

borders by thomas king analysis

Borders by Thomas King Analysis: Unveiling the Complexities of Identity and Nationhood

Introduction:

Thomas King's *Borders* isn't just a collection of short stories; it's a potent exploration of identity, belonging, and the often-fraught relationship between Indigenous peoples and the dominant culture in North America. This in-depth analysis dives into the nuances of King's masterful storytelling, examining the recurring themes, stylistic choices, and profound implications of his work. We'll delve into the complexities of self-identification, the insidious nature of colonialism's legacy, and the power of storytelling itself as a tool for reclamation and resistance. Prepare to journey through a landscape of shifting borders, both geographical and personal, and uncover the layers of meaning embedded within King's captivating narratives.

I. The Elusive Nature of Identity in Borders

King masterfully portrays the fluidity and ambiguity of identity, particularly for Indigenous individuals navigating a world defined by colonial constructs. His characters often grapple with dual identities, caught between Indigenous traditions and the expectations of dominant society. The titular story, "Borders," perfectly exemplifies this struggle. Laetitia, the main character, finds herself constantly negotiating her identity, challenged by both Canadian and American authorities who refuse to neatly categorize her. This highlights the limitations of imposed classifications and the inherent complexities of self-definition beyond rigid national boundaries. The recurring theme of fractured identity underscores the lasting impact of colonialism and its efforts to erase Indigenous cultures and self-determination.

II. The Power of Storytelling and Oral Tradition

Storytelling serves as a powerful tool throughout *Borders*. It's not merely a narrative device; it becomes a form of resistance and a means of preserving cultural heritage in the face of assimilation. King utilizes oral traditions, weaving in anecdotes and historical allusions to enrich his narratives and emphasize the continuity of Indigenous knowledge. The stories within *Borders* aren't simply told; they are performed, reflecting the significance of oral culture in Indigenous communities. This performative aspect reinforces the dynamism and adaptability of Indigenous storytelling, which actively counters the static and often inaccurate narratives imposed by the dominant culture.

III. Colonialism's Lingering Shadow: Historical Trauma and its Manifestations

King subtly but powerfully portrays the lasting effects of colonialism on Indigenous communities. The characters in *Borders* often bear the weight of historical trauma, manifested in various ways – from intergenerational trauma to the subtle internalization of colonial ideologies. The stories reveal the insidious nature of colonialism, which extends beyond overt acts of oppression to encompass systemic injustices and cultural erasure. The characters' struggles aren't merely individual; they reflect the collective experience of Indigenous peoples grappling with the legacy of colonization and

its continuing impact.

IV. Humor as a Tool for Resistance and Social Commentary

Despite the serious themes explored, King employs humor throughout *Borders*. This humor isn't frivolous; it's a potent form of resistance, allowing him to subvert power structures and challenge dominant narratives. The ironic and often self-deprecating humor of his characters allows him to critique the absurdities of colonial systems while simultaneously affirming Indigenous resilience and agency. King's use of humor allows for a more accessible engagement with complex and painful issues, making his work both thought-provoking and engaging.

V. The Significance of Place and Landscape

The geographical landscape plays a crucial role in shaping the identities and experiences of King's characters. The border between Canada and the United States serves as a powerful symbol of both physical and cultural division. King uses descriptions of specific places to highlight the interconnectedness of land and identity, emphasizing the importance of place in shaping Indigenous cultures and traditions. The landscape isn't simply a backdrop; it's an active participant in the narratives, reflecting the complex relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land.

VI. Conclusion: A Legacy of Resistance and Reclamation

Borders is not just a collection of stories; it's a powerful statement on the ongoing struggle for Indigenous self-determination. King's work is a testament to the enduring strength of Indigenous cultures and the importance of reclaiming narratives and resisting oppressive systems. Through his masterful storytelling, he compels readers to confront uncomfortable truths and consider the complexities of identity, nationhood, and the lasting impact of colonialism. His work serves as a vital contribution to Indigenous literature and continues to inspire critical reflection on the ongoing struggle for justice and recognition.

VII. Detailed Outline of *Borders* Analysis:

A. Introduction: Brief overview of Thomas King and *Borders*, establishing the central themes and approach of the analysis.

B. Main Chapters:

1. Identity and Belonging: Exploration of the fluidity of identity and the challenges faced by Indigenous individuals navigating colonial structures.
2. Storytelling as Resistance: Analysis of the role of oral tradition and storytelling in preserving cultural heritage and challenging dominant narratives.
3. Colonialism's Lasting Impact: Examination of the effects of historical trauma and systemic injustices on Indigenous communities.
4. Humor and Subversion: Discussion of King's use of humor as a tool for resistance and social

commentary.

5. Place and Landscape: Analysis of the significance of geographical locations and the relationship between land and identity.

C. Conclusion: Summary of key findings and a reflection on the significance of Borders in contemporary Indigenous literature.

VIII. Explanation of Outline Points (Detailed elaboration of each point from the outline above is already incorporated in the body of this article).

