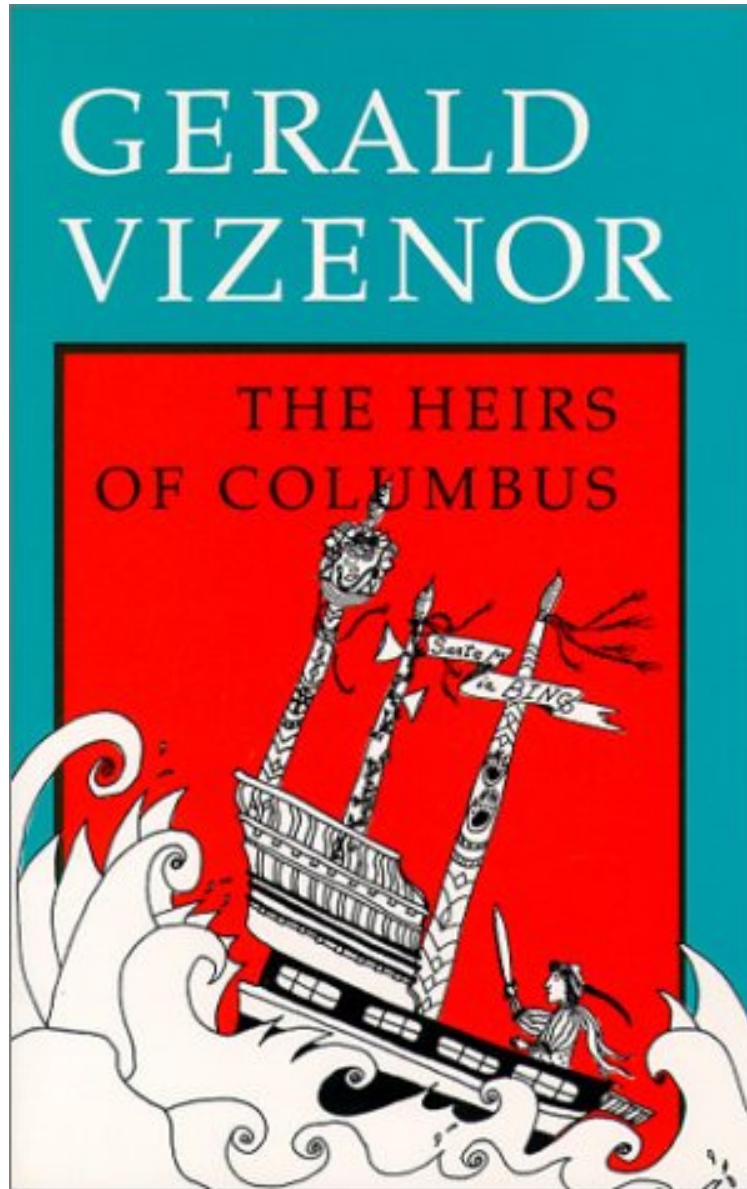


(Download ebook) The Heirs of Columbus

The Heirs of Columbus

Gerald Vizenor

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Gerald Vizenor : The Heirs of Columbus before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Heirs of Columbus:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ramiro Mansilla Excellent! 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One Star By norma482 Was not what I expected. removed from the kindle 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Synaptic Syncope. The truth is strong medicine indeed. 'Fake news'? 'Fake

history'? Here's the antidote.

"If you must read a book on Columbus," declared the Los Angeles Times in its review of *The Heirs of Columbus*, "this is the one." Gerald Vizenor's novel reclaims the story of Christopher Columbus on behalf of Native Americans by declaring the explorer himself to be a descendent of early Mayans and follows the adventures of his modern-day, mixed-blood heirs as they create a fantastic tribal nation. The genetic heirs of Christopher Columbus meet annually at the Stone Tavern at the headwaters of the Mississippi to remember their "stories in the blood" and plan their tribal nation. They are inspired by the late-night talk radio discourses of Stone Columbus, a trickster healer who became rich as the captain of the sovereign bingo barge Santa Maria Casino, anchored in the international waters of the Lake of the Woods. The heirs' plan to reclaim their heritage enrages the government and inspires the tribal nations in a comic tale of mythic proportions. Vizenor is a mixed-blood Chippewa who writes fiction in the trickster mode of Native American tradition, using humor to challenge received ideas and subvert the status quo. In *The Heirs of Columbus* he "reveals not only how Indians have staved off the tidal wave of assimilation," noted the San Francisco Chronicle, "but also how, through humor and persistence, they sometimes reverse the direction of cultural appropriation and, in the process, transform the alien values imposed on them." "Vizenor understands the wilder, irrational, half-mad parts of the Discoverer's soul as few people ever have," noted Kirkpatrick Sale in the Nation; "Columbus is appropriated here in an entirely new way, made to be an Indian in service to his Indian descendents." And the Voice Literary Supplement said "Even more rousing than Vizenor's deconstruction of Columbus, though, is his alternative vision of an American identity."

