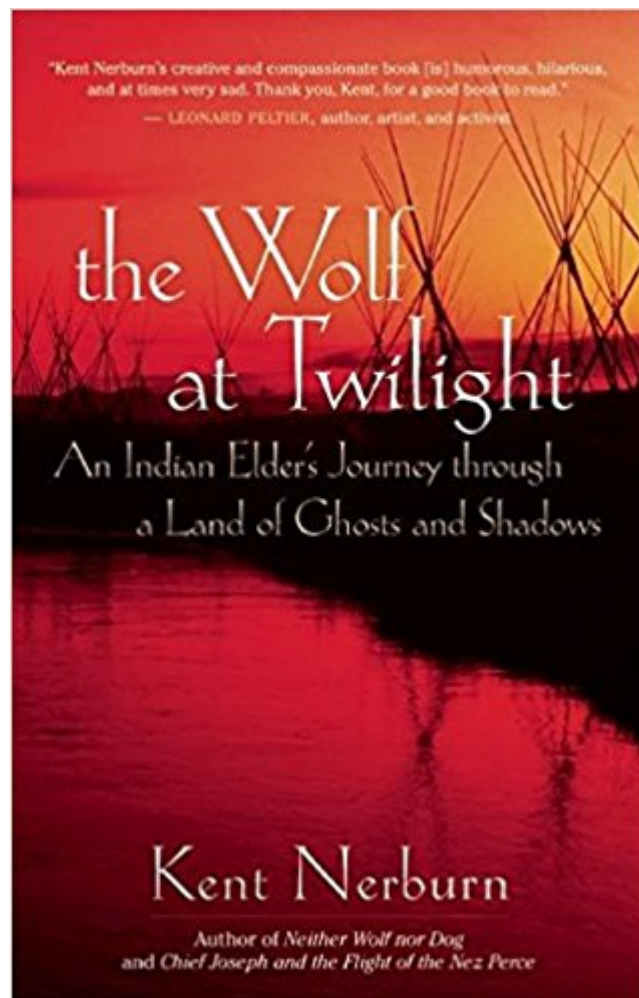




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# **The Wolf At Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey Through A Land Of Ghosts And Shadows**



## Synopsis

A note is left on a car windshield, an old dog dies, and Kent Nerburn finds himself back on the Lakota reservation where he traveled more than a decade before with a tribal elder named Dan. The touching, funny, and haunting journey that ensues goes deep into reservation boarding-school mysteries, the dark confines of sweat lodges, and isolated Native homesteads far back in the Dakota hills in search of ghosts that have haunted Dan since childhood. In this fictionalized account of actual events, Nerburn brings the land of the northern High Plains alive and reveals the Native American way of teaching and learning with a depth that few outsiders have ever captured.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Kent Nerburn offers a sensitive, insightful glimpse into a Lakota soul, a feat unattainable by most non-Native writers.” — Joseph M. Marshall III, Sicangu Lakota, author of *The Lakota Way* and *The Journey of Crazy Horse*

“Kent Nerburn’s creative and compassionate book [is] humorous, hilarious, and at times very sad. Thank you, Kent, for a good book to read.” — Leonard Peltier, author, artist, and activist

“Elegant, yet powerful...Nerburn crosses borders with a single-minded dedication to preserving an oral tradition. The emotional truth that resides in the rich storytelling is a testament to the strength and endurance of Lakota culture and...removes barriers to understanding our common humanity.” — Winona LaDuke, founder and executive director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project

The best storytellers make you feel that they are speaking directly to you, and the best-told stories resonate in the heart and soul forever. A

story about the triumph of love and the spirit of a people..., *The Wolf at Twilight* will be permanently etched in your consciousness.â Dan Agent, former editor of the *Cherokee Phoenix* and screenwriter for *Our Spirits Donât Speak English: Indian Boarding School*; The story of this unique and captivating journey...is a remarkable gift that we are honored to receive and obligated to pass on.â Steven R. Heape, Cherokee Nation citizen and producer of the award-winning documentary *The Trail of Tears: Cherokee Legacy*

Kent Nerburn is the author of twelve books on spirituality and Native themes, including *Chief Joseph and the Flight of the Nez Perce* (featured on the History Channel), *Simple Truths*, and *The Wisdom of the Native Americans*. He lives in northern Minnesota.

