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## There there book summary

The PEN/Hemingway Award recognizes outstanding debut novels from American authors who have not published a full-length book of fiction before. The award aims to preserve the art form of novel-writing and support the longevity of writers' careers. The winner receives a \$10,000 cash prize to pursue their next literary work. There There, Tommy Orange's novel tells the story of twelve characters from Native communities who converge on the Big Oakland Powwow. Jacquie Red Feather, Dene Oxendene, and Orvil are among them, each with their own struggles and stories to tell. The book delves into the complexities of being an urban Native American, grappling with a painful history, cultural identity, and community issues. Orange's writing is poignant and unflinching, yet contemporary and unforgettable. The novel showcases the diversity of Native American experiences, moving away from stereotypes and embracing individual voices. There There, Orange's poignant novel explores the complexities of being Native American today through relatable characters and a narrative that delves into the struggles faced by urban Indians. The author skillfully weaves together stories of everyday people and his own voice in the prologue, providing a powerful look at Native culture and history. While some sections may feel meandering or confusing due to multiple timelines and character perspectives, the novel's thought-provoking themes and well-crafted characters make for an immersive reading experience. The reviewer found the novel "There There" by Tommy Orange to be an outstanding and phenomenal read. They praised the author's ability to create a non-stop pace story with gut-wrenching yet intimate portrayals of dislocation, identity, violence, loss, hope, and power. The reviewer noted that the characters were incredibly well-developed and had unique stories that were skillfully intertwined throughout the novel. They appreciated how the book explored sensitive issues such as rape, addiction, and domestic violence in a way that was both beautiful and despairing. The author's use of dialogue to convey feelings and emotions added warmth and depth to the story. The reviewer also commended Tommy Orange for his ability to entwine the history of a nation and indigenous community in Oakland, California, making the book an incredible achievement. The reviewer felt that the novel was emotionally challenging but ultimately rewarding, with a perfect ending that left them feeling hopeful and inspired. They noted that the short chapters and varying points of view helped to keep the story engaging and easy to follow, despite the complexity of the themes explored. The reviewer also appreciated how the book brought back memories of their own time living in Oakland during the 90s. One of the few criticisms mentioned by the reviewer was that the novel had a large cast of characters, which made it difficult to keep track of each person's story at times. However, this did not detract from their overall enjoyment of the book and their appreciation for Tommy Orange's writing style. The reviewer concluded by expressing their hope that Tommy Orange would continue to write more books in the future, building on the success of "There There" and further exploring the themes and issues that he has raised. Written with multiple narratives woven together, the stories of various characters intertwine to create a powerful and emotional tale. Initially, each story appears separate, but as connections unfold, the characters' collective story becomes brutal, honest, and sad. The description led me to believe it was about Native Americans today, specifically urban Indians, which is true, but don't expect Tommy Orange to be gentle or ignore the past. The Prologue explores massacres, history, and complicit guilt. The novel tackles tough topics like alcoholism, drugs, suicide, identity, family, and tragedy, yet finds love and hope through characters Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield and Orvil Red Feather. I loved that Dene Oxendene carries out his uncles' dream of filming Native Americans telling their stories and that the book educates readers about important events in history like the occupation of Alcatraz island by Indians of All Tribes in 1969-1971. However, I struggled to connect with the story or characters, which may have been due to the large number of characters and their private reasons for attending the Big Oakland Powwow. The structure didn't work for me, and I found it difficult to follow on audio. While this was only a 2-star read for me, it may be your 5-star read. Tommy Orange's novel "There There" is, without a doubt, my top pick for 2018 thus far.\*For those seeking a review to sway their opinion, look no further. I'm essentially removing any doubts and placing my weight firmly in favor of recommending this book. If you've followed my reviews before, trust me on this one: "There There" is an absolute must-read. As it garners attention for year-end lists and awards, don't miss out on Tommy Orange's impressive debut. The less you know about the book going in, the better - I won't spoil anything, but the true joy lies in discovering the 12 unique voices that make up the cast of characters. Each one is so vividly crafted that they could easily carry their own novel. From humor and pathos to despair and joy, Orange masterfully captures each character's distinct voice. As the story unfolds and the Big Oakland Powwow draws near, connections between these diverse characters begin to emerge, weaving a complex narrative that reflects the novel's overarching themes. You may be reminded of Diaz, Mitchell, or Chabon in their exploration of Native American struggles in Oakland. Orange tackles this sensitive topic with thoughtfulness, anguish, and introspection, presenting both the loss of culture due to colonialism and forward-looking approaches to identity. The multiperspectivity allows for a dialogue between chapters