



The arc and the sediment

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Allen-Yazzie, Christine Diane

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Psychological fiction

Monografía

Gretta Bitsilly, gin-steeped mother of two and self-proclaimed expert at standing outside the margins of ethnicity and peering in, has been all but eclipsed by the world that eludes her--as a wife, a writer, a skeptic in "the other land of Zion," Utah. Gretta has set off to Fort Defiance, Arizona, where she hopes to convince her Navajo husband, who has escaped not from his family but from alcoholism, to come home. Over a sputtering two-steps-forward, one-step-back desert journey, Gretta is diverted by chance, seizures, an inconstant memory, and the disjointed character of her irresolute quest. She is fueled by a volatile mix of rage and curiosity and is rendered careless by ambivalence toward her marriage--she knows a welcome mat will not be waiting for her, "that white girl" who can't seem to get anything right. On route Gretta finds herself lost in the landscape, in strange company, or in her own convolution of language and inner space. With a dictionary and a laptop she attempts to write herself into a better existence--a hopeful existence--and to connect points of intellectual, physical, even spiritual reference. This tale, though dark and difficult, is infused with tart, twisted humor. Confused, disheveled, self-deprecating, and self-destructive, Gretta is also sharp and funny. Here, first-time novelist Christine Allen-Yazzie breaks apart her own narrative arc but with gritty reality seals it near-shut again, if in rearrangement, drawing us into Gretta's wrestling match with herself, her husband, her addiction, and the road

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Contenido: Intro -- Table of Contents -- The Plan -- The Plan, Amended -- New Breasts = New Bras -- To Food -- Dear James -- You Got to Cut Its Throat -- Hello, Please Help Me -- How to Make the World a Better Place -- Just So You're All Right Now -- All That Matters -- The Arc and the Sediment -- A Sore Cursing -- Hello, Kitty -- Fruit Sauce Should Always Be Served on the Side -- The Curiously Multifaceted Nature of Victimization -- The Wavering Red Light -- An Unspeakable Shine -- Entering the Third Dimension -- Forward, Anywhere -- What

Becomes of Virginia Dare -- In the Vat Lies the Fruit -- Second Place Is Pretty Good, Considering -- A Little Reluctance Goes a Long Way -- I Want Some Cookies -- Who's Your Butterfly? -- In Drills and Bursts -- Rubber Hatchets -- I'm Saying If -- I'm Saying When -- Do You Want to Save Changes? -- As a Matter of Spite -- Keeping It Out -- Words for Later -- And Also It Goes Back to That Whistle -- They'll Eat My Irises -- Or What -- The Image Lasts All the Way Across -- Afterword: Gretta's Alternative Twelve Steps to Sobriety -- Acknowledgments

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