IX. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the central theme of Borders by Thomas King? The central theme is the complex interplay of identity, belonging, and the enduring legacy of colonialism on Indigenous communities in North America.
1. What literary techniques does King use in Borders? King utilizes various literary techniques including storytelling, humor, irony, and subtle allusions to history and oral tradition.
1. How does King portray the impact of colonialism? King depicts colonialism's insidious and long-lasting effects through the experiences of his characters, highlighting systemic injustices and the erosion of Indigenous cultures.
1. What is the significance of the border itself in the stories? The border represents both physical and cultural division, symbolizing the challenges faced by Indigenous people in navigating two distinct cultures and legal systems.
1. What role does humor play in Borders? Humor acts as a form of resistance, allowing King to critique colonial systems and celebrate Indigenous resilience while addressing difficult themes.
1. How does the book challenge traditional notions of identity? King challenges fixed notions of identity by showing the fluidity and ambiguity of self-identification for Indigenous individuals

caught between Indigenous and dominant cultures.

1. Who is the intended audience for *Borders*? The book's intended audience is broad, encompassing anyone interested in Indigenous literature, Canadian literature, and explorations of identity, colonialism, and cultural survival.

1. What makes *Borders* significant in contemporary literature? *Borders* stands out for its nuanced and sensitive portrayal of Indigenous experiences, its innovative use of storytelling, and its powerful critique of colonialism's lasting impact.

1. Where can I find *Borders* by Thomas King? *Borders* is widely available at bookstores, libraries, and online retailers.

X. Related Articles:

1. Thomas King's Literary Style: A Deep Dive: An in-depth analysis of King's distinctive writing style and its impact on his storytelling.

1. The Role of Oral Tradition in Indigenous Literature: An exploration of the importance of oral storytelling in Indigenous cultures and its relevance to contemporary literature.

1. Colonialism's Impact on Indigenous Identity: A discussion of how colonialism has shaped Indigenous identity and its continuing consequences.

1. Humor as a Form of Resistance in Indigenous Literature: An examination of how humor is used as a tool for resistance and social commentary in Indigenous writing.

1. The Significance of Place in Indigenous Storytelling: An analysis of the role of place and landscape in Indigenous narratives and their cultural significance.

1. Intergenerational Trauma and Indigenous Communities: An exploration of the concept of intergenerational trauma within Indigenous communities and its impact on present-day life.
1. A Comparative Analysis of Thomas King's Works: A comparison of different works by Thomas King, highlighting stylistic similarities and thematic variations.
1. Teaching Thomas King's *Borders* in the Classroom: A guide for educators on how to effectively teach *Borders* and engage students with its themes.
1. Canadian Indigenous Literature: A Critical Overview: A broader examination of the development and themes found within Canadian Indigenous literature.

borders by thomas king analysis: *Borders* Thomas King, 2021-09-07 A People Magazine Best Book Fall 2021 From celebrated Indigenous author Thomas King and award-winning Métis artist Natasha Donovan comes a powerful graphic novel about a family caught between nations. *Borders* is a masterfully told story of a boy and his mother whose road trip is thwarted at the border when they identify their citizenship as Blackfoot. Refusing to identify as either American or Canadian first bars their entry into the US, and then their return into Canada. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity and to each other. *Borders* explores nationhood from an Indigenous perspective and resonates deeply with themes of identity, justice, and belonging.

borders by thomas king analysis: *Borders* Thomas King, 2022-01-18 From two celebrated Indigenous creators comes a powerful graphic novel about a family caught between nations. *Borders* is a masterfully told story of a boy and his mother whose road trip from Alberta to Salt Lake City is thwarted at the border when they identify their citizenship as Blackfoot. Refusing to identify as either American or Canadian first bars their entry into the US, and then their return into Canada. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity and to each other. This much-anthologized story has been adapted into a gripping graphic novel by award-winning artist Natasha Donovan. A beautifully told tale with broad appeal, *Borders* resonates deeply with themes of identity, justice, and belonging.

borders by thomas king analysis: *The Truth about Stories* Thomas King, 2003 Winner of the 2003 Trillium Book Award *Stories* are wondrous things, award-winning author and scholar Thomas King declares in his 2003 CBC Massey Lectures. And they are dangerous. Beginning with a traditional Native oral story, King weaves his way through literature and history, religion and politics, popular culture and social protest, gracefully elucidating North America's relationship with its Native peoples. Native culture has deep ties to storytelling, and yet no other North American culture has been the subject of more erroneous stories. The Indian of fact, as King says, bears little resemblance to the literary Indian, the dying Indian, the construct so powerfully and often

destructively projected by White North America. With keen perception and wit, King illustrates that stories are the key to, and only hope for, human understanding. He compels us to listen well.

borders by thomas king analysis: *One Good Story, That One* Thomas King, 2013-09-01 *One Good Story, That One* is a collection steeped in native oral tradition and shot through with Thomas King's special brand of wit and comic imagination. These highly acclaimed stories conjure up Native and Judeo-Christian myths, present-day pop culture, and literature while mixing in just the right amount of perception and experience.

borders by thomas king analysis: *Divided by Borders* Joanna Dreby, 2010-02-17 Since 2000, approximately 440,000 Mexicans have migrated to the United States every year. Tens of thousands have left children behind in Mexico to do so. For these parents, migration is a sacrifice. What do parents expect to accomplish by dividing their families across borders? How do families manage when they are living apart? More importantly, do parents' relocations yield the intended results? Probing the experiences of migrant parents, children in Mexico, and their caregivers, Joanna Dreby offers an up-close and personal account of the lives of families divided by borders. What she finds is that the difficulties endured by transnational families make it nearly impossible for parents' sacrifices to result in the benefits they expect. Yet, paradoxically, these hardships reinforce family members' commitments to each other. A story both of adversity and the intensity of family ties, *Divided by Borders* is an engaging and insightful investigation of the ways Mexican families struggle and ultimately persevere in a global economy.

