NATIVE AMERICAN AUTHORS and WORKS

**The Woman Who Owned the Shadows**; 2017, 213 pages
Paula Gunn Allen

Ephanie Atencio is in the midst of a breakdown. Her husband has left her and she is unable to take care of her children. She leaves New Mexico for San Francisco where she begins again the process of remembering and finding a way to herself, relying no longer on men, but on her primary connections to the spirit women of her people and to the women of her own world.

**The Orenda**; 2014, 450 pages
Joseph Boyden

Boyden’s mesmerizing third novel sits at the confluence of three civilizations in seventeenth-century Ontario. The narration alternates among Bird, a Wendat (Huron) warrior; Snow Falls, the young Iroquois captive he adopts; and Père Christophe, a thoughtful, intelligent, Jesuit missionary. Truly epic, what unfolds is constantly illuminating, sometimes comic, always entrancing, and all-too-human.

**Perma Red**; 2002, 288 pages
Debra Magpie Earling

Dreaming of both escape and belonging on the Flathead Indian Reservation in the 1940s, Louise White Elk, a determined and beautiful young woman, comes of age as she is pursued by three dangerous men who will do anything to possess her--police officer Charlie Kicking Woman, the charismatic Baptiste, and Harvey Stoner, who owns nearly everything around him.

**The Soul of an Indian**; 2003, 64 pages (non-fiction)
Charles Alexander Eastman

Upon completing his education at Boston University School of Medicine, Charles Eastman accepted an appointment to a South Dakota Indian reservation, where he was the only doctor available to the victims of the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee. Eastman brings to life the rich spirituality and morality of the Native Americans as they existed before contact with missionaries and other whites.
Tracks; 1989, 226 pages
Louise Erdrich

Set in North Dakota when Indian tribes were struggling to keep what little remained of their lands, *Tracks* is a tale of passion and deep unrest. Over the course of ten crucial years, as tribal land and trust between people erode ceaselessly, men and women are pushed to the brink of their endurance—yet their pride and humor prohibit surrender.

Give Me Some Truth; 2018, 432 pages
Eric Gansworth

Carson, a senior in high school with musical talent, and Maggi, who just moved back to the Rez with her family, are almost instantly attracted to each other. They share a dream of making their mark on the world. Told in alternating perspectives, this novel places readers right at the center of young adult lives. Gansworth’s characters are rich and well developed, landing his book on NPR’s Best Books of the Year List.

Pushing the Bear: After the Trail of Tears; 1998, 256 pages
Diane Glancy

In a novel that “retains the complexity, immediacy, and indirection of a poem,” Glancy brings to life the Cherokees’ 900-mile forced removal to Oklahoma in 1838 and gives us “a powerful witness to one of the most shameful episodes in American history” (Los Angeles Times).

The Dance Boots: Stories; 2012, 152 pages
Linda LeGarde Grover

In this stirring collection of linked stories, Linda LeGarde Grover portrays a Native American community struggling to follow traditional ways of life in the face of a relentlessly changing world. With its attention to the Ojibwe language, customs, and history, this unique collection of riveting stories illuminates the very nature of story-telling. It is a winner of the Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction. It is also the 2015 One Book, One Community pick in Duluth, Minnesota.
**Crazy Brave**; 2013, 176 pages
Joy Harjo

In this transcendent memoir, grounded in tribal myth and ancestry, music and poetry, Joy Harjo details her journey to becoming a poet. Born in Oklahoma, the end place of the Trail of Tears, Harjo grew up learning to dodge an abusive stepfather by finding shelter in her imagination, a deep spiritual life, and connection with the natural world. Harjo is the first Native American Poet Laureate of the United States.

**Where the Dead Sit Talking**; 2018, 288 pages
Brandon Hobson

With his single mother in jail, Sequoyah, a fifteen-year-old Cherokee boy, is placed in foster care with the Troutt family where he meets Rosemary, two years his senior. They bond over their shared Native American background and tumultuous paths through the foster care system. As their feelings deepen, the precariousness of their lives and the scars of their pasts threaten to undo them both.

**Power**; 1999, 248 pages
Linda Hogan

When sixteen-year-old Omishto, a member of the Taiga Tribe, witnesses her Aunt Ama kill a panther—an animal considered to be a sacred ancestor of the Taiga people—she is suddenly torn between her loyalties to her Westernized mother, who wants her to reject the ways of the tribe, and to Ama and her traditional people, for whom the killing of the panther takes on grave importance.

