

Reader's Guide



NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH BOOKTALKS

Winter Counts

by David Heska Wanbli Weiden

Reader's Guide

Recommended for adults

Virgil Wounded Horse is a hired vigilante on the Rosebud Reservation. When his nephew is hospitalized due to a drug overdose, Virgil decides to find the person responsible. During his investigation, Virgil reconnects with his ex-girlfriend and is forced to take her along to complete his mission. Can Virgil stop the drugs from entering his community, save his nephew, and continue his romance with his ex-girlfriend all at the same time battling with Native identity issues? Pick up this exciting thriller novel to find out.

Find the book in our catalog here: <https://tinyurl.com/3etbatym>

More to Explore

David Heska Wanbli Weiden Author Page

<https://davidweiden.com/bio/>

Author Interview

<https://tinyurl.com/yckfkek3>

Author's Topic and Discussion Questions

<https://tinyurl.com/4fjjyj46>

Discussion Questions

- Why did Virgil Wounded Horse become a vigilante? Do you agree with his reasons?
- Both youth and adult characters experienced various forms of bullying. What are ways you deal with bullying, either as a child or as an adult?
- Many characters in the book had to handle some form of identity issue. Some felt they weren't Native or traditional enough to fit in with certain groups. Have you experienced something like this?
- Substance use disorder and a failing legal system were some of the main social issues in the book. What other social issues were you able to identify?



- While the book focused on substance abuse and injustice, there were some characters like Marie who did their best to help the community. Which other characters tried making a difference? What are some ways to positively impact your community?

Read-Alikes

The Round House by Louise Erdrich

<https://tinyurl.com/473rhm5c>

Removed by Brandon Hobson

<https://tinyurl.com/39cjlw2bh>

You Who Enter Here by Erika T. Wurth

<https://tinyurl.com/4bna867f>

Other Resources

On a Knife Edge (Kanopy documentary)

<https://tinyurl.com/25ejzeyc>