borders by thomas king analysis: *The Inconvenient Indian* Thomas King, 2013-09-01 In *The Inconvenient Indian*, Thomas King offers a deeply knowing, darkly funny, unabashedly opinionated, and utterly unconventional account of Indian-White relations in North America since initial contact. Ranging freely across the centuries and the Canada-U.S. border, King debunks fabricated stories of Indian savagery and White heroism, takes an oblique look at Indians (and cowboys) in film and popular culture, wrestles with the history of Native American resistance and his own experiences as a Native rights activist, and articulates a profound, revolutionary understanding of the cumulative effects of ever-shifting laws and treaties on Native peoples and lands. Suffused with wit, anger, perception, and wisdom, *The Inconvenient Indian* is at once an engaging chronicle and a devastating subversion of history, insightfully distilling what it means to be "Indian" in North America. It is a critical and personal meditation that sees Native American history not as a straight line but rather as a circle in which the same absurd, tragic dynamics are played out over and over again. At the heart of the dysfunctional relationship between Indians and Whites, King writes, is land: "The issue has always been land." With that insight, the history inflicted on the indigenous peoples of North America—broken treaties, forced removals, genocidal violence, and racist stereotypes—sharpens into focus. Both timeless and timely, *The Inconvenient Indian* ultimately rejects the pessimism and cynicism with which Natives and Whites regard one another to chart a new and just way forward for Indians and non-Indians alike.

borders by thomas king analysis: *Border Fictions* Claudia Sadowski-Smith, 2008 *Border Fictions* offers the first comparative analysis of multiethnic and transnational cultural representations about the United States' borders with Mexico and Canada. Blending textual analysis with theories of globalization and empire, Claudia Sadowski-Smith forges a new model of inter-American studies. *Border Fictions* places into dialogue a variety of hemispheric perspectives from Chicana/o, Asian American, American Indian, Latin American, and Canadian studies. Each chapter examines fiction that ranges widely, from celebrated authors such as Carlos Fuentes, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Alberto Ríos to writers whose contributions to border literature have not yet been fully appreciated, including Karen Tei Yamashita, Thomas King, Janette Turner Hospital, and emerging Chicana/o writers of the U.S.-Mexico border. Proposing a diverse and geographically expansive view of border and inter-American studies, *Border Fictions* links the work of these and numerous other authors to civil rights movements, environmental justice activism, struggles for land and border-crossing rights, as well as to anti-imperialist forms of nationalism in the United States' neighboring countries. The book forces us to take into account the ways in which shifts in the nature

of global relations affect literary production, especially in its hemispheric manifestations.

borders by thomas king analysis: Green Grass, Running Water Thomas King, 2012-10-30 Strong, sassy women and hard-luck, hard-headed men, all searching for the middle ground between Native American tradition and the modern world, perform an elaborate dance of approach and avoidance in this magical, rollicking tale by award-winning author Thomas King. Alberta, Eli, Lionel and others are coming to the Blackfoot reservation for the Sun Dance. There they will encounter four Indian elders and their companion, the trickster Coyote—and nothing in the small town of Blossom will be the same again. . . .

borders by thomas king analysis: Truth & Bright Water Thomas King, 1999 The lives of the inhabitants of two towns, Truth and Bright Water, separated by a river running between Montana and an Ottawa Indian reservation, intertwine over the course of a summer as seen through the eyes of two young boys.

borders by thomas king analysis: White Borders Reece Jones, 2021-10-12 “This powerful and meticulously argued book reveals that immigration crackdowns ... [have] always been about saving and protecting the racist idea of a white America.” —Ibram X. Kendi, award-winning author of *Four Hundred Souls* and *Stamped from the Beginning* “A damning inquiry into the history of the border as a place where race is created and racism honed into a razor-sharp ideology.” —Greg Grandin, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The End of the Myth* Recent racist anti-immigration policies, from the border wall to the Muslim ban, have left many Americans wondering: How did we get here? In what readers call a “chilling and revelatory” account, Reece Jones reveals the painful answer: although the US is often mythologized as a nation of immigrants, it has a long history of immigration restrictions that are rooted in the racist fear of the “great replacement” of whites with non-white newcomers. After the arrival of the first slave ship in 1619, the colonies that became the United States were based on the dual foundation of open immigration for whites from Northern Europe and the racial exclusion of slaves from Africa, Native Americans, and, eventually, immigrants from other parts of the world. Jones’s scholarship shines through his extensive research of the United States’ racist and xenophobic underbelly. He connects past and present to uncover the link between the Chinese Exclusion laws of the 1880s, the “Keep America American” nativism of the 1920s, and the “Build the Wall” chants initiated by former president Donald Trump in 2016. Along the way, we meet a bizarre cast of anti-immigration characters, such as John Tanton, Cordelia Scaife May, and Stephen Miller, who pushed fringe ideas about “white genocide” and “race suicide” into mainstream political discourse. Through gripping stories and in-depth analysis of major immigration cases, Jones explores the connections between anti-immigration hate groups and the Republican Party. What is laid bare after his examination is not just the intersection between white supremacy and anti-immigration bias but also the lasting impacts this perfect storm of hatred has had on United States law.

