

SANTA MONICA

CITYWIDE READS

JOIN A

CITYWIDE BOOK CLUB

MARCH 7 - APRIL 4 | 2009

For free public book discussion groups and other events, check the Santa Monica Citywide Reads web site at www.smpl.org/cwr, call 310.458.8600, or visit our blog at www.santamonica-citywiderreads.blogspot.com

THE SHADOW CATCHER

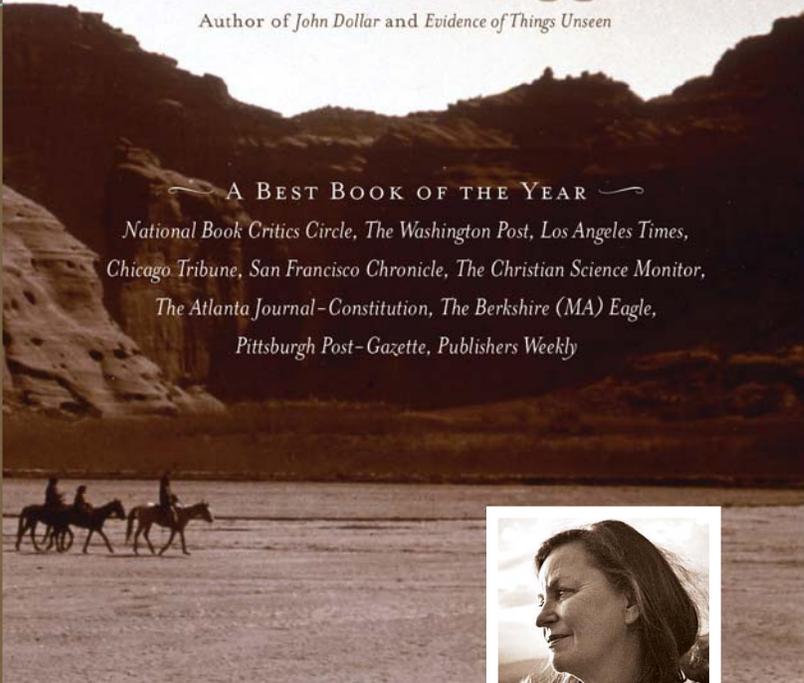
A Novel

Marianne Wiggins

Author of *John Dollar* and *Evidence of Things Unseen*

A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

National Book Critics Circle, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, The Christian Science Monitor, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Berkshire (MA) Eagle, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Publishers Weekly



SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY



A Simon & Schuster paperback. Available at libraries and bookstores.



SPECIAL CITYWIDE READS EVENTS

An Afternoon with Marianne Wiggins

Saturday, March 21 at 2 pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

The award-winning author of *The Shadow Catcher* presents a reading and discussion, followed by a book signing.

Los Angeles as Literature

Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

David Ulin, from the *Los Angeles Times*, moderates this panel discussion with local authors. Panelists will discuss Los Angeles' various incarnations in literature, in both a contemporary and historical context. Learn about CITYWIDE READS author Marianne Wiggins' place in the canon of fiction about Los Angeles.

In the Land of the War Canoes Movie Screening

Tuesday, March 24 at 7 pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

In 1914, Edward S. Curtis released a longer version of this documentary feature film on the Kwakiutl Indians of Vancouver Island under the name, "In the Land of the Headhunters." This incomplete portion was rediscovered and rescued in 1973. It is now regarded as the oldest existing American documentary feature film and was selected for the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress. Silent film, with soundtrack of original Kwakiutl music recorded in 1972.

City TV Call-In Show

Wednesday, March 25 at 7 pm | Tune in to Channel 16

A live, moderated discussion of *The Shadow Catcher*.

Introducing Edward S. Curtis

Saturday, March 28 at 3 pm | Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

Edward S. Curtis expert and scholar Bruce Kapson presents a historical overview on the life of Curtis and the significance of his work in the history of photography. Vintage examples of Curtis' work will be available for viewing after the presentation. (www.brucekapson.com)

Evidence of Things Unseen Book Discussion

Thursday, April 2 at 7 pm | Main Library, Community Room

Published in 2003, this other novel by Marianne Wiggins was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Set between the World Wars, it follows a family as their lives are affected by science and the atomic age.



City of
Santa Monica

P.O. BOX 1610
SANTA MONICA
CA 90406-1610

DATED MATERIAL

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Trained volunteer facilitators lead these free public book discussions. No registration is required.

Sat, March 7 at 2 pm | Main Library, Multipurpose Room*

Mon, March 9 at 2 pm | Emeritus College, 1227 2nd St., Room 407

Sat, March 14 at 10:30 am | Café Bolivar, 1741 Ocean Park Blvd.

Tue, March 17 at 7 pm | Barnes & Noble, 1201 3rd Street Promenade

Wed, March 18 at 7 pm | Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.*

Sat, March 21 at 11 am | Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd.*

Thur, March 26 at 2 pm | Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 829 Wilshire Blvd.

Sat, March 28 at 1 pm | California Heritage Museum Lawn, 2612 Main St.

Sat, April 4 at 11 am | Main Library, Multipurpose Room*

* City of Santa Monica facilities are wheelchair accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation, call Library Administration 310-458-8606 (TDD 395-8499) at least 3 working days (Monday-Friday) in advance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you prefer the contemporary or historical narrative? Do you think the stories fit together cohesively?
2. Do the photographs, both by Edward S. Curtis and from the author's family, add to the story for you? Do you like mixing the art of photography with the art of the novel?
3. What types of myths does Wiggins explore?
4. How would the novel have been different if the story was told by Edward and not Clara?
5. What did the character Asahel add to the story? What does Colonel Edwards, Jr. add to the story?
6. Do you think Wiggins took too much liberty with the life of Edward S. Curtis?
7. Do you feel that the author captured contemporary Los Angeles life?
8. How does the novel reflect contradictions?
9. How would you characterize the ending of the novel?
10. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the book?