



Little Hawk and the Lone Wolf: A Memoir

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"Little Hawk" was born Raymond Kaquatosh in 1924 on Wisconsin's Menominee Reservation. The son of a medicine woman, Ray spent his Depression-era boyhood immersed in the beauty of the natural world and the traditions of his tribe and his family.

After his father's death, eight-year-old Ray was sent to an Indian boarding school in Keshena. There he experienced isolation and despair, but also comfort and kindness. Upon his return home, Ray remained a lonely boy in a full house until he met and befriended a lone timber wolf. The unusual bond they formed would last through both their lifetimes. As Ray grew into a young man, he left the reservation more frequently. Yet whenever he returned--from school and work, from service in the Marines, and finally from postwar Wausau with his future wife--the wolf waited.

In this rare first-person narrative of a Menominee Indian's coming of age, Raymond Kaquatosh shares a story that is wise and irreverent, often funny, and in the end, deeply moving.

Little Hawk and the Lone Wolf: A Memoir Details

Date : Published September 5th 2014 by Wisconsin Historical Society Press (first published August 8th 2014)

ISBN : 9780870206504

Author : Raymond C. Kaquatosh

Format : Hardcover 272 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Little Hawk and the Lone Wolf: A Memoir for online ebook

Janci says

I enjoyed the book, the perspective was interesting. But after awhile, I got tired of hearing about how wonderful he was. I thought it would have been a stronger book if he had gone into more detail about how his brothers got the way they were, or why he was different. Also, what happened to his sister? A wider cultural perspective than his narrow "here's how great I am".

Jessica says

I love Wisconsin, and I love to read other people's experiences in this great state. This book is very to the point, a light and easy read that, even though I wasn't around during the times the memoir takes place, still made me feel how special Wisconsin is. If you've also had such an interesting life as Ray has, it's worth sharing.

Rissie says

There was nothing *wrong* with this book. It was sweet and had several interesting parts. But, for a book that mentions Lone Wolf in the title, I felt like the Wolf should have had more face time. I think he was either in or mentioned in only 7 or 8 chapters (out of 55).

Tara says

An interesting coming of age story taking place in Wisconsin and during World War II, I think the title and description make it sound like the bulk of the story is about his relationship with his wolf, but that's more the overarching theme that links the story together. I enjoyed listening to this on Chapter a Day, as I don't think I would have picked it up otherwise, some sweet and humorous moments.

CW: Animal death (multiple animals)

Deb M. says

I needed a book that was a pleasure to read and this one filled the bill. Sure, there were parts that were a wee bit heavy, there were a few tears but what is a memoir but a story of a life and what is a life without a bit of heavy and a few tears. Some might find the writing style simplistic but for me it felt right. It was not contrived. The style told me something about the author. He was a simple, straight forward man with a kindness and a depth that his demeanor most likely hid unless you were open to it.

Kara says

Story of growing up on the res and during World War 2.

Jean says

Delightful to read. A wolf befriends Ray as a boy and they have several adventures together. The book also captures lessons Ray learned along the way from his childhood through being a Marine in WWII - and I found those lessons applicable to me as well. Thank you!

Harmony Rose says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads giveaway. I wasn't sure what to expect since this isn't typically the sort of genre that peaks my interest, but something about this book intrigued me and I entered the giveaway. I'm really glad that I did. Raymond tells of his life and the lessons he learned growing up. It provides a lot of wisdom and once the wolf is introduced there is something enchanted about the friendship as it is described. I felt as if I was a kid again, listening to my father tell stories about his life, and give advice. It was also interesting to draw parallels with the life my father described and the one Raymond does since my dad was born just a couple of years earlier, but came from a very different culture. I enjoyed this book a lot.

richard homan says

very enjoyable read did not want the book to end

Frances606 says

very good content and info, but very poorly written.

Shirley says

This is the true story of Little Hawk, Raymond Kaquatosh. It describes his life from his birth in 1924 through the years following his discharge from the Army. Little Hawk was raised on the Wisconsin Menominee Reservation. His is a story of gratitude.

Raymond Kaquatosh's memoir is a recounting of experiences and life lessons learned.

