



Tony Hillerman: The Leaphorn Chee Novels: Skinwalkers, A Thief of Time, Coyote Waits

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Three of *New York Times* bestselling author Tony Hillerman's most popular novels are together for the first time in one volume.

Tony Hillerman is one of the most revered and honored mystery writers published today. This stunning collection includes the critically acclaimed novels **Skinwalkers**, **A Thief of Time**, and **Coyote Waits**, all of which have been adapted for PBS by producer Robert Redford. This is a must-have anthology from one of the great masters of suspense.

In **Skinwalkers**, three shotgun blasts explode into the trailer of Officer Jim Chee of the Navajo Tribal Police. Chee survives to join partner Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn in a frightening investigation that takes them into a dark world of ritual, witchcraft, and blood -- all tied to the elusive and evil "skinwalker." In **A Thief of Time**, a noted anthropologist vanishes at a moonlit Indian ruin where "thieves of time" ravage sacred ground for profit. When two corpses appear amid stolen goods and bones at an ancient burial site, Leaphorn and Chee must plunge into the past to unearth the astonishing truth behind a mystifying series of horrific murders.

And in **Coyote Waits**, it wasn't the car fire that killed Navajo Tribal Policeman Delbert Nez -- a bullet did. Officer Jim Chee's good friend Del lies dead, and a whiskey-soaked Navajo shaman is found with the murder weapon. The old man is Ashie Pinto. He's quickly arrested for homicide and defended by a woman Chee could either love or loathe. But Pinto won't utter a word of confession or denial. Leaphorn and Chee must unravel a complex plot involving a historical find, a lost fortune, and the mythical Coyote, who is always waiting, and always hungry.

Tony Hillerman: The Leaphorn Chee Novels: Skinwalkers, A Thief of Time, Coyote Waits Details

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Author : Tony Hillerman

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From Reader Review Tony Hillerman: The Leaphorn Chee Novels: Skinwalkers, A Thief of Time, Coyote Waits for online ebook

Luci says

I like Tony Hillerman a lot. Jim Chee is probably my favorite character because he has one foot in the Navajo traditions and the other foot in modern culture. Great mystery stories.

Maria says

This series of books on audio was read by the late great author. It was great to be able to listen to his voice and the way he talked. This was probably recorded before the professional readers that they have nowadays. No voice characterizations, so it's not as easy to remember who is speaking or keep the characters separate. There's a lot of hokey dramatic background music in some places and some kind of Native American chant thing to mark the chapters. I had to mark of one star because of that ... very distracting sometimes.

However, the true Leaphorn and Chee investigation comes through, with their personalities and different but similar deductive reasoning skills. This isn't "great literature," but is classic murder mystery to those of us who love the genre.

Rick Lagerstrom says

Three excellent thrillers by Tony Hillerman. A treasured expert on native southwest tribes and one of the best writers who incorporates lots of facts of native American culture. Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee are fun protagonists. I've seen movies of Hillerman's books. They are likewise good. But, I like the books the best. I've read more than a dozen of them.

Peggy Troyer says

Painless anthropology! A great read prior to visiting the Four Corners country! You'll respect so much more!

Rachel says

This was a fun book. It's the second Hillerman I've read, and I'm hooked. He combines my love for procedurals/mysteries with an interest in Native American traditions and culture. Ever since Josh traveled to a reservation in New Mexico for his next documentary, I've been curious about life there. I'll be picking up more Hillerman for sure . . .

William Korn says

In addition to being a fine writer on virtually any subject about which he cared to write, Hillerman's canon of Navajo Police stories demonstrate his knowledge of and respect for Navajo culture (a respect which was returned by the Navajo). These stories work not only as mysteries, but provide a good deal of ethnographic information about the Navajo and neighboring tribes. They also delve deep into the issue of competing cultures - specifically how the Navajo have adapted (or failed to adapt) to the Anglo culture that surrounds them. A good example of this is Jim Chee's dilemma of enforcing white man's law (which is based on retribution and punishment) when Navajo tradition says that someone who commits a "crime" is sick and needs to be cured.

