

THIS INDIAN KID

EDDIE CHUCULATE

Dear Reader,

I've realized that most of the contemporary literature I've read lately by or about Native Americans has been centered either on reservations or in the historical past, without much focus on day-to-day life. Some of this writing, however unintentionally, may only serve to perpetuate stereotypes.

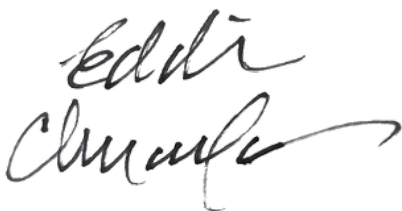
The vast majority of Indians in modern times don't live on reservations, and I felt compelled to write an account of my childhood living in cities and towns among mixed races (although still primarily white), religions, and lifestyles.

It's my belief teen readers and others will more readily identify with such a character in everyday circumstances similar to their own, providing a more realistic lens for teenagers to observe aspects of modern Native life.

I want young readers to realize they can overcome mistakes—rise above them—and not be defined by their circumstances. That they'll encounter racism along the way, but not allow themselves to conform to the beliefs and attitudes of others—whether it be from peers or older generations.

I hope you enjoy reading the story of This Indian Kid.

Sincerely,



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