borders by thomas king analysis: A Stranger in the Kingdom Howard Frank Mosher, 2014-05-27 This novel of murder and its aftermath in a small Vermont town in the 1950s is “reminiscent of *To Kill a Mockingbird* . . . Absorbing” (The New York Times). In Kingdom County, Vermont, the town’s new Presbyterian minister is a black man, an unsettling fact for some of the locals. When a French-Canadian woman takes refuge in his parsonage—and is subsequently murdered—suspicion immediately falls on the clergyman. While his thirteen-year-old son struggles in the shadow of the town’s accusations, and his older son, a lawyer, fights to defend him, a father finds himself on trial more for who he is than for what he might have done. “Set in northern Vermont in 1952, Mosher’s tale of racism and murder is powerful, viscerally affecting and totally contemporary in its exposure of deep-seated prejudice and intolerance . . . [A] big, old-fashioned novel.” —Publishers Weekly “A real mystery in the best and truest sense.” —Lee Smith, The New York Times Book Review A Winner of the New England Book Award

borders by thomas king analysis: 'Illegal' Traveller S. Khosravi, 2010-04-14 Based on fieldwork among undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers *Illegal Traveller* offers a narrative of the polysemic nature of borders, border politics, and rituals and performances of border-crossing.

Interjecting personal experiences into ethnographic writing it is 'a form of self-narrative that places the self within a social context'.

borders by thomas king analysis: Loyalties Adewale Maja-Pearce, 2012-05-01 A chilling collection of tales set in a country once ravaged by civil war and now torn apart by sudden wealth. In this brutal world of bars, brothels and small-town hotels are havens, the sad and lonely, escaping from the hustlers on the streets outside. But the short-lived comforts of a cold embrace or the oblivion of drunkenness are no more than brief respites in the larger struggle for survival.

borders by thomas king analysis: Ask Me No Questions Marina Budhos, 2008-06-20 A Muslim immigrant teen struggles to hold her family together in the wake of 9/11 in this poignant novel from acclaimed author Marina Budhos. You forget. You forget you don't really exist here, that this isn't your home. Since emigrating from Bangladesh, fourteen-year-old Nadira and her family have been living in New York City on expired visas, hoping to realize their dream of becoming legal US citizens. But after 9/11, everything changes. Suddenly being Muslim means you are dangerous, a suspected terrorist. When Nadira's father is arrested and detained at the US-Canada border, Nadira and her older sister, Aisha, are told to carry on as if everything is the same. The teachers at Flushing High don't ask any questions, but Aisha falls apart. Nothing matters to her anymore—not even college. It's up to Nadira to be the strong one and bring her family back together again.

borders by thomas king analysis: Mexican WhiteBoy Matt de la Peña, 2008-08-12 Newbery Award-winning and New York Times bestselling author Matt de la Peña's *Mexican WhiteBoy* is a story of friendship, acceptance, and the struggle to find your identity in a world of definitions. Danny's tall and skinny. Even though he's not built, his arms are long enough to give his pitch a power so fierce any college scout would sign him on the spot. Ninety-five mile an hour fastball, but the boy's not even on a team. Every time he gets up on the mound he loses it. But at his private school, they don't expect much else from him. Danny's brown. Half-Mexican brown. And growing up in San Diego that close to the border means everyone else knows exactly who he is before he even opens his mouth. Before they find out he can't speak Spanish, and before they realize his mom has blond hair and blue eyes, they've got him pegged. But it works the other way too. And Danny's convinced it's his whiteness that sent his father back to Mexico. That's why he's spending the summer with his dad's family. Only, to find himself, he may just have to face the demons he refuses to see--the demons that are right in front of his face. And open up to a friendship he never saw coming. Matt de la Peña's critically acclaimed novel is an intimate and moving story that offers hope to those who least expect it. [A] first-rate exploration of self-identity.-SLJ Unique in its gritty realism and honest portrayal of the complexities of life for inner-city teens...De la Peña poignantly conveys the message that, despite obstacles, you must believe in yourself and shape your own future.-The Horn Book Magazine The baseball scenes...sizzle like Danny's fastball...Danny's struggle to find his place will speak strongly to all teens, but especially to those of mixed race.-Booklist De la Peña blends sports and street together in a satisfying search for personal identity.-Kirkus Reviews *Mexican WhiteBoy*...shows that no matter what obstacles you face, you can still reach your dreams with a positive attitude. This is more than a book about a baseball player--this is a book about life.-Curtis Granderson, New York Mets outfielder An ALA-YALSA Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults A Junior Library Guild Selection

borders by thomas king analysis: This Will All End in Tears Joe Ollmann, 2009-11-21 A graphic novel that presents five stories on humanity, with characters ranging from an overweight girl, a poor single mother with a sick baby and her kids trying to get a break at a bagel shop, an office drone, and a young girl losing her Catholic faith.

