



## Almanac of the Dead

By Leslie Marmon Silko

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**Almanac of the Dead** By Leslie Marmon Silko

“To read this book is to hear the voices of the ancestors and spirits telling us where we came from, who we are, and where we must go.”—Maxine Hong Kingston

In its extraordinary range of character and culture, *Almanac of the Dead* is fiction on the grand scale. The acclaimed author of *Ceremony* has undertaken a weaving of ideas and lives, fate and history, passion and conquest in an attempt to re-create the moral history of the Americas, told from the point of view of the conquered, not the conquerors.

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## Almanac of the Dead By Leslie Marmon Silko Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #46261 in Books
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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Silko's ambitious but meandering novel undertakes an epic narrative, heavy with intrigue and carnage, about an apocalyptic Native American insurrection. Author tour.

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From Library Journal

When the ex-mistress of a sinister cocaine wholesaler takes a job as secretary to a Native American clairvoyant who works the TV talk show circuit, she begins transcribing an ancient manuscript that foretells the second coming of Quetzalcoatl and the violent end of white rule in the Americas. Witches and shamans across the country are working to fulfill this prophecy, but the capitalist elite is mounting a dirty war of its own, with weapons such as heroin and cocaine. This novel belongs on the same shelf with Ishmael Reed's *Mumbo Jumbo* (LJ 10/1/72) and Edward Abbey's *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (1975). Occult conspiracies multiply at a dizzying pace, and eco-radicals actually do blow up the Glen Canyon Dam. Silko succeeds more as a storyteller than a novelist: the book is full of memorable vignettes, but the frame story of apocalyptic racial warfare is clumsy comic book fare. Recommended for collections of magic realism and Native American fiction.

- *Edward B. St. John, Loyola Law Sch. Lib., Los Angeles*

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From Kirkus Reviews

A dense and occasionally dazzling saga from poet-novelist Silko (*Ceremony*, 1977; *Storyteller*, 1981), who draws on the fullness of her Laguna-Anglo-Latino heritage in the kaleidoscopic view of drug-dealing, revolution, and ancient prophecies north and south of the border. Silko's story is centered in Tucson, where two elderly sisters occupy their fortified ranch--together with a motley crew of vicious dogs and desperadoes; a coke addict and ex-exotic dancer recovering from the abduction of her child; and a Laguna loner, whose failure to keep a Hollywood crew from defiling a newly discovered stone serpent on tribal land forced him into exile. In a dizzying montage, each of their stories mingles with others involving revolt in Mexico and Central America, as the native population rises up against hated European and mestizo masters--the rebels led by revolutionaries and visionaries communicating with the spirit world through red macaws--and with tales of a massive, well-organized drug-smuggling ring operated with blessings from Tucson and border police, the local judiciary, and especially the CIA. A vast underworld of covert operations and interlocking conspiracies surfaces in all its grim glory, replete with violence, violation, and sex of every imaginable variety (even the judge coupling with his beagles), while one of the sisters deciphers the remaining fragments of the Aztec almanac entrusted to her as a last duty to her ancestors. Fantastic and colorful in the fine details, even if belabored and unwieldy as a whole. All in all: a chillingly dark vision of corruption, despair, and chaos in the Americas, where a native new world order appears ready to begin. --  
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**Jewell Garza:**

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### **Neil Nilsson:**

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