



The Wrong Kind of Indian

Jey Tehya

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Intended for mature audiences.

Romantic, a little erotic, at times neurotic, with a gorgeous cast of characters that includes Oregon, Costa Rica and India


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PUBLISHER CONTACT:

Nancy Cleary
nancy@wyattmackenzie.com

AUTHOR CONTACTS:

Jey Tehya
jeytehya@gmail.com



“A complex and compelling, though often difficult, story of romance, forgiveness, and loyalty.” — **KIRKUS REVIEWS**

“A daring and earnest depiction of an identity that crosses societal and cultural boundaries.” — **FOREWORD REVIEWS**

“All I can say is, wow. Tehya can write ... vividly honest and packed with small and brutal emotional punches. I read this slowly, savoring each page ... a skilled and accomplished book. I highly, highly recommend.” — **CINTHIA RITCHIE**, author of *Dolls Behaving Badly*

“You look something.” It’s what Jennifer has heard her entire life as a “whitewashed” half-Cherokee, half-white girl in a small Oregon town. *The Wrong Kind of Indian* is a memoir-style story of the struggle to find an identity after a dysfunctional childhood steeped in sexuality that emerges too early; of parents whose actions hovered between neglect and abuse; of the cycle of abuse escalating into homelessness as a teen; and of the overall flailing that occurs when you don’t feel like you belong, anywhere.

Spanning the bridge across 30, from 27-34 years old, Jennifer explores what it means to be a Native woman, a writer, and a survivor. Falling in love with a man from Mumbai earmarked for an arranged marriage, she escapes to Costa Rica with another man she barely knows to put distance between herself and the “other Indian.” Running away for the second time in her life ultimately reveals what Jennifer really wants. Highlighted by glimpses into her past, and into the mindset of eating disorders and sexual awakenings, this novel is raw and poetic, painful and euphoric.

Set in the Pacific Northwest, Costa Rica and India, *The Wrong Kind of Indian* is a story of discovery and the realization that maybe nobody is the wrong kind of anything after all.

For the New-Adult Fiction Market. A young woman facing her late twenties, dealing with:

- Identity; feeling a cultural lack of belonging
- An emotionally/verbally abusive childhood
- Depression, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse
- Homeless as a teenager
- College plans and career aspirations
- Loss of friendships post high school from accident, suicide, and calling it quits
- Eating disorders, body image and beauty
- Intercultural love
- Pansexuality



Jey Tehya is the pen name for a Pulitzer-nominated poet born and raised in Oregon, a member of the Cherokee Nation, who created a scholarship to provide writing and editing services to Native American students and non-profits based in the Pacific Northwest.

Jey received a Writers in the Schools (WITS) residency from the Oregon Literary Arts Council, and her master’s degree from Portland University’s Ooligan Press Program.

An extensive traveler, she has lived in England, South Korea and Costa Rica. She’s a certified yoga instructor, avid runner, and collector of first edition books. Jey currently lives in Portland, Oregon.