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When an arson fire claims the life of the wife of a Navajo Councilmember who spearheaded gun control measures, tensions flare throughout the Rez. Navajo Police Special Investigator Ella Clah's search for the killers is hampered by what happened to her a few days earlier.

That day, Ella had acted quickly when an underground explosion triggered the collapse of an abandoned mineshaft. Seeing a child sliding into an exposed tunnel, Ella saved his life but was trapped underground for several frightening, airless minutes.

Ella's brother Clifford, a Navajo medicine man, believes that Ella died and that his hataalii abilities showed her wandering wind spirit the way back to her body. Traditionalist Navajo are reluctant to speak to Ella, fearing that she has been contaminated with chindi and become evil. Even some of her fellow police officers are uncomfortable in Ella's presence.

Undaunted, Ella continues her quest for justice. But she knows that her experiences underground have changed her permanently. Perhaps she will find a new way to walk in beauty

Wind Spirit Details

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From Reader Review Wind Spirit for online ebook

Beth says

Eh. Felt like a tony hillerman rip off, but not anywhere near as good.

Jan says

An Ella Clah mystery on the rez. Liked it better than some of the later ones which I read first. Gives the background of her past relationships which do play an important role in the books.
Enjoy knowing more about the culture.

Mariana says

These are a pleasant fast read. I'm enjoying the series, particularly the ones that don't have the Skinwalkers in them. It might be good to know how one becomes that evil, but I'd rather not.

William Wynn says

Love the Navajo culture

Nancy Wilson says

This book seemed completely different in tone than the previous ones in the series. Ella lightened up and actually joked a bit. And it wasn't so complicated or difficult to follow which made it a challenge to read. I can't decide if that is an improvement or not.

Catherine Woodman says

I love Ella Clah and this whole series, altho' it wouldn't be bad for her to get a love interest that lasted at some point--she is a great Native American and the mysteries are very good

Marie says

This is a step down in the psycho factor from the other books I've been reading. I found the writing a little slow and stilted. It flowed but maybe I needed to take my reading speed down a notch and engage with reading in a different way. I've read and watched lots on traditional American Indian medicine and now I

want to go there and feel the spirit of the place, the writers made that part of it really alive. Its interesting how much of these novels are set in the desert as the places of the spirit, much like in Western Australia. Back to the storyline: a near death experience leads the lead character to reassess her relationship and career to achieve a sense of harmony and unity with her land and her people. But she basically just dumps the raising of her child to her family and ignores the daddy. Maybe its her way, their way? The village raises the child. I guess thats not what is pumelled down the throats of most nuclear families I know. Bearing in mind the character can't cook, loves danger, and can't keep anything alive. And likes getting shot at and shooting at people. I can see a burnout from work and nervous breakdown coming up in the later books! Why doesn't she hook up with her ex? he sounds hot. Anyway....I was sad when it ended. I guess the book was like a poetry of melancholy. Shortsightedness, bigotry, and skin walkers! Bad voodoo, and good medicine creating drama.

Michele bookloverforever says

recommend for those who love reading about mysteries set on the Navajo Reservation with all their customs and traditions and the contradictions that poses living in the 21st century. great characters, complex. good plot.

Joe Stack says

As with the previous books in this series, the story is a briskly paced page turner. I think what makes this series interesting is Ella Clah's struggle to find and maintain harmony. She combines Anglo and Navajo ways, and the conflict between these two cultures makes for an interesting landscape to the plots. The cultural conflict is not just between Navajo and non-Navajo. There is also the tension between the traditionalist, modernist, and new-traditionalist Navajos. The cultural information that is woven into the story is what makes this mystery, as with the preceding books (and I expect with the stories that follow), unique, complex, & engrossing. This story can be read out of order as the authors provide sufficient background on previous incidents that the reader is not mystified by what happened in previous stories. However, character development along with a fuller appreciation of Navajo culture is a richer experience by reading this series in order.

Jannette Thompson says

It was my first book by these authors and now I want to find more of their works so I can find out the entire story of Ella Clah!

Michael Starsheen says

Another great entry in this series

I gave this book five stars because it tells a good, suspenseful story, with an interesting subplot dealing with Navajo spirituality and cultural reactions. I enjoyed the book a lot; it's a good read.

Kaye Dewar says

Did not care for this book.

Thea says

This book was really good, I liked how they are tying up loose ends but opening up new ones.

Lisa Corathers says

Enjoyed it!

Bj Hoover says

Once again the conflict between the Traditionalists and Modernists in the Navajo Nation is at the center of Ella's world. Until she can reestablish balance in her life, her career as a tribal officer is at risk. The development of Rose, her mother, is at work in the course of the story, and with many twists and turns, resolution is attained. Another good read.
