

# Three Day Road

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the stories of an american indian sniper caught up in the great war and of his aunt one of the last cree indians to live off the land are intertwined in a mesmerising journey as they travel home over three days this beautiful haunting novel begins as niska is reunited with her nephew xavier after he returns from the horrors of the first world war as she slowly paddles her canoe on the 3 day journey to take him home travelling through the stark but stunning landscape of northern canada their respective stories emerge niska is the last cree indian woman living off the land in canada she recalls her memories of growing up among her kinsfolk of trying to remain true to her ancestors and traditions in a rapidly changing world xavier joined the war reluctantly at the urging of his only friend elijah a cree boy raised in the reservation schools elijah and xavier honed their hunting skills as snipers in the horrors of the trenches and the wastes of no man s land but as the war continues they react in very different ways to the never ending carnage around them niska realises that in the aftermath of war xavier s very soul is dying but will the three day journey home be enough to help him find hope again

before telling about the novel it is important to note that Joseph Boyden the author of the present novel had grown up listening to the war stories from his maternal grandfather and an uncle from his father's side both of these relatives had fought in the first world war and they had several stories to tell the author's father was also a second world war veteran and he had many stories to tell his son the present novel according to the author draws upon several family narratives

set in Canada and the battlefields of France and Belgium *Three Day Road* is a mesmerizing novel told through the eyes of Niska a Canadian Ojibwe woman living off the land who is the last of a line of healers and diviners and her nephew Xavier at the urging of his friend Elijah a Cree boy raised in reserve schools Xavier joins the war effort shipped off to Europe when they are nineteen the boys are marginalized from the Canadian soldiers not only by their native appearance but also by the fine marksmanship that years of hunting in the bush has taught them both become snipers renowned for their uncanny accuracy but while Xavier struggles to understand the purpose of the war and to come to terms with his conscience for the many lives he has ended Elijah becomes obsessed with killing taking great risks to become the most accomplished sniper in the army eventually the harrowing and bloody truth of war takes its toll on the two friends in different profound ways intertwined with this account is the story of Niska who herself has borne witness to a lifetime of death the death of her people in part inspired by the legend of Francis Pegahmagabow the great Indian sniper of World War I *Three Day Road* is an impeccably researched and beautifully written story that offers a searing reminder about the cost of war

*Catching the Torch* examines contemporary novels and plays written about Canada's participation in World War I exploring such works as Jane Urquhart's *The Underpainter* and the stone carvers Jack Hodgins's *Broken Ground* Kevin Kerr's *Unity 1918* Stephen Massicotte's *Mary's Wedding* and Frances Itani's *Deafening* the book considers how writers have dealt with the compelling myth that the Canadian nation was born in the trenches of the Great War in contrast to British and European remembrances of WWI which tend to regard it as a cataclysmic destroyer of innocence or Australian myths that promote an ideal of outsize masculinity physical bravery and white superiority contemporary Canadian texts conjure up notions of distinctively Canadian values tolerance of ethnic difference the ability to do one's duty without complaint or arrogance and the inclination to show moral as well as physical courage paradoxically Canadians are shown to decry the horrors of war while making use of its productive cultural effects through a close analysis of the way sacrifice service and the commemoration of war are represented in these literary works *Catching the Torch* argues that iterations of a secure mythic notion of national identity one that is articulated via the representation of straightforward civic and military participation work to counter current anxieties about the stability of the nation state in particular

anxieties about the failure of the ideal of a national character

transitional justice and national inquiries may be the most established means for coming to terms with traumatic legacies but it is in the more subtle social and cultural processes of memory work that the pitfalls and promises of reconciliation are laid bare this book analyzes within the realms of literature and film recent australian and canadian attempts to reconcile with indigenous populations in the wake of forced child removal as hanna teichler demonstrates their systematic emphasis on the subjectivity of the victim is problematic reproducing simplistic narratives and identities defined by victimization such fictions of reconciliation venture beyond simplistic narratives and identities defined by victimization offering new opportunities for confronting painful histories

fiction that reconsiders challenges reshapes and or upholds national narratives of history has long been an integral aspect of canadian literature works by writers of historical fiction from early practitioners such as john richardson to contemporary figures such as alice munro and george elliot clark propose new views and understandings of canadian history and individual relationships to it critical evaluation of these works sheds light on the complexity of these depictions the contributors in national plots historical fiction and changing ideas of canada critically examine texts with subject matter ranging from george vancouver s west coast explorations to the eradication of the beothuk in newfoundland reflecting diverse methodologies and theoretical approaches the essays seek to explicate depictions of the historical in individual texts and to explore larger questions relating to historical fiction as a genre with complex and divergent political motivations and goals although the topics of the essays vary widely as a whole the collection raises and answers questions about the significance of the roles historical fiction has played within canadian culture for nearly two centuries

the lives of four unlikely friends intersect on the backstreets of new orleans living amid poverty and violence these fragile heroes of the american underclass redefine our notions of family redemption and love

a haunting novel of love identity and loss from the internationally acclaimed author of three day road beautifully written and startlingly original through black spruce takes the considerable talents of canadian novelist joseph boyden to new and exciting heights this is the story of two immensely compelling characters will bird a legendary cree bush pilot who lies comatose in a remote ontario hospital and annie bird will s niece a beautiful loner and trapper who has come to sit beside her uncle s bed broken in different ways the two take silent communion in their unspoken kinship revealing a story rife with heartbreak fierce love ancient feuds mysterious disappearances murders and the bonds that hold a family and a people together from the rugged canadian wilderness to the drug fueled glamour of the manhattan club scene this is thrilling atmospheric storytelling at its finest

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