borders by thomas king analysis: The Crossing Gary Paulsen, 2014-05-27 From the Newbery Award-winning, New York Times-bestselling author of *Northwind*. "A stark, moving portrait of Mexican poverty and street life." —School Library Journal Fourteen-year-old Manny is an orphan in Juarez, Mexico. He competes with his bigger, meaner rivals for the coins American tourists throw off the bridge between Texas and his town. Across that heavily guarded bridge await a different world and a better existence. On the night when Manny dares the crossing—through the muddy shallows

of the Rio Grande, past the searchlights and the border patrol—the young man encounters an old stranger who could prove to be an ally or an enemy. Manny can't tell for certain. But if he is to achieve his dream, then he must be willing to risk everything—even his life. "Paulsen . . . is skilled at pace, incident and characterization, and he uses them to pull the reader to the memorable—and powerful—last scene . . . A book for older children and teenagers who will not want to put it down." —Kirkus Reviews "Any work by such a proficient writer, who invokes a powerful sense of the tragic in readers young and old, is welcome indeed." —Publishers Weekly

borders by thomas king analysis: Kingship Francis Oakley, 2008-04-15 From despots to powerless figureheads, and from the Neolithic era to the present, this book traces the history of kingship around the world and the tenacity of its connection with the sacred. Considers the many forms that kingship took during this period, including: the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt; the emperors of Japan; the Maya rulers of Mesoamerica; the medieval popes and emperors; and the English and French monarchs of early modern Europe Explores the panoply of governing roles that kingship involved – administrative, military, judicial, economic, religious and symbolic – but focussing on its connection with the sacred. Draws on the insights of cultural anthropology and comparative religion, as well as the on the resources provided by historians.

borders by thomas king analysis: Utopia Thomas More, 2019-04-08 Utopia is a work of fiction and socio-political satire by Thomas More published in 1516 in Latin. The book is a frame narrative primarily depicting a fictional island society and its religious, social and political customs. Many aspects of More's description of Utopia are reminiscent of life in monasteries.

borders by thomas king analysis: Halfbreed Maria Campbell, 2019-11-05 A new, fully restored edition of the essential Canadian classic. An unflinchingly honest memoir of her experience as a Métis woman in Canada, Maria Campbell's Halfbreed depicts the realities that she endured and, above all, overcame. Maria was born in Northern Saskatchewan, her father the grandson of a Scottish businessman and Métis woman--a niece of Gabriel Dumont whose family fought alongside Riel and Dumont in the 1885 Rebellion; her mother the daughter of a Cree woman and French-American man. This extraordinary account, originally published in 1973, bravely explores the poverty, oppression, alcoholism, addiction, and tragedy Maria endured throughout her childhood and into her early adult life, underscored by living in the margins of a country pervaded by hatred, discrimination, and mistrust. Laced with spare moments of love and joy, this is a memoir of family ties and finding an identity in a heritage that is neither wholly Indigenous or Anglo; of strength and resilience; of indomitable spirit. This edition of Halfbreed includes a new introduction written by Indigenous (Métis) scholar Dr. Kim Anderson detailing the extraordinary work that Maria has been doing since its original publication 46 years ago, and an afterword by the author looking at what has changed, and also what has not, for Indigenous people in Canada today. Restored are the recently discovered missing pages from the original text of this groundbreaking and significant work.

borders by thomas king analysis: Medicine River Thomas King, 2018-08-14 When Will returns to Medicine River, he thinks he is simply attending his mother's funeral. He doesn't count on Harlen Bigbear and his unique brand of community planning. Harlen tries to sell Will on the idea of returning to Medicine River to open shop as the town's only Native photographer. Somehow, that's exactly what happens. Through Will's gentle and humorous narrative, we come to know Medicine River, a small Albertan town bordering a Blackfoot reserve. And we meet its people: the basketball team; Louise Heavyman and her daughter, South Wing; Martha Oldcrow, the marriage doctor; Joe Bigbear, Harlen's world-travelling, storytelling brother; Bertha Morley, who has a short fling with a Calgary dating service; and David Plume, who went to Wounded Knee. At the centre of it all is Harlen, advising and pestering, annoying and entertaining, gossiping and benevolently interfering in the lives of his friends and neighbours.

borders by thomas king analysis: Monster Child Rahela Nayebzadah, 2021-05-18 In a powerful debut novel author Rahela Nayebzadah introduces three unforgettable characters, Beh, Shabnam and Alif. In a world swirling with secrets, racism and a touch of magic we watch through the eyes of these three children as Nayebzadah's family of Afghan immigrants try to find their way in

an often uncaring society. But as a sexual assault on thirteen-year-old Beh unleashes the past and destroys the family the reader is left wondering who is the monster child? Is it Beh, who says she is called a disease? Is it Shabnam, who cries tears of blood? Is it Alif, who in the end declares We are a family of monsters? Or are the monsters all around us?

borders by thomas king analysis: Everfair Nisi Shawl, 2016-09-06 An alternate history novel that explores the question of what might have come of Belgium's ... colonization of the Congo if the native populations had learned about steam technology a bit earlier--Amazon.com.