All of the Navajo police books are well worth reading, although the last two or three are perhaps closer to four stars than five. They should also be read in order, but with reasonable breaks between them, as there is a fair amount of repeating background information.

Bryan Schmidt says

Excellent, compelling, great use of Native American culture and the settings of the Rez area at Four Corners. Strong lead characters. Great twists. Highly recommended.

Peter says

Not a bad read. I'm not a huge fan of mysteries, but I really enjoyed the information about the landscape on the Navajo reservation and about Navajo culture having grown up with Navajo foster brothers and having been in the area of the reservation in Arizona and Utah quite a few times.

Amy says

I have read some Tony Hillerman's in the past, when my mom was really into him. It was a light, easy read. I read it because it was the culture book of the month from the hospital. The native AMERICAN of the south west do have a culture all of there own. Specifically, I think the slowness of speech and long silences often are misinterpeted by whites as dumb. Leapform the navajo detective uses this to his advantage.

Katarina says

I've started listening to audio-books in the hope that traffic will be more bearable if I have something else to focus on. I would say it's working pretty well-- these 3 novels were engrossing, occupying my mind even after I got out of the car.

The plots take place on the Navajo Reservation, usually involving murder. *Skinwalkers* was a great start-- it introduced strong characters and aspects of the Navajo culture. Hillerman treated the setting-- the poeple, the desert, and the culture-- beautifully. I was able to appreciate it as if I were there, but it was not overly-

romanticized. The characters are realistic-- they are proud, desperate, complacent, driven, and any number of other attributes can be ascribed to them (not all of them, obviously, I'm talking about the characters as a whole). Leaphorn and Chee, as the main characters, are given extra attention. Although they are single-minded in their pursuit of the crimes, we are given glimpses into their personal lives, deepening their characterization without distracting from the narrative. The motives of the crimes are interesting, initially puzzling, then gradually becoming clearer, because you are privy to all the information both Leaphorn and Chee collect. (How 'bout that!)

I only gave this 4 stars (I'd have given it 4.5) because I think, perversely, that I would have liked to have read it. Not necessarily just read it-- I enjoyed hearing names and phrases I'm fairly certain I couldn't pronounce said with a reasonable confidence. But I had a hard time, especially with *Skinwalkers*, keeping names straight. I think if I had been able to see the names and how they were spelled, I would have been better able to remember them. This bothered me less as I went on, but it was sometimes frustrating. I'm such a visual person; I wanted to see how their names were spelled.

Amy says

My mother gave me this book to read. She enjoys mysteries.

I enjoyed this series of books. The plots were well thought out. The characters each had their own rich personality. The writing kept me engaged.

I would definitely recommend this author to others.

Bobby Underwood says

Those looking to latch onto a great mystery series who have yet to discover Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee are in for a real treat if they pick up this one. Tony Hillerman created an entire genre with these novels, and though they've been copied, no one has ever been able to blend Native American beliefs and traditions, with modern-day mystery nearly as well. Some entries focus on Chee, others with just Leaphorn. This series is at its best, however, when the older Leaphorn and the younger Chee interact, and that's what you get here.

COYOTE WAITS —

This one is not as exciting as the spectacular *Skinwalkers*, nor is it as deftly plotted as the enthralling *Thief of Time*. It is nonetheless a good read. When Chee feels responsible for the death of fellow officer Delbert Nez, Leaphorn and Chee take different paths investigating the case — one which on the surface, appears to be open-and-shut. This engrossing story of ancient Navajo tradition, and modern-day government agencies is a satisfying addition to the series.

SKINWALKERS —

Skinwalkers is one of Hillerman's finest pairings of the younger Jim Chee, with Navajo Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn. This one begins when a shotgun blast into Jim Chee's trailer has both men trying to figure out how the attempt on Chee's life ties together with two murders in the sprawling Indian territory over which they have jurisdiction.

