

Spirit Run

author: Noe; Alvarez

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Synopsis

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inLanguagei¼š	english

Growing up in Yakima, Washington, Noe Ã•lvarez worked at an apple-packing plant alongside his mother, who â€œslouched over a conveyor belt of fruit, shoulder to shoulder with mothers conditioned to believe this was all they could do with their lives.â€• A university scholarship offered escape, but as a first-generation Latino college-goer, Ã•lvarez struggled to fit in. </p> <p>At 19, he learned about a Native American/First Nations movement called the Peace and Dignity Journeys, epic marathons meant to renew cultural connections across North America. He dropped out of school and joined a group of Dene, Secwepemc, Gitksan, Dakelh, Apache, Tohono O'odham, Seri, Purepecha, and Maya runners, all fleeing difficult beginnings. Telling their stories alongside his own, Ã•lvarez writes about a four-month-long journey from Canada to Guatemala that pushed him to his limits. He writes not only of overcoming hunger, thirst, and fear - dangers included stone-throwing motorists and a mountain lion - but also of asserting Indigenous and working-class humanity in a capitalist society where oil extraction, deforestation, and substance abuse wreck communities.</p>

Reader's comments

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