that's often absent between characters, leaving you conflicted but eager to grapple with the questions raised. This book is not overly heady or philosophical; instead, it's a thrilling ride with violence, heartbreak, and emotion waiting around every corner. As the timeline unfolds, you'll be on the edge of your seat for the bombastic climax. There There is a novel that defies convention, expanding empathy and challenging thought, as it delves into the complexities of human experience through diverse perspectives. Orange's debut masterfully weaves together unique voices and writing styles, creating a rich tapestry that leaves the reader reeling. However, despite its power and freshness, this book may be overwhelming due to its sheer scope and multitude of storylines. The novel's ambition is admirable, but its execution raises questions about pacing and cohesion. While it follows one family's journey, the narrative feels disjointed, with too many plot threads competing for attention. Good ideas can be rushed to market before they're fully developed, resulting in a lack of depth and engagement. This is what happened with Tommy Orange's debut novel. The book was heavily marketed, and everyone read it together, but it ultimately fell short of expectations. Luckily, the novel is a quick read, so maybe next time Orange will have the opportunity to flesh out his ideas and draw readers in. In "There There", we follow the lives of twelve characters through alternating voices. These individuals are all connected by their experiences as urban Native Americans who have lost touch with their culture. The story explores themes of identity, belonging, and the struggles that come with being displaced from one's historical cultural community. The novel is a powerful exploration of the complexities faced by Indigenous people in North and South America. It highlights the shared experience of loss and displacement, but also emphasizes the unique challenges faced by urban Native Americans who have been forcibly removed from their traditional communities. Tommy Orange's novel, initially celebrated for its portrayal of Native American experiences, is examined with a critical eye. The author's use of invented categories and imposed identities raises questions about representation and authenticity. While Orange's writing is gifted, the narrative suffers from excessive points of view, making it challenging to connect characters and their stories. The novel's chronology is often confusing, and some narrative techniques feel like writing exercises rather than genuine storytelling methods. The text explores the idea that Native American identity is a vacuum, a lack of commonality among individuals imposed by external circumstances. This concept is reflected in Orange's use of quotes from Gertrude Stein and the characters' experiences. However, the novel's climax, set at an Oakland powwow, feels clumsily done, lacking a powerful denouement that ties everything together. Despite these criticisms, the text acknowledges the author's skillful writing, particularly in the prologue, which effectively sets the tone for the rest of the narrative. The novel's portrayal of urban characters questioning their Indigenous heritage is also praised as a highlight of the book. Overall, the review suggests that while Orange's work shows promise, it falls short in its execution and leaves room for improvement in terms of coherence and character development. The book "There There" has a special place in its heart for underdogs, like Tony, who was born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and Orville, who secretly studies Native dancing on YouTube. The author's focus on the bond between half-sisters Opal and Jacquie is also an important aspect of the story. However, it is Jacquie, a troubled individual struggling with addiction, that truly shines as the book's most poignant character. The reviewer has mixed feelings about the book, praising its fearlessness in tackling tough subjects like FAS, bipolarity, obesity, digital addiction, and substance abuse. However, they also criticize the disjointedness of the narrative and the minor factual inaccuracies throughout the text. The reviewer questions the book's connection to Native American culture, wondering how certain issues are uniquely tied to tribal people. On a positive note, the reviewer appreciates the beautiful and evocative quotes scattered throughout the book, as well as its willingness to tackle difficult topics. However, they feel that the book falls short in providing analysis and insights into these issues, instead opting for a surface-level examination. The reviewer ultimately gives the book 4 stars, praising its ambition and creativity while criticizing its execution. Alderman tied his four body sections to nearby trees for the birds to pluck, while keeping Metacomb's hand in a jar of rum, charging people to see it. The head was sold for thirty shillings and displayed at Plymouth Fort for twenty-five years. In 1637, around 400-700 Pequot gathered for their Green Corn Dance, only to be surrounded, set on fire, and shot. Colonists celebrated with a feast, declaring the next day a thanksgiving. These massacres led to celebrations where people would kick Pequot heads like soccer balls. Despite this dark history, Native Americans built new lives in cities, choosing not to move for the sake of survival. The silence of rural communities makes memories feel intense, like a brain on fire. Being Native American isn't about returning to land; it's about living with the land and acknowledging its presence. Maxine said people like her, who are medicine persons, are rare and must be respected. Those who look at her with distrust might as well respect her for being different. She told me let content direct vision. Why speak to those you don't know? She replied, what does it look like? The world is made of stories, nothing else. Stories about stories. As time recedes, we lose sacred and beautiful things. Believing works only if you believe in