borders by thomas king analysis: Continental Divides Rachel Adams, 2010-06-15 North America is more a political and an economic invention than a place people call home. Nonetheless, the region shared by the United States and its closest neighbors, North America, is an intriguing frame for comparative American studies. *Continental Divides* is the first book to study the patterns of contact, exchange, conflict, and disavowal among cultures that span the borders of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. Rachel Adams considers a broad range of literary, filmic, and visual texts that exemplify cultural traffic across North American borders. She investigates how our understanding of key themes, genres, and periods within U.S. cultural study is deepened, and in some cases transformed, when Canada and Mexico enter the picture. How, for example, does the work of the iconic American writer Jack Kerouac read differently when his Franco-American origins and Mexican travels are taken into account? Or how would our conception of American modernism be altered if Mexico were positioned as a center of artistic and political activity? In this engaging analysis, Adams charts the lengthy and often unrecognized traditions of neighborly exchange, both hostile and amicable, that have left an imprint on North America's varied cultures.

borders by thomas king analysis: Albion's Seed David Hackett Fischer, 1991-03-14 This fascinating book is the first volume in a projected cultural history of the United States, from the earliest English settlements to our own time. It is a history of American folkways as they have changed through time, and it argues a thesis about the importance for the United States of having been British in its cultural origins. While most people in the United States today have no British ancestors, they have assimilated regional cultures which were created by British colonists, even while preserving ethnic identities at the same time. In this sense, nearly all Americans are Albion's Seed, no matter what their ethnicity may be. The concluding section of this remarkable book explores the ways that regional cultures have continued to dominate national politics from 1789 to 1988, and still help to shape attitudes toward education, government, gender, and violence, on which differences between American regions are greater than between European nations.

borders by thomas king analysis: Romulus, My Father Raimond Gaita, 1999-09-01 Winner of the 1998 Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non-Fiction, *Romulus, My Father* is an iconic and deeply loved book. Romulus Gaita fled his home in his native Yugoslavia at the age of thirteen, and came to Australia with his young wife Christina and their infant son Raimond soon after the end of World War II. Tragic events were to overtake the boy's life, but Raimond Gaita has an extraordinary story to tell about growing up with his father amid the stony paddocks and flowing grasses of country Australia. Written simply and movingly, *Romulus, My Father* is about how a compassionate and honest man taught his son the meaning of living a decent life. It is about passion, betrayal and madness, about friendship and the joy and dignity of work, about character and fate, affliction and spirituality. No one will read this wonderful book without an enhanced sense of the possibilities of being alive. 'I know of no other book where the love between father and son has been more beautifully expressed.' Robert Manne

borders by thomas king analysis: The Frontier Complex Kyle J. Gardner, 2021-01-21 Reveals how British imperial border-making in the Himalayas transformed a crossroads into a borderland and geography into politics.

borders by thomas king analysis: Night Flying Woman Ignatia Broker, 2008-10-14 In the accounts of the lives of several generations of Ojibway people in Minnesota is much information about their history and culture.

borders by thomas king analysis: The Back Of The Turtle Thomas King, 2014-09-02 This is

Thomas King's first literary novel in 15 years and follows on the success of the award-winning and bestselling *The Inconvenient Indian* and his beloved *Green Grass, Running Water* and *Truth and Bright Water*, both of which continue to be taught in Canadian schools and universities. *Green Grass, Running Water* is widely considered a contemporary Canadian classic. In *The Back of the Turtle*, Gabriel returns to Smoke River, the reserve where his mother grew up and to which she returned with Gabriel's sister. The reserve is deserted after an environmental disaster killed the population, including Gabriel's family, and the wildlife. Gabriel, a brilliant scientist working for DowSanto, created GreenSweep, and indirectly led to the crisis. Now he has come to see the damage and to kill himself in the sea. But as he prepares to let the water take him, he sees a young girl in the waves. Plunging in, he saves her, and soon is saving others. Who are these people with their long black hair and almond eyes who have fallen from the sky? Filled with brilliant characters, trademark wit, wordplay and a thorough knowledge of native myth and story-telling, this novel is a masterpiece by one of our most important writers.

borders by thomas king analysis: *Keeper'n Me* Richard Wagamese, 2018-10-02 When Garnet Raven was three years old, he was taken from his home on an Ojibway Indian reserve and placed in a series of foster homes. Having reached his mid-teens, he escapes at the first available opportunity, only to find himself cast adrift on the streets of the big city. Having skirted the urban underbelly once too often by age 20, he finds himself thrown in jail. While there, he gets a surprise letter from his long-forgotten native family. The sudden communication from his past spurs him to return to the reserve following his release from jail. Deciding to stay awhile, his life is changed completely as he comes to discover his sense of place, and of self. While on the reserve, Garnet is initiated into the ways of the Ojibway--both ancient and modern--by Keeper, a friend of his grandfather, and last fount of history about his people's ways. By turns funny, poignant and mystical, *Keeper'n Me* reflects a positive view of Native life and philosophy--as well as casting fresh light on the redemptive power of one's community and traditions.

borders by thomas king analysis: *April Raintree* Beatrice Mosionier, 2011-03-17 A revised version of the novel *In Search of April Raintree*, written specifically for students in grades 9 through 12. Through her characterization of two young sisters who are removed from their family, the author poignantly illustrates the difficulties that many Aboriginal people face in maintaining a positive self-identity.