*The Wolf at Twilight: An Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts and Shadows* by Kent Nerburn is the second in a series. This book continues the story of Dan, a Lakota elder who contacted Kent to write about his life and thoughts on what happened to the Indian people. This book primarily focuses on the Indian boarding schools and the search for Dan's sister Yellow Bird. Both were taken to a school in the Dakotas and only Dan returned. This is a true story of an amazing journey of Dan and Kent in trying to locate Yellow Bird 80 years after her taking. This book was both enlightening and one to bring tears to my eyes. If you would like to understand the impact that these boarding schools, in which Indian children were forced to attend, this is the book to read. Though it is written by a white man, much of the narrative is that of Dan. Kent recorded and told much of the story in Dan's own words. This is a book I am very glad I read and recommend it to all. My wife and I started by reading Nerburn's 3rd book as part of the Vine program and only realized there were two others when we had finished. Any of the three books stand on their own as well as continue a remarkable story. The books are *Neither Wolf nor Dog*, *The Wolf at Twilight* and *The girl who sang to the Buffalo*.

Fifteen years ago I discovered a little book called *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*, written by a guy called Kent Nerburn. This was long before it even existed; I found it in a real old fashioned place called a bookstore. Something about the title of the book, something about its cover. Yes, I bought a book because of its cover! That book turned out to be one of the most profound discoveries of my adult life. The story touched me deeply, made me laugh, made me cry, made me feel alive. Passionately alive. It revealed worlds and bridged them, somehow leaving me feeling whole and even a little bit holy. It became and remains one of my favorite books of all time. I have read it many, many times

and cannot recommend it enough. When I learned that Kent would be publishing a sequel, of sorts, to *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*, I was excited but also a little apprehensive. How many times have sequels lived up to the reputation established by the original? *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* is a very rich and "complete" book in and of itself. So it was a big moment when *Wolf At Twilight* arrived in my mailbox last week. And now I have read it and I can honestly and happily say that Kent has written another masterpiece equal in every way to its predecessor. It's just as engaging, just as emotionally involving, just as good as *Neither Wolf Nor Dog*. I read it way too fast because I couldn't put it down, but I didn't want it to end either. It's as profound an account of the tragic clashing of worlds as I've read anywhere. It's a telling of the story of "America" from yet another point of view that both enlightens and humbles. There is a lot to cry about in this story. And there is a lot to laugh about ( I did both while reading it.). In the end it is a cry of the heart, a very human heart, translated into (mere) words, into story, into literature that makes me, yet again, glad to be alive.

Diversity is such a catch word for people who want to elevate themselves by criticizing others for being self centered. Western culture has always insisted on it's own superiority denigrating any alternative world view as false, flawed, and insignificant. Those of us who have seen the fallacies and the flaws inherent in Western culture have often done so while discovering the benefits of other approaches (like Buddhism or some other religious philosophy as compared to Christianity). Herman Hesse, when asked why with his interest in Buddhism, he hadn't converted, said he had been born a Lutheran and it was from that starting point that he could build most successfully. People born into Buddhism will be able to achieve so much more than he ever could through Buddhism because they had a head start...a foundation that he would never have. My interest in Native American philosophy and culture made me want to embrace it...to become it. "*The Wolf at Twilight*" (as with "*Neither Wolf Nor Dog*") showed me something I can never have...that I can never be. My life as a white American is a gift to me from people who were willing to steal and murder (often in the name of God) to get what they wanted. I am appalled by the ruthlessness of Western Culture...the arrogance of it...and I am powerless to fix it. Justice, revenge, righteousness...though powerful vehicles for change just create more pain. They justify bad behavior while undermining the healing process. Western culture prizes winning, which, in turn insists all others are losers. Western culture recognizes it's own complexity while simplifying all other alternatives with cliches. Each one of us recognizes our own complexity. We need to embrace the complexity of each individual...refuse the stereotypes and revel in the true essence of diversity...that each being is complex and I don't have to "figure them out". Rather, I just need to revel in the joy in our differences. Thank you Kent

Nerburn for helping me to realize that things that can't be fixed, can, perhaps, be healed by simply being good. Thank you. Bill Bastian

An indepth view of this writer's experience with an old Native American Sioux who opens his life so we can understand his experience. This writer is no Carlos Castenada who 'magicked up' Don Juan. This is authentic voice and it reaches straight into your heart.

Loved the story and the Lakota teachings from an elder. Nerburn is a talented writer who paints the setting so creatively and full of interest. His characterization is so real, so much that I felt I was there with the characters in the same room. He catches Lakota life just as it is, full of wisdom and tragedy and contradictions. Amazing piece of literature. Highly recommend.

It will open your eyes to how narrow we think and do.

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