itself. My struggles aren't just with gaming or social media; it's all of it. Sometimes the internet can guide us to what we need, even when we don't know where to look. If born into a family with ancestral knowledge, that's fortunate. Given article text here Tommy Orange's novel is a powerful exploration of identity, tackling the urban Native American experience with nuance and depth. The story follows more than a dozen characters connected to Oakland, each struggling with family problems, alcoholism, depression, and perceptions of belonging. Through a diverse cast of men and women, Orange raises questions about what it means to be Native in today's world, where stereotypes often prevail. With expertly crafted voices and music playing a pivotal role in the narrative, Orange creates an immersive experience that resonates deeply. The novel sheds light on urban Native Americans, showcasing their stories and aspirations through a documentary project inspired by real-life experiences. This novel is deeply impactful, and upon closer reading of its final chapters, it's clear that Orange has woven a complex narrative that goes beyond the surface-level action. The author's approach to violence differs significantly from Tarantino's, instead using it as a catalyst for exploration of deeper themes. The book is a powerful commentary on the historical trauma faced by Native Americans, tackling difficult subjects such as identity, displacement, and resilience in modern-day America. Orange's writing style, which blends elements of stand-up comedy and historical insight, serves to convey the weight of these issues. The novel's non-linear structure is a testament to Orange's resistance against the legacy of subjugation, instead presenting a multifaceted portrayal that acknowledges the brutal history while offering hope for the future. The diverse range of voices within the narrative adds depth and complexity, weaving together elements of grief, history, and resilience. Despite its challenging nature, the book is impossible to put down, driven by Orange's masterful storytelling and evocative prose. Throughout the novel, Orange poses difficult questions about identity, encouraging readers to confront their own assumptions about Native American experiences. The result is a work that is both heartbreaking and hopeful, offering a powerful exploration of what it means to be alive in modern America. I joined a group of Indians headed to protest at Standing Rock but only had an hour with them - they were all so compelling I wanted more time. The documentary focused on just four or five individuals, allowing the viewer to form close bonds with each one. In contrast, this novel has double-digit protagonists, making it hard for me to keep track of their relationships and connections. Some themes got repetitive, like the abandonment by a parent figure, and during the grand finale at the powwow I struggled to remember who's who. As creative writing, it excelled, but as a novel, cutting down the number of characters would've made it more impactful. Such an important and powerful novel that sheds light on 12 diverse Native Americans living in Oakland, California. Orange masterfully explores the complexity within the Native American experience by giving each character their unique voice. The themes addressed range from substance dependence to feeling disconnected from one's culture and a lack of self-worth and job prospects. I loved how Orange tackled the genocide and displacement of Native Americans head-on. In contrast to my school days, where we glossed over this painful history, Orange's novel boldly speaks truth to power by giving voice to the struggles of Native Americans. While I appreciate the book's significance and Orange's vivid writing style, I found it hard to connect emotionally with the characters due to the sheer number of perspectives. The ending was powerful, but I wish the characters' inner conflicts had more space to breathe. Still, I'd recommend this novel for its sociopolitical importance and accessible storytelling. This debut is nothing short of incredible - Marlon James called it a thunderclap, and I agree. It might be my favorite read so far this year. Told from 12 distinct perspectives that converge on the Big Oakland Powwow, with non-fiction parts in between, the book is masterfully structured to be both entertaining and heartbreaking. I love short stories that connect to a greater whole, and Orange's juggling of different styles is impressive without feeling forced. The voices are unique and diverse, in tone, narrative choice, language flow, and metaphors used - sometimes, when a book is this accomplished it can feel dry This book is a powerful exploration of Indigenous American identity, struggles, and resilience. Tommy Orange masterfully weaves together twelve characters' narratives, each with their own unique voice and perspective. Through the author's tender yet unflinching portrayal of his characters' flaws, Orange sheds light on the generational injustices faced by Native Americans in the US. The book is both poignant and humorous, making for a deeply moving read. I highly recommend this novel to anyone looking to understand the experiences of Indigenous Americans. A young urban generation is trying to reclaim its identity by redefining what it means to belong, be Native, and be White simultaneously for many people. This new generation, living in cities instead of being assimilated into them, has created something entirely new - a unique culture that is theirs alone. The story begins with Tony Loneman, who due to his condition, gets pulled into an intricate plot by Octavio Gomez and Daniel Gonzales to rob the powwow's prize money using custom-made laser guns. Meanwhile, Dene Oxidene, a graffiti artist, aims to document the stories of Oakland Natives in a documentary project that will show a different side of Native American experiences. He wants to move beyond stereotypes and portrayals of Native Americans as weak or pathetic. The main character's