



Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell

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ISBN: 9781620148396 (Hardcover)

*Age Range: 9 - 13 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: 4 -7 (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

When Regina's Umpqua tribe is legally terminated and her family must relocate from Oregon to Los Angeles, she goes on a quest to understand her identity as an Indian despite being so far from home.

Regina Petit's family has always been Umpqua, and living on the Grand Ronde Tribe's reservation is all ten-year-old Regina has ever known. Her biggest worry is that Sasquatch may actually exist out in the forest. But when the federal government enacts a law that says Regina's tribe no longer exists, Regina becomes "Indian no more" overnight—even though she lives with her tribe and practices tribal customs, and even though her ancestors were Indian for countless generations.

Now that they've been forced from their homeland, Regina's father signs the family up for the federal Indian Relocation Program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world in her neighborhood on 58th Place. She's never met kids of other races, and they've never met a real Indian. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism, personally and toward her new friends.

Meanwhile, her father believes that if he works hard, their family will be treated just like white Americans. But it's not that easy. It's 1957 during the Civil Rights era, and the family struggles without their tribal community and land. At least Regina has her grandmother, Chich, and her stories. At least they are all together.

In this moving middle-grade novel drawing upon Umpqua author Charlene Willing McManis's own tribal history, Regina must find out: Who is Regina Petit? Is she Indian, American, or both? And will she and her family ever be okay?

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REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ “What begins as a story of displacement quickly turns into a story of childhood fun and antics colored by Umpqua culture and the racial tensions of the civil rights movement set in the lively and culturally diverse city of L.A.” —[Booklist](#), **starred review**

★ “In this book based on McManis’s own childhood experiences, the family is fictionalized to show how older children might react to being uprooted and plopped down in a foreign world. . . Readers will be moved as they become invested in Regina’s predicament. Is she still Indian, American, or both—and what does that mean for her and her family?” —[School Library Journal](#), **starred review**

“It stands apart from anything I’ve read before because it is about the US government’s termination of the Grand Ronde Tribe, and others, too. . . As far as I know, *Indian No More* is the first book for children that is about the life of a child and her family when their tribe was terminated and then, relocated. The story in *Indian No More* is one reason why it is unique. Another is the team that brought it forth.” —[Dr. Debbie Reese, American Indians in Children’s Literature](#)

“I love *Indian No More*. It is a beautiful and important book, honest and moving. Regina’s story faces a shocking injustice directly, creating a powerful historical novel that should be included in every school’s curriculum.” —**Margarita Engle, Newbery Honor and Pura Belpré-winning author of *The Surrender Tree, Drum Dream Girl, and Enchanted Air***

“In this honest depiction of an Indian family’s struggle to survive the termination of their tribe, we see how ‘Indian stories speak truth’ through the eyes of a gifted young narrator. Courageous and wise, Regina Petit navigates life away from home with a triumphant dignity that celebrates her heritage and everything she has to offer the world.” —**Guadalupe García McCall, award-winning author of *Summer of the Mariposas***

“A poignant look at the termination era and its devastating effects. Regina is a determined young girl who faces huge life changes with incredible strength. It’s an important story, and a compelling debut.” —**Supriya Kelkar, author of *Ahimsa and Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame***

“The straightforward, easygoing flavor of this narrative is shot through with deadpan, subversive humor. Its many ironies lie not in authorial commentary but in the events themselves. . . This is a book we need — distinctive in voice, accessible in style, and told with an insider’s particular power.” —[The Horn Book](#)

"A heartfelt and meditative exploration of an often-undiscussed time in recent U.S. history, *Indian No More* wades through complex issues of identity and culture and the preservation of both. Thoughtful and purposeful in its education of readers, McManis and Sorell’s collaboration

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sits proudly within the pantheon of middle-grade books as one fully written and edited by women of the Native Nations." —[Shelf Awareness](#)

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- American Indian Youth Literature Award Winner (American Indian Library Association)
- Notable Children's Books List (Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association)
- *Booklist* Editors' Choice Books for Youth
- American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL) Best Books
- Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) Choices
- Chicago Public Library Best Books of the Year
- Notable Books for a Global Society List (International Literacy Association)
- Amelia Bloomer Book List (American Library Association)
- Global Read Aloud Middle Grade Choice
- Pacific Northwest Library Association Young Reader's Choice Award Nominee
- California Reads Teacher Recommended Books, Grades PreK-12 (California Teachers Association)
- Delaware Diamonds Award, Grades 3-5 (Delaware Department of Education)
- Black-Eyed Susan Book Award Nominee, Grades 4-6 (Maryland Association of School Librarians)
- MIself in Books Book List, Upper Elementary (Michigan Association of School Librarians)
- Maud Hart Lovelace Award Nominee (Minnesota Youth Reading Awards)
- Garden State Children's Book Awards, Fiction Nominee (New Jersey Library Association)
- New Mexico Battle of the Books for Elementary Schools
- Oregon Reader's Choice Award Nominee, Upper Elementary Division, Grades 3-5 (Oregon Library Association)
- Wisconsin Battle of the Books, Middle Grade Division for Grades 6-8

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Teacher's Guide](#)
- [In conversation with *Indian No More* Co-Author Traci Sorell](#)
- [A Discussion of Contemporary Native Children's Literature webinar](#)
- [The Open Book Blog: Cover Reveal & Symbolism for *Indian No More*](#)
- [The Children's Book Podcast Interview with Traci Sorell](#)
- [Reading is Fundamental: Educator Lesson Plans and Activities](#)
- [School Library Journal's Classroom Bookshelf: Shedding Light on 20th Century Termination and Relocation Efforts with *Indian No More*](#)
- [Kids Ask Authors with Grace Lin Podcast: What Makes a Good Book? With Traci Sorell](#)
- [TeachingBooks' Meet-the-Author Recording](#)

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AUTHOR STATEMENT

“The lack of accurate representation of Native Nations in books for young people has real life consequences. As a Cherokee Nation citizen, I know this firsthand. Adults with influence in education, elected office, business, law-enforcement, and the judicial system often make decisions that are disastrous for us. Instead of seeing Indigenous peoples in our full humanity, we are rarely seen at all. But when we are represented, it’s almost always through a stereotype. So the need for citizens of Native Nations to tell and illustrate our stories, whether fiction or nonfiction, is paramount to combat the invisibility we experience in a K-12 curriculum and in the larger US society. And that’s why I craft stories for young people and encourage other Native creatives to do the same.” —**Traci Sorell**

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.