



## Eddie Chuculate

Eddie Chuculate is Creek and Cherokee Indian from Muskogee, Oklahoma. Writing he began at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe won him a Wallace Stegner Creative Writing Fellowship at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. The first story from his collection *Cheyenne Madonna* (Black Sparrow Press, Boston) won a PEN/O. Henry Prize and was selected by juror Ursula K. Le Guin as her favorite. After that publication he earned a master's degree at the University of Iowa's Iowa Writers' Workshop. Chuculate began a journalism career at age 16 while in high school in Muskogee and went on to write and edit for several metro daily newspapers. He has also picked pecans, moved furniture, worked as a day laborer, received food stamps and sold his plasma in five states. He has lived in Hanna, Oklahoma; Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Portland, Maine; Albuquerque; San Francisco; Oakland; Denver; and resides in downtown Minneapolis.

## Q&A

### **Tell us about yourself. How did you become a writer?**

I've always been drawn to books, living near a great public library in Muskogee, Okla. I'd stop off in the library every day after school, like it was a continuation of classwork. While living with my grandparents in a rural area, I'd write after I ran out of things to read. Freed from distractions like video games, cable TV and social media, I wrote stories in spiral-bound notebooks that my grandmother kept in a wooden box. In high school I began writing for the Muskogee Daily Phoenix and shortly afterwards entered a short-story contest, mimicking a story by Anton Chekov.

### **What have been the biggest influences—people or experiences—in your work?**

Well, for this memoir, the biggest influences were my family and friends. Overall, I think travel has had a big influence on my work, meeting new people and becoming acquainted with new customs. Mexico City and Abu Dhabi were great places to visit. As far as other writers, I began reading Ernest Hemingway in high school, but greatly admire the work of

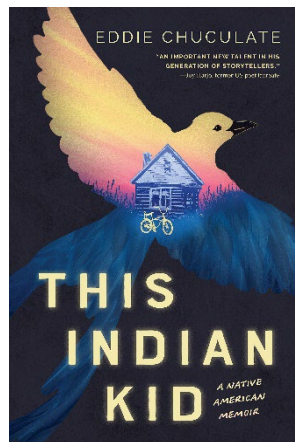
Tobias Wolff, Chris Offutt, Scott Momaday, Louise Erdrich, Evan S. Connell and Flannery O'Connor, among others.

**What was your creative process like for this book?**

I did all of the writing in the mornings. I listened to music from the period – and other periods, too – and looked at a lot of photographs from middle school and high school. But the actual writing and editing was conducted in my writing room before noon due to other obligations. If I didn't have earbuds on, I wore earplugs to block out noise. People have asked me how I remembered all that stuff from my childhood, and I tell them that's just a fraction of it. The true work was figuring out what to leave out, rather than include. When not writing I kept notebooks by my side when at the computer, watching TV or in bed, jotting down ideas or questions. Only once were such notes indecipherable the next morning, which bugged me for days.

**If there was one message that you'd want every reader of this book to have, what would it be?**

That you can overcome mistakes with second chances, and not let one setback create a lifelong downward spiral.



**This Indian Kid: A Native American Memoir  
Eddie Chuculate**

Hardcover: 9781338802085 | Ages 12–Up

**On Sale 9/19/2023**

**Award-winning author Eddie Chuculate recounts his experience growing up in rural Oklahoma, from boyhood to young manhood, in an evocative and vivid voice.**