



# Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women

*Wilma Mankiller*

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Challenging and passionate are the voices in this gathering of proud indigenous women. Coming together as one, 19 strong and successful women provide a rare glimpse into their lives with the hope that their voices will be heard and their message understood: bear witness to the unforgivable acts that their people have survived and take a step forward in mending old wrongs and forgiving past and present hurts.

Brings to light the insight of women artists, lawyers, ranchers, doctors, and educators

Discussions range from the land to government, love to family life.

Conversational style of writing presents a genuine Native American perspective.

## **Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women Details**

Date : Published August 24th 2004 by Fulcrum Publishing (first published August 15th 2004)

ISBN : 9781555915162

Author : Wilma Mankiller

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Feminism, Womens Studies, Autobiography, Memoir, Writing, Essays, Womens



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## **From Reader Review Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women for online ebook**

### **Bonnye Reed says**

Every Day is a Good Day is an extraordinary book by extraordinary women. Compiled and edited by Wilma Mankiller, this book is in an interesting format - Wilma asks a question, then gives you the answers provided by each participant. I found it very easy to follow, and very interesting.

I had read this book in the past and was pleased to find it again. It is one I will need to read yet again to get through this life.

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### **Mariana says**

A great compilation of wisdom by 19 indigenous leading women.

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### **Emily says**

This book came into my life right when I needed it. These women's words helped to re-center myself. They helped to remind me what is important in my life and what I want to be focused on. Their strength gives me courage and for that I am very grateful.

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### **Jennifer Abdo says**

As a compilation, it has so many different points of view, so it's hard to speak generally.

What appealed to me beyond the opportunity to read so many native women at once on a variety of topics from government to love, was the view of religion incorporating all living things - that promotes inclusivity, equality and respect for the environment as integral parts of life. I was struck by the fact that most native cultures were quite equal before the imposition of male dominated European religion and government.

Two of the women expressed views that they needed to support men who have become vulnerable and that women shouldn't play sports because the muscles will be bad for childbirth. Maybe I didn't read that correctly. . .

Towards the beginning I was discouraged to read about the integration of Christianity in native life, though theirs appears to be a more forgiving version and makes room for their native ceremony and beliefs for the most part.

There is a lot to learn about the history - they only touch on it but it's so valuable to know about their struggle and survival and what it means today.

There is a current throughout of a well deserved critique of capitalist greed. This was satisfying to know that others share this view.

Some women seem to want to prove Christianity is compatible with native culture. The church did preserve some native languages in a way. But there are native stories, one of a creator asking for 30 deer and the man only conning up with 28 and the creator says that's fine. Compare that with Cain and Abel from the Bible with God accepting one brother's type of sacrifice over the other and murder results. Not exactly harmonious or forgiving...

There are so many contributors and sidebar perspectives. I can't begin to say all I got from this book. It was enlightening historically and heartbreakingly to see how devastating colonisation has been.

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### **Carol says**

It was very interesting to read the thoughts of indigenous that are shared among the various tribes. It truly was an educational book, and it made me sad that, as invaders, we have so ignored their values. We could learn so much if only we (and our politicians) would listen.

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### **Sara says**

Equal parts enlightenment, sorrow, hope, and frustration. A wonderful discussion between various leaders of a few of the tribes native to North America (and Hawaii) who happen to be women.

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### **Kim says**

I would probably give this about a 3.5 if Goodreads would allow half stars. I very much appreciated the perspective of these indigenous women, but sometimes I felt the thoughts they shared were redundant from chapter to chapter. It seemed like I flew through reading the first half but started to get tired of reading it about mid-way. It is still a good book to read to see these different viewpoints.

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### **Kathy Fletcher says**

This book shows what real human values should be- care of community and the earth, while giving insight into lives these Native women have lived in country whose culture has tried to decimate their indigenous values. But they are resilient.

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### **Kim says**

Some parts were moving. Some parts were inspirational. Certainly opened my eyes and my heart to history and indigenous cultures. However, sprinkled throughout were some negative lines that were telling me what

I as a white woman thought and felt.

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### **Monica Boyd says**

I received this book through inter library loan twice. It's the kind of book that is hard to pick up, because it doesn't tell one story with a through line. There are a dozen or more indigenous women from a large variety of tribes, including a native Hawaiian. Wilma Mankiller tells some of her story at the beginning of each chapter and then the other voices come in. Some of their stories and admonishments overlap. Many of these are not for a white western woman. But I thought it as important to read the whole book. My favorite chapters were Context is Everything and Love and Acceptance. I hope to read her "A Readers Companion to US Women's History."

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### **Ana says**

Linda Aranaydo, Muscogee Creek (physician)  
Mary and Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone (traditionalists)  
Angela Gonzales, Hopi (professor)  
Joy Harjo, Muscogee Creek/Cherokee (poet/musician)  
LaDonna Harris, Comanche (warrior)  
Sarah James, Nee'Tsaii Gwich'in (human rights activist)  
Debra LaFountaine, Ojibway (environmentalist)  
Rosalie Little Thunder, Lakota (Lakota linguist/artist)  
Lurline Wailana McGregor, Native Hawaiian (television producer)  
Beatrice Medicine, Lakota (anthropologist)  
Ella Mulford, Navajo (biologist)  
Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Salish Flathead (artist)  
Audrey Shenandoah, Onondaga (Clan Mother)  
Joanne Shenandoah, Oneida (musician)  
Gail Small (Head Chief Woman), Northern Cheyenne (environmental activist)  
Faith Smith, Ojibway (educator)  
Florence Soap, Cherokee (grandmother)  
Octaviana Valenzuela Trujillo, Pascua Yaqui (educator)

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### **Marisa says**

Full review to come

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### **Rowan says**

It was so hard to put this book down. For those of you who wish to learn about the beliefs, thoughts and feelings of Indigenous women, here is the book for you.

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### **Ryan Mishap says**

Essential reading even if it is over a decade old. Mankiller calls this collection of thoughts from native women a "gathering" and it is a unique assemblage of oral history, personal sharing, and insightful commentary. Recommended.

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### **ONTD Feminism says**

LJ user pachakuti:

The late Wilma Mankiller (rest her soul) gathered thoughts and reflections from 19 Native women, on things like the meaning of spirituality, the importance of sovereignty, and what it means to be an indigenous woman today. This read is important because feminism and women-centered writing in the public eye tends to be so overwhelmingly white-washed. Also, Ms. Mankiller chose her writers very well indeed and this is a book I reflected on and re-read parts of for days after I first finished it.

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