sister, Jacqui Red Feather, has been through traumatic events, including being raped on Alcatraz at a young age. The story also revolves around Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield, who is watching her adopted nephew compete in the powwow despite his struggles with identity and the influence of his YouTube self-taught dancing skills. The narrative explores themes of trauma, identity, belonging, and the harsh realities faced by Native American youth, including obesity, addiction, and suicidal tendencies. Edwin Black finds a new sense of purpose when he discovers his connection to his Native birth father through Facebook. He joins the powwow's organizing committee, hoping to find answers about his heritage and his place in the world. There There is a story of Native American identity that explores the complexities of blood quantum politics and modern indigenous life. The author recounts their journey as a Native America studies major, searching for a tribe to call their own. However, they remain unsure if embracing their heritage would be authentic. The novel delves into the lives of several characters, including Blue, who is fleeing an abusive partner and finds unexpected family connections. Thomas Frank's struggles with his mixed-race inheritance and his experiences as a janitor at the Oakland Indian Centre serve as backdrops for the story. Through a prologue, interlude, and multiple narratives, the author conveys a powerful message about challenging historical complacency and confronting uncomfortable truths. The book has garnered widespread acclaim, but some critics argue that it lacks depth due to its heavily foreshadowed plot events at the powwow. Nevertheless, the novel is seen as essential reading for literary awards, aiming to provoke readers into re-examining their understanding of history and its impact on contemporary society. There are several issues with the novel "There There" by Orange. Firstly, the story is meandering and lifeless, with unengaging characters. The prologue is strong, but unfortunately, it sets a high standard that the rest of the book fails to meet. The author's writing style in the prologue is expertly woven together, blending history and modernity, which leaves readers wondering where this voice goes by the end of the novel. The use of multiple generations as a marketing term is misleading, as the story only focuses on family trees commingling in the present day, rather than working with the past, present, and future. The structure and development of the novel are also major issues. The book uses a style where different characters take over each chapter, which fails due to the large number of flat and unengaging characters. Each character has some unique identity, but Orange only tells readers about these differences without developing why they exist or creating any empathy or sympathy. The characters all have the same voice, sounding like one another in their dialogue. The plot is also severely lacking, with the story set up at the beginning of the novel and then taking a series of tangents that barely connect back to what's driving the story. It's not until the last 70 pages or so that Orange finally addresses the plot, wrapping things up in a simplistic way. Overall, "There There" is a disappointing read that fails to deliver on its promise. I went into this novel with sky-high expectations, fueled by rave reviews and its National Book Award nomination. However, Orange's unflinching examination of the historical abuse of Native Americans and their struggles with addiction, domestic violence, and other crimes fell flat for me. The numerous characters overwhelmed me, making it difficult to form a connection with any one of them. By the end of the 294-page novel, I had lost track of most of the characters despite taking notes. The book's structure reminded me of Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing, which effectively weaved together multiple storylines and characters, but Orange's chapters felt disjointed and lacked the time to develop each protagonist thoroughly. Points of view converge as the narrative unfolds. The powwow becomes the central event, with characters gradually heading toward it. I became invested in their stories and emotions, even if not all are likable. I grew attached to several characters like Jacquie Red Feather, Opal Bear Shield, and Blue. The novel powerfully explores the Urban Indians' identity, family, loss, and strength. It's a satisfying read, and I hope there's a sequel. This book has stayed with me, and I've found myself discussing it with family and friends who haven't read it yet. It might just be my favorite book of 2018, earning a solid 5★+ from me! On the side note, my audiobook ended with Tony's chapter, but the actual book concluded with Opal's chapter, August 25, 2018. --- The young Native American storyteller Dene hopes to secure a grant to document the experiences of attendees at an upcoming Pow Wow in Oakland. As he waits for his interview, he strikes up a conversation with another attendee who's only familiar with Gertrude Stein's famous quote about Oakland being "a place without substance." The phrase resonates deeply with Dene, as it echoes the struggles faced by Native communities across the Americas - their ancestral lands destroyed, memories buried beneath concrete and steel. With his three-minute time slot to convince the grant panel of his project's worth, Dene passionately argues that it's time for a more authentic representation of Urban Indian stories. He speaks of resilience, of honoring ancestors' legacies through the stories they've passed down - tales of survival, identity, and community. The narrative is woven from 12 diverse characters, each carrying their own narratives of hardship and perseverance, yet connected by a shared humanity that transcends individuality. A heartfelt tribute to Native American experiences, this story masterfully reflects the complexities of cultural heritage through its beautifully crafted composition.