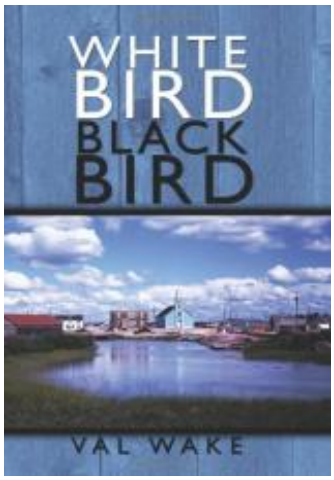
ReadingGroupGuides
The online community for reading groups

White Bird Black Bird

by Val Wake



About the Book

White Bird Black Bird is a fictional account of the clash of cultures when the indigenous people of northern Canada come face to face with the demands of southern consumers and their need for oil and gas. The story follows the fortunes of a young reporter in an idealistic crusade to right wrongs and find a mission in life only to discover that the northern mysteries have no easy solution. The story is based on fact and many of the issues it raises are still alive today.

The author lived four years in the Canadian Arctic.

Discussion Guide

1. What rights do indigenous cultures have when the developed world needs their resources to survive?

2. Should resources be developed regardless of their cost to the indigenous people?

3. How should governments accommodate native cultures?

4. How can governments create a pride and purpose in a native culture?

5. Should it try?

6. What responsibilities do native organisations have in representing their people?s interests?

7. Should native cultures be encouraged to get involved in modern society?

8. What responsibilities do journalists have in reporting controversial stories?

9. How should journalists deal with race issues?

10. Should they ignore the white backlash?

11. Should journalists try and compartmentalise their feelings to avoid influencing their stories?

12. Is such compartmentalisation possible?

13. How should outsiders relate to native people?

14. Is it a good idea for southern imports to have affairs with native people?

15. Should the progeny of such a union be taken south

Author Bio

Val Wake is an Australian born author and journalist who has worked for newspapers and broadcasting outlets in Canada, Australia and the UK. In Canada he worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as a newsman and from 1969 to 1973 he was the senior editor with CBC News in Yellowknife. The last 20 years of his life, as a working journalist, Val Wake worked as a senior information officer with the British Government in charge of information campaigns in film and radio both in the UK and overseas. He retired with his Canadian born wife in 1995 and settled in the small seaside town of Port Macquarie half way between Sydney and Brisbane. In his retirement he has had one book published **No Ribbons or Medals**: the story of ?Hereward? an Australian counter espionage officer. Val Wake is a regular contributor to *Australian Quarterly* (AQ). Val Wake and his wife Lil have two daughters, Michelle and Claudine. Michelle lives and works as a landscape designer in the English West Country, in the county of Somerset. Claudine works as a book publicist with an agency in Sydney, Australia.

White Bird Black Bird
by Val Wake

Publication Date: October 25, 2008
Paperback: 522 pages
Publisher: BookSurge Publishing
ISBN-10: 1439203458
ISBN-13: 9781439203453