. I don't usually enjoy that too much. This was an exception!!

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## **Enigma says**

I was given a copy of this book by the author and I loved it. It has a place of honor on my book shelf, not just because I know the person whose mind crafted the tale, but because the book is a compelling read, a pretty little microcosm that teases the senses and leaves you haunted with little fantasies of what happens next...

I'd like to see more of this author's work on my local bookshelves. Having read other works that are sadly out of print, I would love to be able to indulge myself in the luxury of a pen-and-ink volume, instead of browsing the net for a quick fix.

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## **Cheri says**

Very, very good. I read the online version and enjoyed it thoroughly. Will read it again.

This was featured on episode 10 of Cocktail Hour. <http://www.cocktailhour.c-spot.net/ar...>

\*\*\*Updated\*\*\*

8/30/12 - I'm starting the published version today.

I freaking love this book. I'd go 4.5. Really. I do love it. I'm rereading the online version again now.

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## **Val says**

Wow. I would strongly recommend not starting this book until you have several hours of free time on your hands. It is an understatement to say it is a page turner. This story is gripping and the reader is quickly and emotionally pulled into the lives of these characters. When a novel can make one feel love and loss so acutely, it is truly a work of art.

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**Shawn Cady says**

This book is really incredible, probably Redhawk's best piece of work. The characters have depth and a real sense of the time. The Lakota are portrayed as realistic as possible and the story is a fast, entertaining read. The end of the book begs for a part two, but we know there are no happy endings for this noble tribe. Damned good literature.

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