borders by thomas king analysis: *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* Julian Jaynes, 2000-08-15 National Book Award Finalist: "This man's ideas may be the most influential, not to say controversial, of the second half of the twentieth century."—Columbus Dispatch At the heart of this classic, seminal book is Julian Jaynes's still-controversial thesis that human consciousness did not begin far back in animal evolution but instead is a learned process that came about only three thousand years ago and is still developing. The implications of this revolutionary scientific paradigm extend into virtually every aspect of our psychology, our history and culture, our religion—and indeed our future. "Don't be put off by the academic title of Julian Jaynes's *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*. Its prose is always lucid and often lyrical...he unfolds his case with the utmost intellectual rigor."—The New York Times "When Julian Jaynes . . . speculates that until late in the twentieth millennium BC men had no consciousness but were automatically obeying the voices of the gods, we are astounded but compelled to follow this remarkable thesis."—John Updike, *The New Yorker* "He is as startling as Freud was in *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and Jaynes is equally as adept at forcing a new view of known human behavior."—American Journal of Psychiatry

borders by thomas king analysis: *On the Edge* Franck Bill, Caroline Humphrey, 2021-11-16 A pioneering examination of history, current affairs, and daily life along the RussiaÐChina border, one of the world's least understood and most politically charged frontiers. The border between Russia and China winds for 2,600 miles through rivers, swamps, and vast taiga forests. It's a thin line of direct engagement, extraordinary contrasts, frequent tension, and occasional war between two of the world's political giants. Franck Bill and Caroline Humphrey have spent years traveling

through and studying this important yet forgotten region. Drawing on pioneering fieldwork, they introduce readers to the lifeways, politics, and history of one of the world's most consequential and enigmatic borderlands. It is telling that, along a border consisting mainly of rivers, there is not a single operating passenger bridge. Two different worlds have emerged. On the Russian side, in territory seized from China in the nineteenth century, defense is prioritized over the economy, leaving dilapidated villages slumbering amid the forests. For its part, the Chinese side is heavily settled and increasingly prosperous and dynamic. Moscow worries about the imbalance, and both governments discourage citizens from interacting. But as Bill and Humphrey show, cross-border connection is a fact of life, whatever distant authorities say. There are marriages, friendships, and sexual encounters. There are joint businesses and underground deals, including no shortage of smuggling. Meanwhile some indigenous peoples, persecuted on both sides, seek to revive their own alternative social groupings that span the border. And Chinese towns make much of their proximity to Europe, building giant Russian dolls and replicas of St. Basil's Cathedral to woo tourists. Surprising and rigorously researched, *On the Edge* testifies to the rich diversity of an extraordinary world haunted by history and divided by remote political decisions but connected by the ordinary imperatives of daily life.

borders by thomas king analysis: *Read, Listen, Tell* Sophie McCall, Deanna Reder, David Gaertner, Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill, 2017-05-26 "Don't say in the years to come that you would have lived your life differently if only you had heard this story. You've heard it now." —Thomas King, in this volume *Read, Listen, Tell* brings together an extraordinary range of Indigenous stories from across Turtle Island (North America). From short fiction to as-told-to narratives, from illustrated stories to personal essays, these stories celebrate the strength of heritage and the liveliness of innovation. Ranging in tone from humorous to defiant to triumphant, the stories explore core concepts in Indigenous literary expression, such as the relations between land, language, and community, the variety of narrative forms, and the continuities between oral and written forms of expression. Rich in insight and bold in execution, the stories proclaim the diversity, vitality, and depth of Indigenous writing. Building on two decades of scholarly work to centre Indigenous knowledges and perspectives, the book transforms literary method while respecting and honouring Indigenous histories and peoples of these lands. It includes stories by acclaimed writers like Thomas King, Sherman Alexie, Paula Gunn Allen, and Eden Robinson, a new generation of emergent writers, and writers and storytellers who have often been excluded from the canon, such as French- and Spanish-language Indigenous authors, Indigenous authors from Mexico, Chicana/o authors, Indigenous-language authors, works in translation, and "lost" or underappreciated texts. In a place and time when Indigenous people often have to contend with representations that marginalize or devalue their intellectual and cultural heritage, this collection is a testament to Indigenous resilience and creativity. It shows that the ways in which we read, listen, and tell play key roles in how we establish relationships with one another, and how we might share knowledges across cultures, languages, and social spaces.

borders by thomas king analysis: *Station Eleven* Emily St. John Mandel, 2014-09-09
 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • A PEN/FAULKNER AWARD FINALIST • Set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse—the spellbinding story of a Hollywood star, his would-be savior, and a nomadic group of actors roaming the scattered outposts of the Great Lakes region, risking everything for art and humanity. • Now an original series on HBO Max. • Over one million copies sold! One of the New York Times's 100 Best Books of the 21st Century Kirsten Raymonde will never forget the night Arthur Leander, the famous Hollywood actor, had a heart attack on stage during a production of *King Lear*. That was the night when a devastating flu pandemic arrived in the city, and within weeks, civilization as we know it came to an end. Twenty years later, Kirsten moves between the settlements of the altered world with a small troupe of actors and musicians. They call themselves The Traveling Symphony, and they have dedicated themselves to keeping the remnants of art and humanity alive. But when they arrive in St. Deborah by the Water, they encounter a violent prophet who will threaten the tiny band's existence. And as the story

takes off, moving back and forth in time, and vividly depicting life before and after the pandemic, the strange twist of fate that connects them all will be revealed. Look for Emily St. John Mandel's bestselling new novel, *Sea of Tranquility*!

