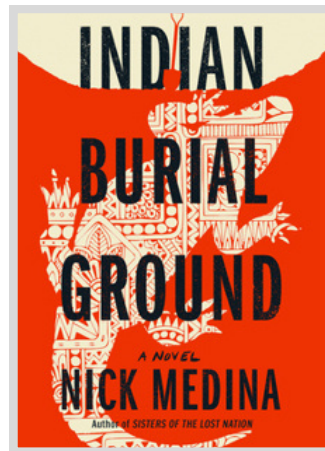


Indian Burial Ground by Nick Medina



Summary

A man lunges in front of a car. An elderly woman silently drowns herself. A corpse sits up in its coffin and speaks. On this reservation, not all is what it seems, in this new spine-chilling mythological horror from the author of *Sisters of the Lost Nation*.

All Noemi Broussard wanted was a fresh start. With a new boyfriend who actually treats her right and a plan to move from the reservation she grew up on—just like her beloved Uncle Louie before her—things are finally looking up for Noemi. Until the news of her boyfriend's apparent suicide brings her world crumbling down.

But the facts about Roddy's death just don't add up, and Noemi isn't the only one who suspects that something menacing might be lurking within their tribal lands.

After over a decade away, Uncle Louie has returned to the reservation, bringing with him a past full of secrets, horror, and what might be the key to determining Roddy's true cause of death. Together, Noemi and Louie set out to find answers...but as they get closer to the truth, Noemi begins to wonder whether it might be best for some secrets to remain buried.

Courtesy of Penguin Random House Publishing Group

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About the Author

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Nick Medina has gone in search of Resurrection Mary, the “Italian Bride,” the “Devil Baby,” and other Windy City ghosts. An enthusiast of local and Native lore, his novels, **Sisters of the Lost Nation**, which earned a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection Award, and **Indian Burial Ground**, feature supernatural myths and legends. He enjoys ghost stories, playing guitar, physical fitness, and spending time with family.

From the author’s website: nickmedina.net

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Q & A with the Author

When did you first discover your love for writing and stories?

When I was a kid, so long ago that it's fuzzy in my memory. I remember wanting to write stories as soon as I could write. My elementary school printed my very first (very) short story in the school newsletter.

Your latest novel, *Indian Burial Ground*, is out now! If you could only describe it in five words, what would they be?

Unsettling, heart-breaking, healing, hopeful, empowering.

What can readers expect?

Indian Burial Ground is part mystery, part family drama with a coming-of-age-story at its core. It's about pain and trauma that—left untreated—comes back from the burial ground uglier than when it was first laid to rest, ultimately leading to healing and hope.

Where did the inspiration for *Indian Burial Ground* come from?

An article I read in 2012 about a toddler who supposedly sat up in his coffin and spoke before falling dead again served as inspiration for a scary story that grew into *Indian Burial Ground*, which was also inspired by Native folklore, personal fears, and troubling issues (namely alcoholism and suicide) that are currently wreaking havoc within Native communities.

Were there any moments or characters you really enjoyed writing or exploring?

I enjoyed writing Louie's story arc. At sixteen years old, he's faced with big responsibilities and even bigger challenges. He faces quite a bit of heartache as a result, but he finds a unique way to emerge stronger in the end.

This is your second published novel! What were some of the key lessons you learned between writing the two?

I learned to have more faith in myself and my work, but I'm still working on that.

Interview courtesy of <https://thenerddaily.com/nick-medina-indian-burial-ground-interview/>

Indian Burial Ground by Nick Medina

Professional Review

Library Journal (3/29/24):

Medina's second novel returns readers to the fictional Takoda tribe that was first introduced in his debut, *Sisters of the Lost Nation*. It delivers another haunting, page-turner of a tale that is as gripping as it is devastating. Louie has returned to the reservation after a decade-long absence and reconnects with his 40-year-old niece, Noemi, who has just been given the tragic news of her boyfriend's mysterious death. Noemi doggedly investigates the circumstances of the death, while Louie, concerned it may be connected to his past, recalls details of a long-ago summer in which an increasingly disturbing series of events with chilling, supernatural undertones rocked the reservation. Medina skillfully brings to life a rich and complex cast of characters that are grappling not only with real-life horrors such as alcoholism, poverty, and suicide but also an unnatural horror inextricably linked to the Takoda people's history, culture, and identity—and threatens to devour their community. Medina shines a compassionate yet unflinching light on these heartrending themes and consistently manages to humanize his characters even as readers witness their most monstrous moments.

VERDICT Expertly blending timelines and perspectives, Medina delivers another atmospheric, unsettling, and downright eerie read that will keep readers guessing until the last page.

Reviewed by Jennifer Embree