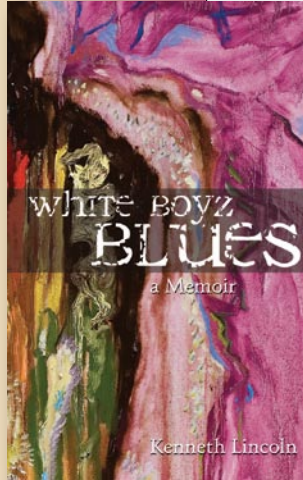


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

White Boyz Blues

A Memoir

By Kenneth Lincoln

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White Boyz Blues

A Memoir

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Edgy memoir a powerful example of male candor

White Boyz Blues speaks the truth about pain and power, revealing one man's struggle to raise his daughter and discover himself

Denver, CO (11/1/2007)—Kenneth Lincoln, a self-proclaimed Midwestern “white boy” moves west and encounters the changing face of America in his unconventional memoir.

With a heartfelt honesty that stirs down deep in his writing, Lincoln personalizes a man’s pain, humor, and healing, as he struggles with a new masculinity. From his Nebraska beginnings, Lincoln finds and loses friends in Indian Country, raises a daughter in the City of Angels, relocates to the Southwest Rio Grande desert, traveling all the while after love in the American heartland. In lyrical prose, interspersed with his poetry and the musings of other poets, Lincoln confronts friendship, marriage, parenting, love, and loss head-on.

This memoir will resonate with those struggling to connect in a widening world.

*“An alluring, bruisingly moving story ... **White Boyz Blues** is a wry-humored meditation on one man’s search for identity.”*

*—David Wong Louie, author of **The Barbarians Are Coming** and **Pangs of Love***

Kenneth Lincoln grew up in northwest Nebraska, south of Wounded Knee. He earned a degree in American literature at Stanford University and later continued on to UCLA where he has taught contemporary and Native American literatures for 38 years. In the spring of 1969, Lincoln was adopted into the Oglala Sioux by the Mark Monroe family of Alliance, Nebraska, and given the Lakota name *Mato Yamni*. He has published nine other books, including *The Good Red Road: Passages into Native America* and *Indi’n Humor: Bicultural Play in Native America*, chaired the country’s first interdisciplinary master’s program in American Indian studies, and written novels, poetry, and personal essays about Western Americana.

For more information on *White Boyz Blues*, please visit www.fulcrumbooks.com.



Runoff

—Ken Lincoln

The rains pass on, while the canyon drains
an underground stream. All night long
low waters sing the hidden deer awake
and greet the morning sun with runoff cadence

tumbling down to sea—all this quietly
as iris crisp blue, or black oak scissor
a distant spring. Petals on a swollen
bough bow down. A powder evening sky

recedes imperceptibly behind
the dense horizon. And the stream runs on,
without admonishment, without desire,

no encouragement, no fire or ice.
Its loss is peace of definition. Its voice
is verse of gravity and water and stone.

What does the phrase *white boyz blues* mean? The author explains ...

White boys get the blues too. Romantic heartbreak, yessir, plus the gut ache of vexed heritage and betrayals of history. Stiffed, men crab as gender shards chafe the masculine ego from lover and father to worker and soldier. Men lose their mojo. The horrors of war and mind-numbing labor, polluted commutes and lounge lard abase masculinity despite social class, sexual wiring, or skin color—dummied, drafted, down-sized, dumped. “Only connect,” the novelist E. M. Forster says, but staying connected is a bitch.

Then how do men go on? The blues “keep the painful details” of loss achingly alive, Ralph Ellison wrote of black-and-blue America. Blues singers finger the aching “jagged grain” and bear through the wound — not talking over the lesion but “squeezing from” its scarred edges “a near-tragic, near-comic lyricism.” This book considers how American men sing from the open wound, laugh through our tears. “Mr. Bones,” John Berryman confesses, “we all brutes & fools.”

White Boyz Blues tries to personalize a man’s pain, humor and healing toward a new masculine honesty down west. Women can help us come clean. ... And so with all-color, any-gender blues: the slant narrative candor of grief, the lyric concision of heartache, and don’t forget the punch line. It’s a bloody wonder we’re here, wounds, warts, and all.

(Excerpted from ‘Heart Rough,’ the introduction to *White Boyz Blues*)

Editor’s Impressions

What really moved me while working on *White Boyz Blues* is Ken’s honest perspective on everything: his parents and his relationships with them, the men who’ve influenced him, the women he’s encountered, the places he’s chosen to make his life, and the experience of single-parenting his daughter. Ken’s original poetry and the excerpts from his daughter’s diary punctuate his memories, offering another level of understanding. But his is not a story without humor—you’ll find great laugh-out-loud moments throughout!

—Carolyn Sobczak, editor

