



## **Straight Flies the Arrow**

*Sydney Tooman Betts*

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**Straight Flies the Arrow** Sydney Tooman Betts

**From the author of *A River too Deep* and *Light Bird's Song* comes *Straight Flies the Arrow***

During the winter of 1841, Pacing Wolf, the esteemed leader of the Many Lodges, follows the trail of a brutal murderer, leaving behind his beloved woman, Small Doe. When his tracking party returns without him, the Sparrow Hawks' Real Chief pronounces him dead, insisting Small Doe grieve, but she cannot bring herself to give up hope her husband will return. The coming spring offers her few choices. She can accept the courageous new warrior chosen for her or risk falling prey to his war-society rivals.

Vengeance and loyalty, hatred and faithfulness, all vie within two enemy villages, one belonging to the Sparrow Hawks and the other the Allies, threatening to crush every hope of happiness for Small Doe and everyone she loves.

## Straight Flies the Arrow Details

Date : Published June 8th 2017 by Stonebridge Publications

ISBN :

Author : Sydney Tooman Betts

Format : Kindle Edition 297 pages

Genre : Christian, Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Romance

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# From Reader Review Straight Flies the Arrow for online ebook

## Janet Boyd says

### An Intriguing Read

I loved this book. It was written with so much heart you felt you really knew these people. It touched my heart. Excellent writing!!

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## M says

I'm pretty picky when it comes to fiction and have little patience with "fluffy" writing, but Sydney's books are anything but fluffy. They are deep, theological, exciting, and thought-provoking. I was captivated by the story of these people from the first chapter of the first book.

And that's truly what these books are, books about a people and God's interaction with them. Their culture often seems strange and foreign, but then all of a sudden I see myself in them. My marriage, my hopes, my fears, my struggles.

What does it look like to follow Jesus in a completely different culture? I am fascinated by this question, and Sydney's books give a glimpse of what that might look like. Sydney's books are a source of wisdom and encouragement for me. They point me to a love of the Word, and they have stayed with me long after reading them.

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## Emilee says

This is a must-read for reader's of Christian fiction. I absolutely loved reading it. The characters are beautifully developed. The setting, the early American wilderness, is so vibrant! It's like watching a movie only better. The story-line is compelling but the best part is the spiritual application. Through this Native-American fiction the Word of God is brought to life and inspires you to look within yourself and see if you are who God wants you to be. This is definitely going on my favorite shelf. I will also be giving this book as gifts. I recommend this book to EVERYONE!

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

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## Bhriv says

Straight Flies the Arrow, written by Sydney Betts, is book 3 and the final installment of Peoples of the Book. I read all the other two books almost a year ago so I was excited to see where the rest of the story would go. I thought Betts did an awesome job with keeping the anticipation as to what was going to happen with Pacing Wolf and Small Doe. I thoroughly enjoy that Betts shows these Native American's finding the true

Savior. The testimony that is set before the people is wonderful and makes the reader see how faithful the Lord is and can be in our lives.

Because I was anticipating this book, I was too excited to find out what was going to happen. Although I will not give any spoilers...I will say that I'm giving this a 4.5 star value as I just felt that the ending was just not like 'I' wanted it. Granted, each reader engages differently than another so what my liking and hopes for a specific book ending may be different than those of the author and other readers.

I recommend this series for Christian historical lovers especially those that love to read about Native American peoples. This book is easily read by teens on up. It's not wanting in biblical content. It also has endnotes for the various verses that are used throughout the book. It does have an extensive cast which would make it best to read it in order from book one to follow what is happening throughout the different books of the series. A great series read!

I was given this book by the author. All thoughts and comments are my own.

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### **Dawn says**

Another captivating story that not only satisfies the heart who loves to read historical Native American stories, but also speaks to the soul. Are you a believer in a situation that looks impossible? Is your faith being stretched beyond what you think is possible? This book will speak to you. It's a page-turner that will build your faith in God and his word.

I find it hard to completely read a self help book through to the end, I often open them up only to find myself swimming in words. This series of books written by Sydney Betts have helped me tremendously in my marriage and walk with God. I love stories with a message.

