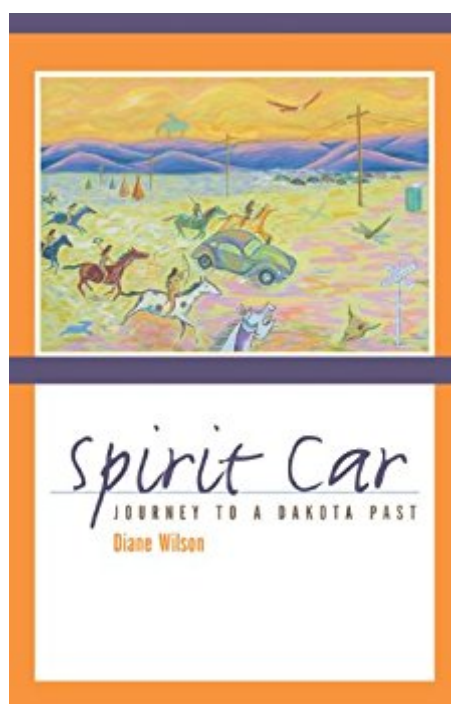


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# Spirit Car



## Synopsis

"One day I realize that my entire back seat is filled with relatives who wonder why I'm not paying more attention to their part of the family story. . . . Sooner or later they all come up to the front seat and whisper stories in my ear." Growing up in the 1950s in suburban Minneapolis, Diane Wilson had a family like everybody else's. Her Swedish American father was a salesman at Sears and her mother drove her brothers to baseball practice and went to parent-teacher conferences. But in her thirties, Diane began to wonder why her mother didn't speak of her past. So she traveled to South Dakota and Nebraska, searching out records of her relatives through six generations, hungry to know their stories. She began to write a haunting account of the lives of her Dakota Indian family, based on research, to recreate their oral history that was lost, or repressed, or simply set aside as gritty issues of survival demanded attention. *Spirit Car* is an exquisite counterpoint of memoir and carefully researched fiction, a remarkable narrative that ties modern Minnesotans to the trauma of the Dakota War. Wilson found her family's love and humor--and she discovered just how deeply our identities are shaped by the forces of history.

## Book Information

File Size: 797 KB

Print Length: 232 pages

Publisher: Borealis Books; 1 edition (July 31, 2009)

Publication Date: July 31, 2009

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B002JWD6B2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #717,022 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #401

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences >

Special Groups > Native American Studies #479 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic &

National > Native American #501 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > Midwest

## Customer Reviews

I loved this book. Diane painted a picture that made me feel like I was riding with her on her journey. A lot of history that I wasn't aware of. This book should be required reading in schools in the midwest.

Diane Wilson's beautifully crafted memoir begins with the traumatic 1862 event that creates fissures between Midwestern families, neighbors, and tribes, but this is mostly the story of a woman unburying her family's history and trying to begin the healing after hundreds of years of cultural genocide. Wilson's open, honest voice gives us a seat in her spirit car. I recommend you take the journey--it was very educational for me.

This is a wonderful book. Diane Wilson has achieved a remarkable feat in telling the stories of her family from the Dakota War to the present. Although she presents the reader with complex issues of genocide, racial identity, and survival, her families story is so engrossing, the book is a pleasure to read.

Wonderfully sad and uplifting story. Poignant telling of family ties past and present surrounding an atrocious part of Minnesota history. Let's others in on how the Indian culture differs so greatly from white man's culture and how they were raped of it.

Author Diane Wilson's personal search for her own family history reveals the broader story of the Dakota Indian's historical trauma in the state: land allotments, forced relocations, boarding schools, loss of culture, death and suffering, all in the context of the 1862 Dakota War. Thoughtful, factual, meaningful and beautifully written, an analysis of how that key event in Minnesota history affects Dakota people even today.

I highly recommend the book Spirit Car. It is a somewhat fictional, mostly factual account of the Dakota Sioux history in the Minnesota area in the past 150 years. Well written and very informational, riveting suspense and heart warming

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