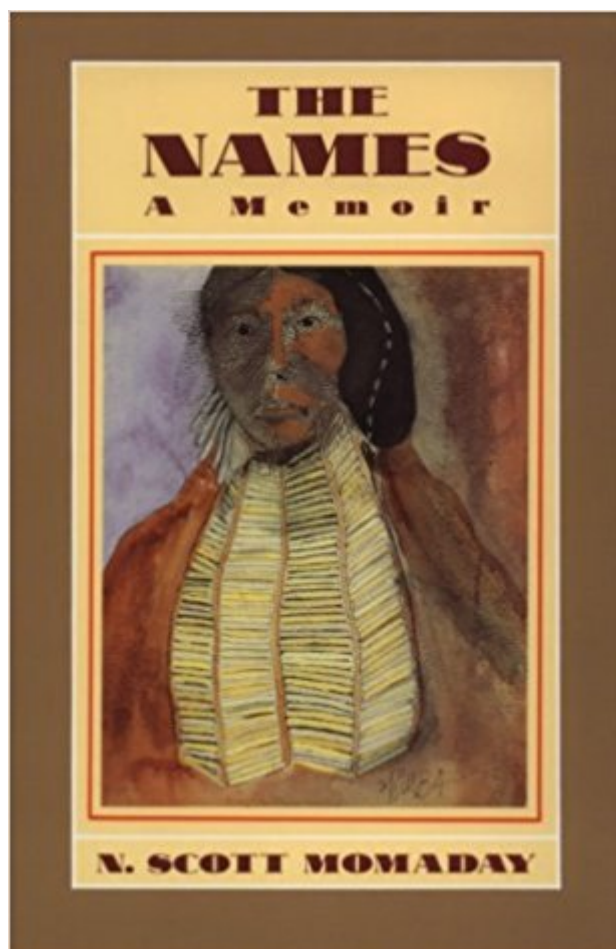


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The Names (Sun Tracks)



Synopsis

Of all of the works of N. Scott Momaday, *The Names* may be the most personal. A memoir of his boyhood in Oklahoma and the Southwest, it is also described by Momaday as "an act of the imagination. When I turn my mind to my early life, it is the imaginative part of it that comes first and irresistibly into reach, and of that part I take hold." Complete with family photos, *The Names* is a book that will captivate readers who wish to experience the Native American way of life.

Book Information

Series: Sun Tracks (Book 16)

Paperback: 170 pages

Publisher: University of Arizona Press; Reprint edition (November 1, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0816510466

ISBN-13: 978-0816510467

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #449,109 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #189 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Native American](#) #735 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Native American](#) #1067 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies](#)

Customer Reviews

"It is a search and a celebration, a book of identities and sources....Out of ordinary materials—genealogy, tribal tales, memories of a boyhood spent in Oklahoma, at Ship Rock in the Navajo country and at the Jemez pueblo, where his parents taught school—he has built a mystical, provocative book." —Wallace Stegner, *New York Times* "A Native American version of *Roots* . . . full of the sense of wonder that characterizes classic American literature." —Choice "Graceful, lucid prose...[Momaday] is forever an Indian and the reader understands why." —Atlantic Monthly "With the eye of a painter and the voice of a poet, Momaday vividly recreates a childhood world of color, sound, and experience played out against the backdrop of tribal tales and in the shadow of revered forebears. . . . An eloquent statement of this distinguished Native American author's search for identity." —Journal of Arizona History

Of all of the works of N. Scott Momaday, "The Names" may be the most personal. A memoir of his boyhood in Oklahoma and the Southwest, it is also described by Momaday as "an act of the imagination. When I turn my mind to my early life, it is the imaginative part of it that comes first and irresistibly into reach, and of that part I take hold." Complete with family photos, "The Names" is a book that will captivate readers who wish to experience the Native American way of life.

Momaday's prose is as rich as ever.

Love this book. Really helps to build your deeper understanding of the culture and the importance of a name.

This book is both a family history and memoir. The author gives insight into who he is, and into the life of native Americans. I really enjoyed this.

If you love the Southwest, you will love this book. Momaday writes about the landscape like no other writer. He captures the immensity and color of that vast area. His other books "House made of Dawn" and "Rainy Mountain" are equally moving. I keep them handy at all times, just to read certain passages of transcendent imagery.

Very good autobiography of Scott Momaday and his genealogy

great work

thanks

This narrative takes the form of a stream of consciousness, with self-awareness coming through the seemingly random juxtapositions of pop culture, memories, dialogue, language (an imposed language — the mother language having been expunged at birth). The fluidity of the narrative opens the world of meaning-making to creative associations and new connections. That is the good side of this. The downside is that the narrative is, first and foremost, about loss — the loss of moorings, the loss of directions, the loss of a mental map. The map was language itself — a Kiowa who cannot speak Kiowa. This is a tragic memoir. If one can name, one can, through the process of naming, begin to construct a personal language,

and hence a self. Later, one can worry about things like $\neg \hat{A}$ "brandings" $\neg \hat{A}$ and $\neg \hat{A}$ "souls." $\neg \hat{A}$ First, one must exist.

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