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Keeping Heart on Pine Ridge: Family Ties, Warrior Culture, Commodity Foods, Rez Dogs, and the Sacred. By Vic Glover. Summertown, TN: Native Voices, 2004. 159pp. \$9.95

For most outsiders to South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation, the subtitle of Vic Glover's book will probably seem little more than an odd (and slightly blasphemous) mélange of disassociated categories. For the Oglala Lakota residents of Pine Ridge, however, these categories are bound together by a cultural and spiritual logic embedded in their daily experiences. It is a testimony to Glover's status as a participant in and keen observer of Pine Ridge life that readers of the forty-four vignettes comprising his collection will come away with a deep appreciation of the strengths, weaknesses, tragedies, and joys that characterize this American Indian community.

The first essay, "Generosity," in which the author describes the continuing importance of this traditional Lakota value, provides a perfect entranceway into contemporary Pine Ridge society. "One could maybe get close to finding the heart of America in Native America," Glover writes. "Indian people," he continues, "have given everything to America, but they hold the heart. Within that heart lies the ceremonial life, spirit, and ways of the people, and within 'The Ways' lies the essential nature of helping others."

The chapters that follow range in subject from the fourth day of the Sun Dance, traditional burial and mourning ceremonies, conversations before entering a crowded ("Double Row") sweat lodge, sponsoring a hunka (making of relatives) and naming ceremony, to record-

ing a hanbleceya (vision quest) song, reservation Christianity ("lesus on the Rez"), "Indian Time," the importance of sharing food, pulling a car out of a snow drift, and the trials and sorrows of reservation dogs. Throughout the course of these accounts, the reader meets a variety of Pine Ridge inhabitants who speak of matters, both mundane and significant, in colloquial "rez-talk" (e.g. EEEEEEEYAAA, AIIIIEEEEEEE).

In one of his closing essays, "Reason for Being," Glover turns his literary searchlight on himself in an attempt to discover what keeps him on Pine Ridge. "Sometime I wonder what the hell I'm doing in Indian Country, sitting out here in the middle of nowhere on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, as opposed to anywhere else in America that I'd rather not be." A few lines later he responds, "up here feels just about right for my skin, although like anywhere you find two-leggeds, you're gonna find that 'People Thing."

Glover's ability to expose the great humanity and power that often lie hidden beneath the destructive forces of reservation life makes for important and memorable reading.

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