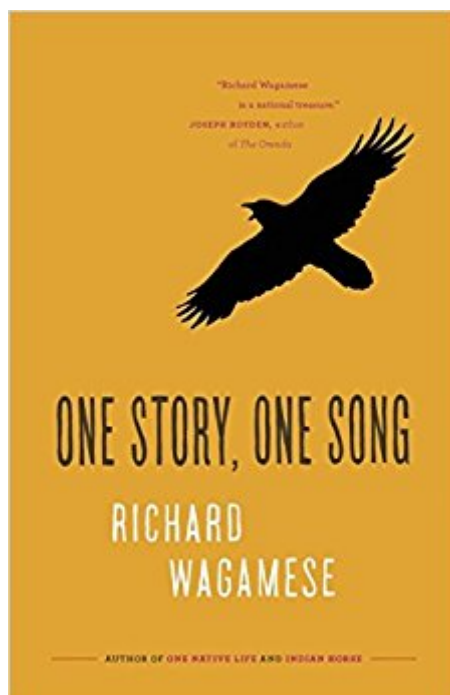


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# One Story, One Song



## Synopsis

A new collection of warm, wise, and inspiring stories from the author of the best-selling *One Native Life*. Since its publication in 2008, readers and reviewers have embraced Richard Wagamese's *One Native Life*. "In quiet tones and luminous language," wrote the *Winnipeg Free Press*, "Wagamese shares his hurts and joys, inviting readers to find the ways in which they are joined to him and to consider how they might be joined to others." In this new book, Richard Wagamese again invites readers to accompany him on his travels. This time his focus is on stories: how they shape us, how they empower us, how they change our lives. Ancient and contemporary, cultural and spiritual, funny and sad, the tales are grouped according to the four essential principles Ojibway traditional teachers sought to impart: humility, trust, introspection, and wisdom. Whether the topic is learning from his grade five teacher about Martin Luther King, gleaning understanding from a wolf track, lighting a fire for the first time without matches, or finding the universe in an eagle feather, these stories exhibit the warmth, wisdom, and generosity that made *One Native Life* so popular. As always, in these pages, the land serves as Wagamese's guide. And as always, he finds that true home means not only community but conversation; good, straight-hearted talk about important things. We all need to tell our stories, he says. Every voice matters.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The short pieces in *One Story, One Song* remind us of human beings' place in the world: We are a part of it, not masters of it. And by sharing our stories we share ourselves. By listening to

others' stories, we share their lives and perhaps gain connections. One Story, One Song is all about connections, something we all need." (Globe & Mail 2014-12-01)

Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in Ontario. A member of the Sturgeon Clan, he is one of Canada's foremost authors and journalists. He is the author of six novels, one collection of poetry and three memoirs. His most recent novels, *Indian Horse* (2012) and *Medicine Walk* (2014) were national bestsellers and published to brilliant reviews. *Indian Horse* was the People's Choice finalist in the 2013 Canada Reads competition. Richard has also been honored with the 2012 National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Media and Communications and the Molson Prize for the Arts in 2013. He lives in Kamloops, BC.

Richard Wagamese crossed over just a few months ago, and I felt as if I lost a close friend and one of my most influential teachers all at once, though I never had the privilege of meeting him in person. I wanted more, more inspiration, more direction, more of his insight and humor. But perhaps he had already learned everything he was here to learn. As a Contemporary Native literature college instructor, Wagamese's *Keeper n Me* was a consistent part of my every semester...the last novel in my syllabus, sending the students home with the reminder that before we learn our place in our culture and community, we must learn to be a good human being. He carries that theme into this autobiographic series of recollections of his life experiences from the vantage point of reaching 50, sharing his amazing personal determination for finding resolution in the most painful personal conflicts. While admitting that there is still much to be done to heal the damage caused by the Canadian government's attempt to force acculturation on Native children, Wagamese shows us how, late in life, he is discovering that the permanent community he so enjoys living in is as diverse as Canada itself, and his always evolving sense of identity has grown to include himself as a human being, an Ojibwe man, and a Canadian. I had read his other autobiographical work, *One Native Life*, and loved it. I have no idea where this collection of stories fits in in the chronology of his work, but for me, this book was one last chance to sit around the fire and have a conversation with my friend and teacher. If you are familiar with his other works, and liked them as much as I did, I think you'll find this one a good way to say "see you later, Richard," since there is no word for goodbye in Ojibwe.

I read this book a couple of years ago and suggested it to my Friends Through Fiction Book Club. I finished the book a second time and loved it even more. We had a great discussion on the book.

Richard Wagamese takes you on a personal journey. The levels and chapters are many. His honesty about his troubled life, his childhood, being native brings an ache in one's heart if one is willing to truly listen and hear what he shares with his readers. I highly recommend his book. Selma Mannhart

Richard is a beautiful writer. His prose is almost musical and his stories have heart. I've gone back to reread beautiful passages.

I enjoy the wisdom of the elders that the author portrays. This is a simple book that goes deep.

Great writing. All of his books are good and the author shows great insight and is not afraid to display it..

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