I liked his reasons for naming his wolf Kernel.

"Now I had to think of a name for him. Corn to the Indian is like bread to the white man--'the staff of life.'

When the seed of corn is planted and combines with the Earth, it starts to grow. This wolf was a seed of

friendship, so I called him Kernel." (p. 87)

Recurring themes:

- "When life is progressing well, beware of the unexpected." (p. 88)

- "No white man will make me cry."

- "We shall meet again, it's only a matter of time" (p. 15)

What a telling statement!

"Prejudice is not uncommon in our society. It's prevalent among the lower social stratification--or should I say, the undeducated, the misinformed, the ignorant." (p. 247)

Though the author said that no white man would make him cry, the following passage brought tears to this white woman's eyes.

"We cannot be in the past or the future. We must accept life as it is and never complain about trivial things. There is so much to do and so little time. When my last breath is taken. I will be with my wolf again. Then we will be at peace forever and roam the heavens for all eternity." (p. 257)

This is a very spiritual book. I felt like Raymond's Indian heritage demonstrated the life lessons taught by Deepak Chopra. Raymond's actions teach us to let go of the past, stop worrying about the future, and to live in the moment. Moreover, his memoir is an amazing treatise on gratitude. This was a great read!

Arlene says

Five stars for this memoir, a unique personal story told by a very special Native American from the Menominee Reservation in Northeast Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Public Radio's Chapter-a-Day has this book archived for your listening pleasure for this week only.

Though the title of this memoir might lead you to think it is a children's book, it is not, because of some of the content is clearly intended for adults. However, it would be possible to pick and choose the appropriate sections for a young reader/listener.

Ray C. Kaquatosh died in April, 2018 at the age of 93. He was a World War II veteran who lived a very intriguing life on and off the reservation.

Janet Gasser says

This book offered many interesting insights into Menominee culture and also the experiences of one soldier during World War II.

Interestingly enough, my father-in-law also had an encounter with John Dillinger in northern Wisconsin in the early thirties. Dillinger offered him a ride to school in a fancy car-- my father-in-law accepted.

Jim Gallen says

Books chronicling great lives and momentous events often dominate our literary selections but sometimes we just want to read an account of a life that, though ordinary to the author who lived it, is fascinatingly

different from our own. "Little Hawk and the Lone Wolf" is one such refreshing diversion.

Author Raymond Kaquatosh was born on the Menoninee Reservation northwest of Green Bay, Wisconsin in 1924. He writes of growing up during the Depression with no running water, Model T Fords and a 1929 Chevy, the death of his father, a friendly encounter with John Dillinger, boarding at the Indian schools and his long time relationship with Kernel, his pet wolf.

Kernel is central character in the book. A missed shot by the boy and a withheld attack by the lone wolf opened the door to a gift of food, a building trust and a relationship that would benefit both. Kernel would protect Ray who would in turn stand up for his pet.

Boys do grow up and Ray found life beyond the reservation. Although by today's standards an underage driver, the enterprising young Indian bought a car and became an informal taxi driver for lumberjacks working in the area. The coming of war opened new opportunities for Ray who joined the Marines. His status as an Indian made him a target of animosity and forced "volunteering" and got him into plenty of scrapes in which he distinguished himself and after which he never ratted on his opponents, some of whom he later befriended. The sections about his time in the South Pacific, including fighting on Peleliu, are among the most interesting combat veteran accounts that I have found. Like many young men of his day he had his share of romantic delights and disappointments before finding the "right one." This determined man would become one of the first Menominee to earn a pilot's license.

This book consists of a series of chronologically sequenced anecdotes that tell his saga. It is a quick and easy read. I would describe Kaquatosh's writing style as charmingly amateurish. Amateurish because, although it employs proper grammar, it lacks the polish found in many books written "by X with Y". Charming, because you get the idea that this is really Ray's story in his own words. The reader comes to appreciate the influences of Indian and Christian spirituality, the author's path through Native and White cultures and admire his spirit as he makes his way in the world. This is no scandal sheet in which he claims abuse and unloads a lifetime of resentment. It is a memoir strong of a man who "took the blows and did it my way."

I did receive a free copy of this book for review.