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### **Jeanette Fallon says**

#### **Intense Read-Gets to the Heart**

I have never read anything of this type. I really didn't know what to expect. I was blown away by the historical richness in the book and how the author added so much detail in each and every page. I fell in love with this story and the characters who came to life to me through her words. How heart wrenching was when the men went to battle and the women were preparing what to do if they don't return. Can you even imagine? -the grief they must have felt.

Thank you, Sydney Tooman Betts, for adding Biblical readings at the end of each chapter. It was a treasure to read this.

The Blessing I take with me after finishing the last page:

Trust In GOD with All Your Heart. He Is there with you at all times. He knows The plans He has for you.

A rich and beautiful story.

I received this free to review.

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## **Kathy says**

While this third book of the People of the Book series was not a quick, easy read, it was definitely worth it. The story was full, abounding with pertinent descriptions of the Native American culture. The characters had Indian names, of course, plus plenty of history from previous books, so I needed to read deliberately. But the story was rich and meaningful and kept my attention throughout.

A reader would most appreciate this story after reading the previous two in the series, but enough background is given to allow it to stand alone.

I received a digital copy of this book from the author for review purposes. The thoughts expressed here are my own.

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## **Julia Wilson says**

Straight Flies The Arrow by Sydney Betts is an epic historical Christian Native American tale and a marvellous end to the trio of books. I really enjoyed it.

The reader has a real treat as they experience life in the 1840's in Native American villages. Here, life is simple, no worldly worries. There is a combining of the traditional way with the new way of I-Am-Creator, as more and more Native Americans hear and grasp His words. "The new spirit produced changes in me." The reader is reminded that in Jesus, we are all new creations.

As Christians, we have the hope of heaven. "I look forward to heaven, where we will never need to part with a loved one again." Our separation is not forever.

Sydney Betts shows how Jesus never leaves us alone. There is a beautiful scene in the novel where Jesus guides a warrior home on his final journey. It brought a lump to my throat and tears to my eyes.

The novel is about sacrifice and a new way of doing things. If we know Jesus, we no longer need to have 'an eye for an eye'. We can leave the judgment and vengeance to God. Our job is to love.

Names are important. They signify character. A change in character or appearance will bring about a change in name. Likewise Jesus gives us a new name. He calls us beloved.

If we do not tell people about Jesus, how will they know? How will knowing Him change their lives? Within the novel Sydney Betts shows a reverence given to those who share Jesus. It is the job of all of us. Knowing Jesus changes lives.

I have really enjoyed this trio of books from Sydney Betts. It has been fascinating learning about the Native Americans way of life and getting to know the characters. A marvellous series.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

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## **Sydney says**

Rich historical details and plenty of action bring to life the third book in the People of the Book trilogy, Straight Flies the Arrow, by Sydney Tooman Betts. This story once again continues the trilogy and brings the series to a sad, but delightful end. Betts has a way of bringing writing her characters as if they are jumping

off the pages and coming to life. Fans of historical fiction will love this deeply research historical novel. Once again, the story tends to drag a little bit in places, but if readers will push on, they will come to love this novel. Readers interested in Native American history will thoroughly enjoy this story.

Series: People of the Book  
Genre: historical, romance, Christian  
Publisher: Stonebridge Publications  
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Number of pages: 297

A review copy of this book was provided by CelebrateLit via the author. A review was not required and all views and opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Brenda says**

#### **STRAIGHT FLIES THE ARROW**

Sydney Betts wrote another masterpiece! That's what I call this book because I enjoyed it that much.

The characters and writing are some of the best I've ever read.

Read about the Native American people and learn how they handle the problems that come into their life and how some of them learned to follow the One True God. The teachings of God that Small Doe and her family did were far-reaching as it touches so many lives. She not only teaches from God's Word she also lives the life before them and so many see that she's different.

I felt so many emotions while reading this book of love, loyalty and wonder. Once again my heart is touched by a Christian Book I have read and makes me take inventory of my feelings and thoughts to see if I have the love, loyalty and forgiveness that I supposed to have in my heart.

Read Pacing Wolf and Small Doe's story as vengeance and hatred changes their lives even as Small Doe holds onto hope and faith.

I wanted this story to last a long time because I hated for it to end but yet I couldn't wait to see what all would happen.

It is a deep story and one that you will want to savor.

If you want to read a heart-touching story you need to be sure to get this book. I think you will be glad you did.

