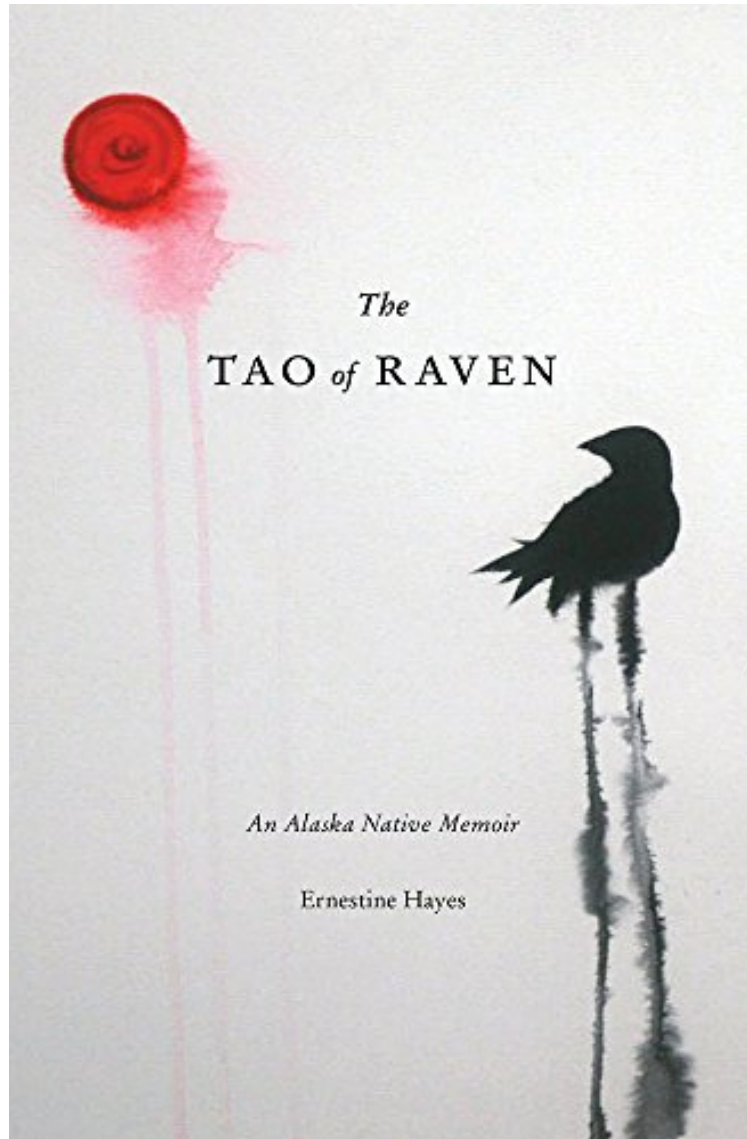


[Mobile ebook] The Tao of Raven: An Alaska Native Memoir

## The Tao of Raven: An Alaska Native Memoir

*Ernestine Hayes*

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**Ernestine Hayes : The Tao of Raven: An Alaska Native Memoir** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Tao of Raven: An Alaska Native Memoir:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. So this is a sad bookBy William S JamisonTwo other books come to mind while reading this. One is Hillbilly Elegy which I read recently and felt similar distaste for the circumstances of most if not all of the characters portrayed. (Mostly for reasons of their lives being so dissimilar to mine.) So this distaste is precisely what the book evokes. Along with both of these there is the attempted examination of the causes

of the social malaise of the characters. Here I also feel a disenchantment since these hypotheses do not agree with my sense of sociological development and guilt. I after all like reading Charles Murray and Frances Fukuyama. When I drink a beer or some other alcoholic drink I drink one of those. I do not drink to become intoxicated. I drink one glass because the doctor recommends it. Neither do I curse at my loved ones - or anyone else. No chair throwing. Nor have I ever lived in a mobile home except while on vacation in the Poconos for a little while. (It was a nice one.) So my problem is the books depict a life that is totally other for me. And that of course is the value of the book, that it opens my eyes to the lives of people that are very different. It also gives their explanation of why they think life is so unfair - even though following the story of the Raven perhaps in time patience will be rewarded? Perhaps. Lives later perhaps. Meanwhile, people have their lives and the lives of their children destroyed. So sad. So this is a sad book. Unfortunately, this is not going to attract tourists to Juneau I think. How many want to go see Old Tom? But meanwhile, for a completely different type of life, I enjoy reading the biography of Habermas. Now that is a life I can learn from and want to emulate instead of understand in order to avoid.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Loved these braided stories! By Jo-Ann Mapson Ernestine Hayes's second memoir is a literary feat the likes of which this reader has never seen. The format is a braided narrative, which she weaves together so that we hear all stories, yet are never lost in the story. The use of overlapping imagery and deliberate repetition of place in various time frames was fascinating, but the strength of this memoir is story. Starting with the story of Raven stealing the daylight begins the adventure, and from that time everything that happens seems tied to legend and Tlingit tales. Characters from *Blonde Indian* are here again, finding themselves caught and having to make hard decisions. I confess I have a soft spot for Old Tom. He walks a path that seems to leave him in the various straits he's trying to escape, and learns the same lesson Raven does--there are prices to choices--and choices that change the path. Love this memoir.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ernestine Hayes has a wonderful way of expressing detailed and sensitive information about her ... By Harper Haines Ernestine Hayes has a wonderful way of expressing detailed and sensitive information about her childhood. She is a gifted writer and I applaud her memoir.

In her first book, *Blonde Indian*, Ernestine Hayes powerfully recounted the story of returning to Juneau and to her Tlingit home after many years of wandering. The *Tao of Raven* takes up the next and, in some ways, less explored question: once the exile returns, then what? Using the story of Raven and the *Box of Daylight* (and relating it to Sun Tzu's equally timeless *Art of War*) to deepen her narration and reflection, Hayes expresses an ongoing frustration and anger at the obstacles and prejudices still facing Alaska Natives in their own land, but also recounts her own story of attending and completing college in her fifties and becoming a professor and a writer. Hayes lyrically weaves together strands of memoir, contemplation, and fiction to articulate an Indigenous worldview in which all things are connected, in which intergenerational trauma creates many hardships but transformation is still possible. Now a grandmother and thinking very much of the generations who will come after her, Hayes speaks for herself but also has powerful things to say about the resilience and complications of her Native community.

"The *Tao of Raven* is marvelous in scope, a narrative that inspires, mesmerizes, teaches, and above all connects us with the world and our ancestors. With deft craft Hayes layers story in a warm design that places her personal tale within the story of her ancestors, and their collective story within the eternal history of territory. Just as Raven brought the gift of daylight to a people living in darkness, Hayes offers her clear vision of all that remains unseen and unconsidered. This is a work of towering importance." Susan Power, author of *Sacred Wilderness*

"This book is about life and all of its pockets of being. It includes the spiritual, the otherworldly beings, as well as the terrible history that continues to take place in our country. It is about aging at the same time as it is about childhood. It is memoir placed within the context of a large and complex history of the people and of the earth. She makes a complicated world something easily read and also quite beautiful." Linda Hogan, author of *The Woman Who Watches Over the World: A Native Memoir*

About the Author Ernestine Hayes is assistant professor of English at the University of Alaska Southeast.