**Shell Shaker**; 2001, 228 pages
LeAnne Howe

Red Shoes, the most formidable Choctaw warrior of the eighteenth century, was assassinated by his own people. Why does his death haunt Auda Billy, an Oklahoma Choctaw woman accused in 1991 of murdering Choctaw Chief Redford McAlester? With the help of Shell Shaker, a powerful spirit, The Billy women move between the known details of Red Shoes' life and the riddle of McAlester's death.
**The Fast Red Road**; 200, 326 pages  
Stephen Graham Jones

*The Fast Red Road* is a novel which plunders, in a gleeful, two-fisted fashion, the myth and pop-culture surrounding the American Indian. It is a story fueled on pot fumes and blues, borrowing and distorting the rigid conventions of the traditional western. Indians, cowboys, and outlaws are as interchangeable as their outfits. *Jones* blazes a trail through the puppets and mirrors of myth, meeting the unexpected at every turn, and proving that the past can and must be changed.

**Green Grass, Running Water**; 1994, 469 pages  
Thomas King

Strong, sassy women and hard-luck hardheaded men, all searching for the middle ground between Native American tradition and the modern world, perform an elaborate dance of approach and avoidance in this magical, rollicking tale by Cherokee author Thomas King. Three people are coming to the Blackfoot reservation for the Sun Dance and the small town of Blossom will never be the same again...

**Last Woman Standing**; 1997, 299 pages  
Winona LaDuke

Native American activist LaDuke, a Harvard-educated member of the Anishinaabe Nation, has given us a powerful first novel that presents the lives of seven generations of Anishinaabe (Ojibwe/Chippewa) from initial contact with whites in the 1860s to a surprisingly utopian peak in conditions early in the next century. LaDuke's characters are as vital and fully realized as any in a Louise Erdrich novel.

**House Made of Dawn**; 1968, 198 pages  
N. Scott Momaday

A young Native American, Abel has come home from war to find himself caught between two worlds. The first is the world of his grandfather’s, wedding him to the ancient rites and traditions of his people. But the other world—modern, industrial America—pulls at Abel, demanding his loyalty and claiming his soul.
**Sundown;** 1988, 329 pages  
John Joseph Mathews

Challenge Windzer, the mixed-blood protagonist of this compelling autobiographical novel, was born in Oklahoma Territory at the beginning of the twentieth century. Named by his father to be "a challenge to the disinheritors of the Osage people," Windzer finds it hard to fulfill his destiny despite oil money, a university education, and the opportunities presented by the Great War. Critics have praised *Sundown* as a vignette into the Native American past.

**The Sharpest Sight;** 1992, 272 pages  
Louis Owens

When Attis McCurtain, a half-Choctaw Native American and Vietnam veteran, is killed, deputy sheriff Mundo Morales investigates while the victim's younger brother begins a spiritual journey that also leads him to the truth. "Louis Owens has the storyteller’s gift of cutting to the heart of human drama. *The Sharpest Sight* should be read by all who seek to understand the American Indian search for identity." -James Welch, author of *Winter in the Blood.*

**Trail of Lightning;** 2018, 352 pages  
Rebecca Roanhorse

While most of the world has drowned beneath the sudden rising waters of a climate apocalypse, Dinétah (formerly the Navajo reservation) has been reborn. The gods and heroes of legend walk the land, but so do monsters. Maggie Hoskie is a Dinétah monster hunter, a supernaturally gifted killer. When a small town needs help finding a missing girl, Maggie is their last best hope. But what Maggie uncovers about the monster is more terrifying than anything she could imagine.

**Monkey Beach;** 2002, 384 pages  
Eden Robinson

A young Native American woman remembers her volatile childhood as she searches for her lost brother in the Canadian wilds in an extraordinary, critically acclaimed debut novel. Winner of the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, it is evocative, moving, haunting, and devastatingly funny.
Ceremony; 2006. 243 pages
Leslie Marmon Silko
Tayo, a young Native American, has been a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II, and the horrors of captivity have almost eroded his will to survive. His search for comfort and resolution leads him back to the Indian past and its traditions, to beliefs about witchcraft and evil, and to the ancient stories of his people. The search itself becomes a ritual, a curative ceremony that defeats the most virulent of afflictions—despair.

Blue Ravens; 2016, 300 pages
Gerald Vizenor
Vizenor weaves an engrossing historical portrayal of Native American soldiers in World War I. Blue Ravens is set in the days leading up to the Great War in France, and continues in combat scenes at Chateau-Thierry, Montbrehain, and Bois de Fays. It is a story of courage in poverty and war, a human story of art and literature from a recognized master of the postwar American novel and one of the most original and outspoken Native voices writing today.

Winter in the Blood; 1975, 160 pages
James Welch
During his life, James Welch came to be regarded as a master of American prose, and his first novel, Winter in the Blood, is one of his most enduring works. The narrator of this beautiful, often disquieting novel is a young Native American man living on the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana. Sensitive and self-destructive, he searches for something that will bind him to the lands of his ancestors but is haunted by personal tragedy, the dissolution of his once proud heritage, and Montana’s vast emptiness. Winter in the Blood is evocative and unforgettable.