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### **Cynthia Izon says**

#### **Loved it!!**

What a beautiful story of love, loyalty, and forgiveness! All three books have held my attention throughout. I love the characters and I cried at the end. Well done, Storyteller, well done.

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### **Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says**

4.5 stars

Sydney Tooman Betts' People of the Book series will make God's Word come alive for you in fresh ways. Not only does seeing His Story from the Native American's perspective allow it to be seen with new eyes, but the story itself reflects The Story in its plot and its characters. Perhaps none more in the series than the third and final novel – Straight Flies the Arrow.

While this can easily be read as a standalone, you really will want to read the first two in order to understand book 3 in its full context. Because the story told on these pages brings full circle the story begun in A River Too Deep, showing how one woman surrendered to Jesus can influence generations. As you become caught up in this epic saga (which is easy enough reading for teens and up), you will also become inspired to reflect on the ripple effects in your own life. Whose life has influenced yours? Who influenced that person? And then that person? And so on? And... who are you influencing? A spiritual heritage is sometimes even more precious than a genealogical bloodline, and it's always good to pause from time to time and reflect back on the people who have shaped you.

Bottom Line: Pacing Wolf's and Small Doe's story is emotional and compelling, and it will tear at your heart in every way. The setting wraps around you vividly, and you will experience it as though watching it unfold first hand. These characters are not easily forgotten, and their story will linger long after you've closed the book.

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

first seen at Reading Is My SuperPower

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### **Laura Van Nice says**

Tension, heartache, love, and loyalty crisscross and weave together in Straight Flies the Arrow, a poignant and absorbing book about revenge, forgiveness and following Christ no matter the cost.

Revered leader Pacing Wolf left his beloved wife Small Doe to hunt for a predator who is attacking and murdering young women, but when the tracking party returns without him, the tribe's chief demands Small Doe observe a period of grief and then take another husband. But she can't let go of the waning hope that he might return or accept the substitute he left in case he didn't return. Can she do what the Sparrow Hawks require of her? Can she discern what path God would have her walk?

I loved this book! The opening pages plunged right into the action, and from there it's like a river swept me away. It's written in such a way that the authenticity of the characters grabbed hold of my emotions, and I effortlessly slipped into their lives and felt the impact of the things that happened to them. Be prepared to run the gamut of emotions with this one!

Bringing another culture to life in a way that is authentic, respectful and comprehensible to those of us who have no experience with that culture takes real talent and Sydney Tooman Betts has done an outstanding job. Showing how the message of Christ impacted that culture – and realizing that it will always have that impact on unreached people – was both exciting and cautionary. There will always be a cost.

This is such a wonderful book. Well written, filled with thought-provoking characters and fascinating settings, it is also chock-full of Scripture woven throughout in a way that is incredibly organic. Sydney Tooman Betts is a gifted author and one to watch.

Although this can stand alone, I highly recommend reading the previous two in the series, *A River Too Deep* and *Light Bird's Song*.

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### **Lorrie says**

*Straight Flies the Arrow* surpassed all expectations! I knew this book would be great; I read the first two books in this collection (though this book can stand alone, I was glad I read the first two). Still I was not prepared to see each scene so clearly in my mind and was even a little disappointed when I'd look up and realize I was not right there watching the story unfold - live and in person.

This author has ability, talent and passion for her craft and wove a story that entertained me, even as every emotion I possess - from disgust to delight - came to the surface. I learned, was convicted and reminded what God's steadfast love and grace looks like. God used this book to tender my heart.

Well done, Sydney Tooman Betts. Any chance a fourth book will follow?

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### **Kathy says**

The third installment of an inspiring trilogy, *Straight Flies the Arrow*, is a timeless account of steadfast faith amid uncertainty and loneliness. This engaging story brings full circle one woman's godly influence in the lives of her husband, daughter and beloved adopted nation. *Straight Flies the Arrow* and her sister books reveal the ripple effect of a life surrendered to Jesus, and they proclaim the truth that one person can truly make a difference through love, humility and forgiveness. Transported to the mid-1800's, the reader will find action, suspense, romance and drama all interwoven with gracious reminders of being a doer of the Word of God and not a hearer only. *Straight Flies the Arrow* is more than an entertaining read; it is an exciting and memorable journey of grace, love and salvation.

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