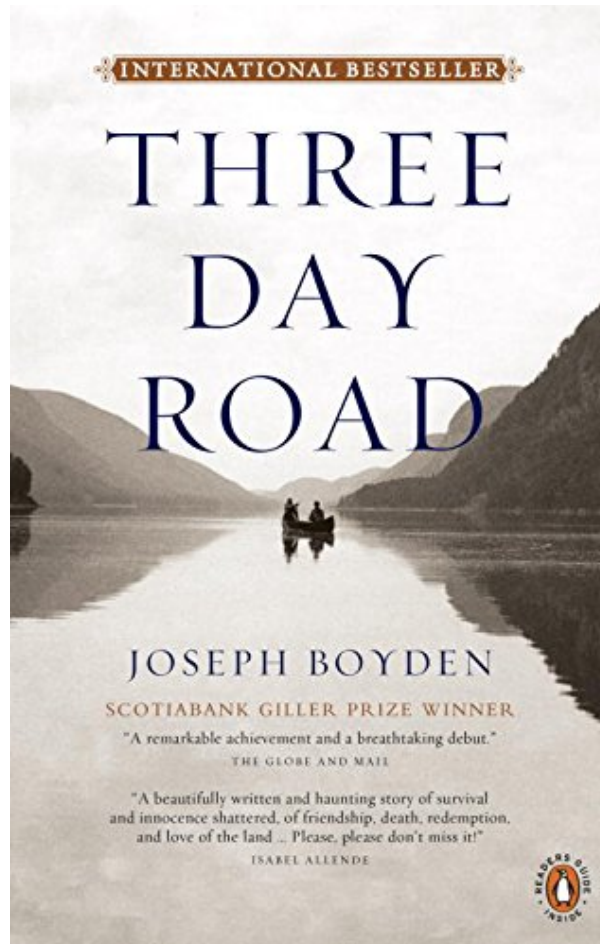


THREE DAY ROAD BY JOSEPH BOYDEN



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THREE DAY ROAD

JOSEPH BOYDEN

SCOTIABANK GILLER PRIZE WINNER

"A remarkable achievement and a breathtaking debut."

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"A beautifully written and haunting story of survival
and innocence shattered, of friendship, death, redemption,
and love of the land ... Please, please don't miss it!"

ISABEL ALLENDE



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Amazon.com Review

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It is 1919, and Niska, the last Oji-Cree woman to live off the land, has received word that one of the two boys she saw off to the Great War has returned. Xavier Bird, her sole living relation, is gravely wounded and addicted to morphine. As Niska slowly paddles her canoe on the three-day journey to bring Xavier home, travelling through the stark but stunning landscape of Northern Ontario, their respective stories emerge—stories of Niska's life among her kin and of Xavier's horrifying experiences in the killing fields of Ypres and the Somme.

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Unforgettable

By Kindle Customer

I read *The Orenda* by Joseph Boyden and was so captivated by his writing style that I immediately ordered *Three Day Road*. In the same way that *The Orenda* sucked me into the story with its details of life in a Huron village in the 1600's, *Three Day Road* let me experience life in the trenches of WWI. It was shocking, frightening and ultimately unforgettable to read what men suffered in this war. From the frequent rain producing deep mud to struggle through, boots that never dried and trench foot to the constant wet, woolen uniforms infested with lice, Boyden's ability to describe the misery and discomfort these soldiers dealt with every day was so powerful. The loss of innocence, the loss of sanity, the loss of life and friendship - all of these are described in vivid details through the eyes of Xavier, a young Cree soldier who has enlisted with his friend Elijah to fight in a Canadian regiment. Xavier and Elijah become snipers based on their excellent marksmanship from years of living in the Canadian bush. The book begins in Northern Ontario as a very damaged Xavier returns from the Front with extreme physical and psychological damage to deal with. The chapters alternate from the perspective of Xavier and his Aunt Niska, A Cree medicine woman who wishes to ease Xavier's mind and heal his body. I cannot give you more details, but I can highly recommend this book. It is a serious and powerful read that reinforces the price young men face in war and the great debt all of society owes them when they return.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Remarkable First Novel

By Dataman

“Three Day Road” is Boyden’s first novel, a remarkable tale of two young Cree Indians from Canada who experience the horrors and brutality of trench warfare during WWI. Best friends Xavier Bird and Elijah Whiskeyjack use the craft they learned hunting in the area around Hudson Bay to become sharpshooters. Elijah is flamboyant, while Xavier is reserved. Elijah racks up an astonishing number of kill, but becomes a morphine addict while walking a fine line between heroism and murder. A parallel story line tells of Niska, Xavier's aunt, a Cree medicine woman who chose to live by her wits in the woods rather than enter the reservation. Her story, told as she paddles her wounded nephew back home after the war is over, tells of the sad decline of Cree culture. Boyden vividly portrays the chaos, fear, discomfort and courage of the soldiers who found themselves in the trenches of the Western Front. He proves to be a gifted storyteller.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Simply Remarkable

By JK130971

When I got this book I did not read the description closely and thought this would be about a travel through the Canadian wilderness. However the story was predominantly about WWI, with a bit of the Canadian wilderness.

I do not often read books about war, but this book was phenomenal. The horrific images of a terrible time and place told in an unflinching manner. Eloquent, exceptional and near perfect.

This is not a page turner, rather a slow read that wants the read to absorb every word.

I cannot recommend this book highly enough and feel the mere 5 stars cannot communicate the power of this novel.

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