From Publishers Weekly Stone Columbus, the famous explorer's heir and namesake, is a Mississippi bingo tycoon and radio talk show host; he's part Mayan, as, he claims, was Christopher Columbus. In 1992 Stone and his listeners establish Point Assinika, a chunk of the Northwest, as a sovereign Native American nation. Their goal is to make available the Mayan "healing genes," isolated by scientists, to save the world. But tribal robots, a kidnapping and a federal disinformation campaign imperil the new nation, in whose harbor stands a copper statue, the Trickster of Liberty. Writing with manic inventiveness, Vizenor (Griever) casts the story of Columbus's invasion of the New World as a lyrical trickster tale, full of twists, shamans and subversive humor. Although Vizenor, a mixed-blood Chippewa, punctures the Eurocentric worldview, much of the humor is strained, as in his caricature of Christopher Columbus as a romantic with an enormous, clubbed, twisted penis. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal "Columbus arises in tribal stories that heal with humor the world he wounded," Vizenor says in the epilog of his latest novel. Native American writers are making sure their voices are heard in the quincentenary examination of Columbus's voyage. Hot on the heels of Michael Doris and Louise Erdrich's *The Crown of Columbus* (LJ 3/15/91) comes this totally different treatment of the same territory. "The Heirs of Columbus" presented in Vizenor's intriguing novel are described by their critics as a "ragtag group of rebellious, uneducated mixedbloods." The Heirs believe themselves to be the actual genetic heirs of * Christopher Columbus, whom they believe to be a crossblood himself, the result of Mayan exploration of Europe. As their part of the quincentenary celebrations, the Heirs create a sovereign tribal nation, honoring humor and common sense and dedicated to healing with genetic therapies. Vizenor tells the story with his unique blend of cutting-edge fiction and tribal myth, mixing the realistic and the fantastic. Recommended. - Debbie Tucker, Cincinnati Technological Coll. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus SA comic mythology of Columbus that--though it sags in places with repetition and academic padding--offers enough tall-tale fun to make for inventive entertainment. According to this fractured history from Vizenor (Griever: *An American Monkey King in China*, 1987; the nonfiction *Interior Landscapes*, 1990), Christopher Columbus is actually descended from Mayans ("the first to imagine the universe and to write about the stories in their blood") who sailed from the New to the Old World. An account of this alternative history merges with a present-day story about several Indians and mixed-bloods, notably Stone Columbus, a trickster healer. Born on the reservation, he made a fortune, more than a million a season, when he became captain of the Santa Maria Casino, a bingo barge in the boundary waters (between the US and Canada). Columbus's genetic heirs, including Stone, meet annually at the Mississippi River's headwaters to remember stories ("the best stories about their strain and estate") and plan for a new tribal nation. Interweaving fact and fantasy, shamanistic visions and the "hand talkers" (who show their stories "in the summer, in silence, and leave their handprints around the world"), Vizenor manages to narrate a species of mystery story, dealing with an international search for the remains of Columbus and an attempt to isolate "the genetic code of tribal survivance and radiance." Don't ask. Though its energy occasionally flags or turns pedantic, the book is a hoot, as much a compendium of magical realism as a novel, and successful on its own terms: "Stories have natural rights to be heard and liberated." Not as easy a read as the much-ballyhooed *The Crown of Columbus*, but more deeply satisfying. -- Copyright 1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.