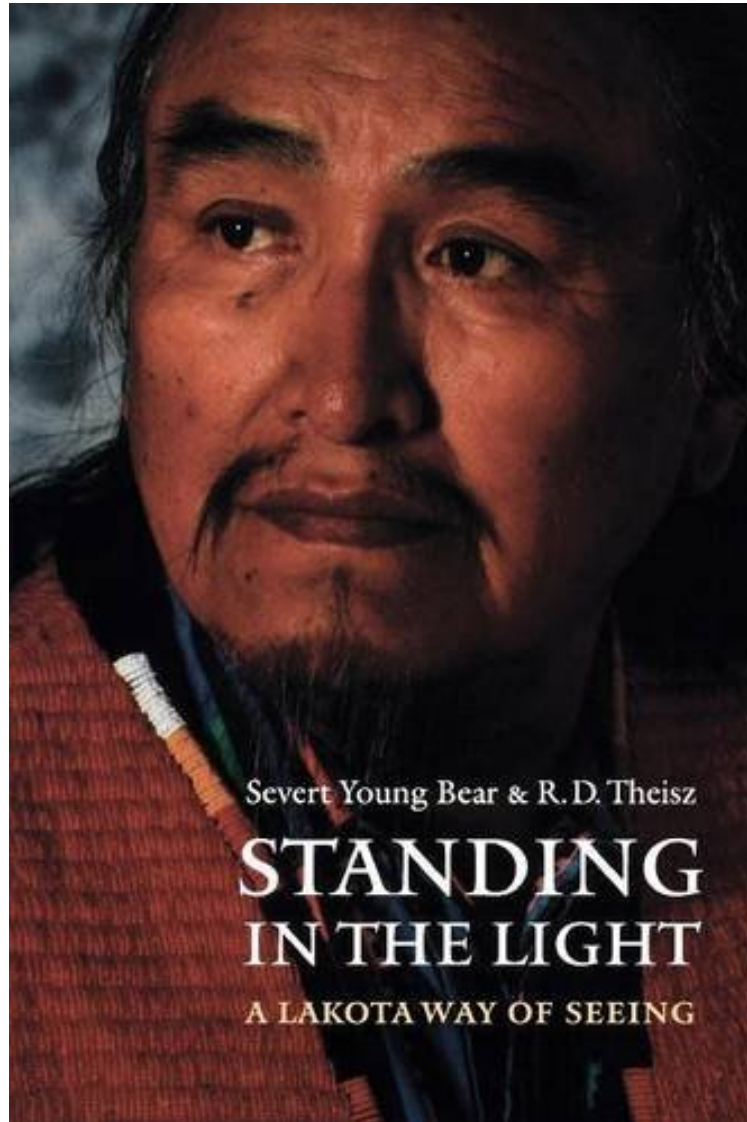


(Download pdf) Standing in the Light: A Lakota Way of Seeing (American Indian Lives)

Standing in the Light: A Lakota Way of Seeing (American Indian Lives)

R. D. Theisz, Severt Young Bear
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R. D. Theisz, Severt Young Bear : Standing in the Light: A Lakota Way of Seeing (American Indian Lives) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Standing in the Light: A Lakota Way of Seeing (American Indian Lives):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Strong Lakota Voice By Michelle O'Daniel I was surprised to find this gem of Lakota insight. It is an honest overview of Severt Young Bear's own spiritual awakening through his

experience as a singer and performer and composer of traditional Lakota songs over his lifetime . It carries his hopes for the future of his people through their own experience in the Lakota traditional music of the drum and chanting voices. It is a beautifully written book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Judith CassidyClear and strong. Thank you!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read.....By JMI like it, good read from the heart.

For most of his adult life Severt Young Bear stood in the light-in the center ring at powwows and other gatherings of Lakota people. As founder and, for many years, lead singer of the Porcupine Singers, a traditional singing and drumming group, he also stood, figuratively, in the light of understanding the cherished Lakota heritage. Young Bear's own life in Brotherhood Community, Porcupine District of the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation, is the linchpin of this narrative, which ranges across the landscape of Dakota culture, from the significance of names to the search for modern Lakota identity, from Lakota oral traditions to powwows and giveaways, from child-rearing practices to humor and leadership. "Music is at the center of Lakota life," says Young Bear; he describes in rich detail the origins and varieties of Lakota song and dance. A descendant of chiefs and of Wounded Knee survivors, he recounts his role in Wounded Knee II 1973 and his association with the AIM Song. A highly respected musician, teacher, and elder, Severt Young Bear performed with the Porcupine Singers throughout North America, taught at Oglala Lakota College, and served on the Oglala Sioux tribal council. He was music and dance consultant for the films *Dances with Wolves* and *Thunder Heart*. This book is the fruit of his long friendship and collaboration with R. D. Theisz, a fellow Porcupine Singer and professor of communications and education at Black Hills State University. Says Theisz, "We're trying to write this book so that Lakota people and our nonIndian friends can find better understanding . . . so that those people waiting in the dark-maybe we have a little of them in all of us-can approach the light."

From Library JournalYoung Bear's family history encompasses not only his own ancestry but a whole rich world of Lakota oral tradition, etymology, singing and dancing, and identity.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistYoung Bear, a Lakota elder who died as this book went to press, was a prominent teacher and traditional singer; educator Theisz, his white adoptive brother, was a member of Young Bear's Porcupine Singers. They collaborated in an unusual way. To be in keeping with his people's oral traditions, Young Bear, though highly literate, chose to record his ideas on tape; Theisz then organized the comments and edited the transcripts into conversational prose. Young Bear related the myths and history of his people and reflected on the spiritual meanings inherent to their traditions. He also vividly described events in which he had participated--notably, the 1972 occupation of Wounded Knee. He especially hoped that his words would reach those who stood in the farthest circle at powwows, beyond the reach of the light surrounding the inner circle of drummers and singers, for they, connected but distant from their heritage, were most in need of the information he remembered and recorded. Still, non-Native American readers will find much to inspire and delight them here, too. Pat Monaghan "Impressive in range and depth, *Standing in the Light* self-consciously catalogues prescriptive tensions inherent in Young Bear's quest to order a traditional cultural identity."--*European Journal of American Culture*, Vol 19, issue 1