borders by thomas king analysis: *The Shadow King: A Novel* Maaza Mengiste, 2019-09-24 Shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize, and named a best book of the year by the New York Times, NPR, Elle, Time, and more, *The Shadow King* is an "unforgettable epic from an immensely talented author who's unafraid to take risks" (Michael Schaub, NPR). Set during Mussolini's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, *The Shadow King* takes us back to the first real conflict of World War II, casting light on the women soldiers who were left out of the historical record. At its heart is orphaned maid Hirut, who finds herself tumbling into a new world of thefts and violations, of betrayals and overwhelming rage. What follows is a heartrending and unputdownable exploration of what it means to be a woman at war.

borders by thomas king analysis: *The Road to Winter* Mark Smith, 2016-06-27 Since a deadly virus and the violence that followed wiped out his parents and most of his community, Finn has lived alone on the rugged coast with only his loyal dog Rowdy for company. He has stayed alive for two winters—hunting and fishing and trading food, and keeping out of sight of the Wilders, an armed and dangerous gang that controls the north, led by a ruthless man named Ramage. But Finn's isolation is shattered when a girl runs onto the beach. Rose is a Siley—an asylum seeker—and she has escaped from Ramage, who had enslaved her and her younger sister, Kas. Rose is desperate, sick, and needs Finn's help. Kas is still missing somewhere out in the bush. And Ramage wants the girls back—at any cost. 'Tense and atmospheric...Mark Smith's debut is assured, gripping and leaves you wanting more.' Best Books for Younger Readers 2016, Sydney Morning Herald 'It's easy to see why Mark Smith's dystopian thriller has been compared with John Marsden's *Tomorrow When the War Began*. I barely came up for breath as the pages flew. So strap yourself in for a high action ride.' Kids Book Review 'A riveting story of survival that questions the prices of freedom and safety as well as the value of an individual life...A breakout new series full of romance, danger, and a surprisingly engaging world.' STARRED Review, Kirkus Reviews 'A solid debut.' Publishers Weekly 'It's been suggested more than once that dystopian fiction has had its day...but *The Road to Winter* is a welcome sign that there's still life in the genre.' Armadillo

borders by thomas king analysis: *The King of Confidence* Miles Harvey, 2020-07-14 The unputdownable (Dave Eggers, National Book award finalist) story of the most infamous American con man you've never heard of: James Strang, self-proclaimed divine king of earth, heaven, and an island in Lake Michigan, perfect for fans of *The Devil in the White City* (Kirkus) A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice Longlisted for the 2021 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction Finalist for the Midland Authors Annual Literary Award A Michigan Notable Book A CrimeReads Best True Crime Book of the Year A masterpiece. —Nathaniel Philbrick In the summer of 1843, James Strang, a charismatic young lawyer and avowed atheist, vanished from a rural town in New York. Months later he reappeared on the Midwestern frontier and converted to a burgeoning religious movement known as Mormonism. In the wake of the murder of the sect's leader, Joseph Smith, Strang unveiled a letter purportedly from the prophet naming him successor, and persuaded hundreds of fellow converts to follow him to an island in Lake Michigan, where he declared himself a divine king. From this stronghold he controlled a fourth of the state of Michigan, establishing a pirate colony where he practiced plural marriage and perpetrated thefts, corruption, and frauds of all kinds. Eventually, having run afoul of powerful enemies, including the American president, Strang was assassinated, an event that was frontpage news across the country. *The King of Confidence* tells this fascinating but largely forgotten story. Centering his narrative on this charlatan's turbulent twelve years in power, Miles Harvey gets to the root of a timeless American original: the Confidence Man. Full of adventure, bad behavior, and insight into a crucial period of antebellum history, *The King of Confidence* brings us a compulsively readable account of one of the country's boldest con men and the boisterous era that allowed him to thrive.

borders by thomas king analysis: *The End of the Myth* Greg Grandin, 2019-03-05 WINNER

OF THE PULITZER PRIZE A new and eye-opening interpretation of the meaning of the frontier, from early westward expansion to Trump's border wall. Ever since this nation's inception, the idea of an open and ever-expanding frontier has been central to American identity. Symbolizing a future of endless promise, it was the foundation of the United States' belief in itself as an exceptional nation - democratic, individualistic, forward-looking. Today, though, America has a new symbol: the border wall. In *The End of the Myth*, acclaimed historian Greg Grandin explores the meaning of the frontier throughout the full sweep of U.S. history - from the American Revolution to the War of 1898, the New Deal to the election of 2016. For centuries, he shows, America's constant expansion - fighting wars and opening markets - served as a "gate of escape," helping to deflect domestic political and economic conflicts outward. But this deflection meant that the country's problems, from racism to inequality, were never confronted directly. And now, the combined catastrophe of the 2008 financial meltdown and our unwinnable wars in the Middle East have slammed this gate shut, bringing political passions that had long been directed elsewhere back home. It is this new reality, Grandin says, that explains the rise of reactionary populism and racist nationalism, the extreme anger and polarization that catapulted Trump to the presidency. The border wall may or may not be built, but it will survive as a rallying point, an allegorical tombstone marking the end of American exceptionalism.

borders by thomas king analysis: Great Short Stories by Contemporary Native American Writers Bob Blaisdell, 2013-09-18 Stories by a wide range of modern authors includes Pauline Johnson, Zitkala-Sa, and John M. Oskison, as well as writers who came to prominence in the decades following World War II.

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