Indian Voices: Listening to Native Americans
by Alison Owings

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During the recent protests in Egypt that ousted President Hosni Mubarek, one demonstrator remarked, "We're strangers in our own country." To Alison Owings, who spent nearly a decade listening to Native Americans on and off reservations, and in and out of what is called Indian Country, the sentiment was so familiar, it echoed.

As a young Lakota-Navajo man from Chicago put it, “We are not the people you see in cartoons, movies, on TV. We go to school, we go to work.” An elderly Seneca woman on the Cattaraugus Reservation outside Buffalo was especially tart about assumptions that no Indians live east of the Mississippi, “Did you ever hear about somebody hiding in plain sight? Well, here we are.”

The Seven Stars Cookbook: Recipes from World-Class Casino Restaurants
Edited and Introduced by John Schlimm
Photographs by Frank Frankeny

Published by Chronicle Books and Harrah’s Entertainment, Inc.
320 pages - $45.00
www.chroniclebook.com
www.harrahs.com

“My absolute two favorite passions: food and casinos! Y’all, take it from me – you will hit the jackpot with this book.”

– Paula Deen

From the Seven Stars kitchens of Harrah’s Entertainment’s famed casinos comes this unprecedented compilation of 125 unforgettable recipes that will guarantee the home cook a full house every time. With dishes from breakfast through dessert (and, of course, cocktails), ranging from down-home cooking to haute cuisine, contributed by nearly 100 of Harrah’s top chefs from nearly 100 critically acclaimed restaurants spanning coast to coast, The Seven Stars Cookbook has the scope of an entire bookshelf of cookbooks.

In addition to a foreword by Paula Deen and winning recipes from other celebrity chefs such as John Besh, Bobby Flay, Bradley Ogden, François Payard, Paul Prudhomme, Guy Savoy, and more, The Seven Stars Cookbook includes more than 100 lush photographs, indispensable cooking and kitchen tips, unique menu ideas, and tidbits about the iconic company’s history and grand operations as the purveyor of the ultimate experience in dining, nightlife, and entertainment since its beginnings over 70 years ago. A gorgeous, collectible coffee table book, from the world’s largest gaming company that has honed its culinary identity like no other and created meccas for food lovers from around the globe, The Seven Stars Cookbook brings the world of Harrah’s Entertainment – sophisticated, luxurious, entertaining, high-octane and high-rolling – right to your door.

John Schlimm is an educator, artist, and award-winning author. He lives in St. Marys, Pennsylvania. Frankie Frankeny is a San Francisco-based photographer. She has been named one of the “100 Most Creative People in the U.S.” by Entertainment Weekly.

And here they are in provocative and compelling array in Indian Voices: Listening to Native Americans, published on the anniversary of the 1879 trial in Omaha held to determine if Indians are people, under United States law.

In the vast literature about Native Americans, there is no book like this. In her signature oral history style, Owings takes readers on a fresh journey across America, to meet those Americans whose ancestors once had the continent to themselves, and whose lives as contemporary Americans are tied in more ways than we might realize to those of non-Natives. Entertaining and informative, Indian Voices documents what young and old Native Americans from sixteen different tribal Nations – including Pawnee, Seminole, Ojibwe, Hopi, Yakama, and Passamaquoddy – reveal about themselves, their daily lives, and their complicated attachments to the United States. They speak with candor, insight, and humor about being Native American in a country whose non-Natives may think, in the words of a Jicarilla Apache leader in New Mexico, “All Indians look alike.”

Through intimate interviews, many also express their thoughts about the sometimes staggeringly ignorant, if often well-meaning, non-Natives they encounter – some who do not realize Native Americans speak English, have cell phones, use the Internet, and might attend both powwows and power lunches. Indian Voices, an inspiring and important contribution to the literature about the original Americans, will make every reader rethink the past – and present – of the United States.

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