The seasoned Leaphorn begins to have respect for young Chee as they work on different ends to solve this

mystery. Leaphorn has his own personal problems to deal with as well in this entry; his beloved wife may have the onset of Alzheimer's disease. It is a distraction he can't afford once the danger begins escalating.

Sprinkled throughout this complex and entertaining mystery novel are insights into the Navajo people, from the way they speak, to their customs and broad family ties. But the thread that may tie everything together is something the older Leaphorn despises, and the younger Chee embraces. That aspect of the investigation is the complex mythology of Navajo witchcraft. You see, the killings may involve something very ancient in the Navajo culture, called a Skinwalker.

This is simply a great read, full of description of the Four Corners landscape, which is interwoven with the traditions of the Navajo. The story itself begins at a languid pace, but gradually takes on urgency as the body count starts to rise. The good police work of Leaphorn and Chee may not be enough to save either of them this time out.

Chee's growing recognition among his people as a Hataalli (Medicine Man) who can perform the Blessing Way will play an integral part in this excellent entry in the Leaphorn/Chee canon. Skinwalkers is like an orange soda on a hot day in the New Mexico desert. It's refreshing, and really hits the spot.

THIEF OF TIME —

Leaphorn and Chee are fleshed out more than usual in this well-plotted entry in the series. Both Chee and Leaphorn are dealing with personal issues as this mystery begins. Chee hasn't quite figured out how he feels about Mary leaving him because he would not leave his Navajo way of life behind and move to the city with her. He is smitten with a pretty Navajo attorney named Janet in this one, but she's with someone else.

Leaphorn meanwhile, is on terminal leave because of Emma's tragic passing. Neither he nor Chee can explain his obsession with finding a missing pot hunter named Eleanor Friedman-Bernal, especially since he plans to retire. What is clear as a bell, however, is that a Navajo would not be involved in the thefts. The reason is that it would mark the Navajo as a "Thief of Time" according to Navajo tradition.

Chee's letting a rather large backhoe get stolen right under his nose will have ties to Leaphorn's investigation. Once more this leads to the young policeman with an appreciation for the old ways of the Navajo, teaming up with Leaphorn. This case will take them far across the Navajo territory, stretching all the way into Utah, and then down the San Juan River. Leaphorn's recollection of another death ties in with Eleanor's disappearance, who was collecting pots made by the mysterious Anasazi. But was something she discovered worth killing for?

Leaphorn and Chee will be hundreds of miles apart when they reach the same conclusion in this quite complex and multi-layered mystery. One will have to race to the other as things turn ugly, and two very different men will find common ground when Leaphorn asks the unexpected of young Chee.

Thief of Time is a real gem in this fine series. Hillerman's description of the thousand foot cliffs along the San Juan River at night, and a starry sky filled with Navajo mystery create an unforgettable portrait of the America's Southwest. Visiting Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee in these pages might be the next best thing to sleeping under the stars in Navajo country, wondering if there is magic in the sky above. Highly recommended.

Catherine Yee says

I loved these books.

Char says

I love Tony Hillerman's detective novels about Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee of the Navajo tribal police. They are all set in the Four corners area of New Mexico and Arizona. Here's a brief ditty from Book Description on Amazon--

Tony Hillerman is one of the most revered and honored mystery writers published today. This stunning collection includes the critically acclaimed novels Skinwalkers, A Thief of Time, and Coyote Waits, all of which have been adapted for PBS by producer Robert Redford. This is a must-have anthology from one of the great masters of suspense.

And yeah, I watched the movies, too. You saw the name Robert Redford, right? That means I saw the movies. LOL.

Deirdre Rasmussen says

I love reading Tony Hillerman's books -- especially on cold, rainy days! The setting in the American Southwest is beautifully evoked, and these books are so much more than mysteries. They're thoughtful and help educate many Americans about Navajo culture and the history of the Reservation. I can't decide which detective I like best, old soldier Leaphorn or the young unorthodox Chee.

My favorite of this set was Coyote Waits.
