



Nobody Cries at Bingo

Dawn Dumont

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Nobody Cries at Bingo

Dawn Dumont

Nobody Cries at Bingo Dawn Dumont

In *Nobody Cries At Bingo* the narrator, Dawn, invites the reader to witness firsthand Dumont family life on the Okanese First Nation. Beyond the stereotypes and cliché's of Rez dogs, drinking, and bingos, the story of a girl who loved to read and her family begins to unfold.

Nobody Cries at Bingo Details

Date : Published March 2011 by Thistledown Press

ISBN : 9781897235843

Author : Dawn Dumont

Format : Paperback 298 pages

Genre : Cultural, Canada, Fiction, Short Stories, Young Adult, Humor

 [Download Nobody Cries at Bingo ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Nobody Cries at Bingo ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Nobody Cries at Bingo Dawn Dumont

From Reader Review Nobody Cries at Bingo for online ebook

Emmkay says

A collection of episodic tales (autobiographical or semi-, I think) of growing up on reserve. Really funny. The painful stuff is there, in a matter-of-fact way: alcoholism, poverty, the impact of residential schools are not glossed over, but come with a healthy dollop of sharp-eyed humour. A total keeper!

Rainey says

I loved this book. It was funny and sad at the same time.

It was a peak into a life that is foreign, but as a Canadian minority too, similar.

Taylor says

Nobody Cries at Bingo attracted me because it meets my standard criteria of "Random Library Finds": it has a cool cover, it is Canadian, it is autobiographical, it features Indigenous themes.

I feel that Dawn Dumont is maybe the Canadian Sherman Alexie in that they both use humour to portray seemingly difficult/harsh life situations of a specific (Indigenous) minority group. This I like because it is a wonderful reprieve and change of perspective from the traditionally dramatic and heartbreaking representations of First Nations reserve life.

Nobody Cries at Bingo is essentially a collection of short stories/anecdotes from Dumont's life growing up in rural Saskatchewan. Through humour, she details life on the reserve largely from the perspective of her childhood. Once one reaches the older ages of young Dawn (teenage plus) Dumont discusses the affects of colonialism in a more blatant way. She really started to lose me, however, because of the lack of editing that occurred during the Wedding chapter. The editor did not catch the discrepancies in ages and other minor details which really threw me for a loop.

After awhile, as much as I enjoyed her stories, I did become a bit bored at the fact that there was no grand, overarching subplot. I think that this is just me, however, and should not be used as an active argument for people to not read the book. It's just not what I was ~feeling~ at the moment, that's all.

3/5 - would recommend for a nice, light, summer read.

Jeannette Montgomery says

Gives us a new horizon against which to measure our experiences - inviting us into life on the res. A range of emotions, including enough humour to make me laugh out loud.

Melanie McFarlane says

This interconnected collection of short stories has changed the way I look at reservations and indigenous life. Dumont's style is the perfect mix of comedy & social issues.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

When I had Lindy Pratch on the podcast, she mentioned this book in passing as one of the books her book club had read and liked recently. I requested it from interlibrary loan on impulse!

This is a series of autobiographical fictions, not quite short stories that are self contained but a series of scenes from the life of the main character, who is largely the author. Dawn Dumont grew up on the Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada, and most of this book focuses on her childhood, from having to accompany her mother to bingo to navigating the very complex social hierarchy of the playground. There are some very hilarious parts, in fact I can still laugh over the college visit in the cabbage sweater.

But to me what is most impressive is the very authentic voice - the naivete of a young girl who knows a lot about her world but does not really fully understand the external forces. She does her best and can be pretty stubborn at times, but I felt like I knew her by the end of the book!

Erin L says

I picked this book up at the library because it sounded interesting. The book itself was funny, and the main character is basically a sister I've never met. It surprised me how many experiences we shared, but that's likely because of our shared Saskatchewan background.

I did go into this expecting more of the negative of life on a reserve, but I didn't get that. It was there on the edges, affecting the main character's life, but not affecting who she was and how she looked at life. It was just another part of the day.

Anne says

While being marketed as a novel, "Nobody Cries At Bingo" is really a roughly chronological series of vignettes about life on a modern day reserve in Saskatchewan. In her other life, the author Dawn Dumont is a successful stand-up comic, playwright and broadcaster. Although she does not shy away from any of the social issues confronting the aboriginal population today, she paints a picture of rez life with great affection and understanding and humor. In fact several of the stories are absolutely hilarious as Dawn stands outside the event and comments on the absurdity of the situation; such as the time her youngest sister was charged on a neighboring reserve with witchcraft. "Nobody Cries at Bingo" wavers on the line between a YA and an Adult offering as there is very graphic language use and certainly what some term "mature" content. The narrative arc could have been tighter, but Dawn Dumont is a young writer to be watched.

Gina says

There were two things that I wasn't expecting, that didn't make it not a good book, but it was an adjustment.

One is that there is not a strong through-line with everything neatly tied together. This is a series of vignettes, which perhaps should not be surprising knowing that the author does standup, and perhaps the chapters could be seen as individual sets.

The other thing is that with Dumont being a comedian, I had expected more laughs. There are funny things, but there is a lot of sadness too, with not as many punchlines as I might have thought.

(That could be a cultural issue though. Another reviewer called it laugh-out-loud, and she was a Canadian. Maybe the Canadian aspects of the humor went over my head.)

Once you go in understanding that this is a series of vignettes that have humor but may not have you rolling on the floor, then you find that this book is very human and interesting and sensitive, told with affection but not overly sentimental, and it gives you a view into Canadian rez life.

CaseyTheCanadianLesbrarian says

Have you ever peed your pants in public? Ever awkwardly wormed your way out of a schoolyard fight while trying not to earn yourself a reputation as a coward? How about unsuccessfully trying to impress a crush and coming off as a huge dork? Been called 'bannock belly' by your cousins cause you're a little chubby? Had your mom tell you every boy you're remotely interested in is your cousin until you start to get a little suspicious? If these specific humiliating yet hilarious scenarios haven't happened to you, you're bound to have some other embarrassing at-the-time but pretty-funny-in-retrospect stories you could tell about yourself, which means, you're going to love *Nobody Cries at Bingo* by Cree/Metis author and comedian Dawn Dumont.

Like I said, everybody's got funny embarrassing stories, but I can guarantee you don't have as many as Dawn Dumont, and you can't tell them as well as she can. *Nobody Cries at Bingo* is Dumont's debut semi-autobiographical novel, although it's really more like a collection of short stories about the main character Dawn as she grows up in and around the Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan.

I've already mentioned what happens in some of the stories that Dawn tells, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. One of my favourites is the one that gives the book its title, *Nobody Cries at Bingo*. Like many of the adults from the Rez and from small-town Saskatchewan, Dawn's mom loves bingo. After having played at all the bingo halls on their and neighbouring reserves, her mom hits up the nearby town, taking Dawn along with her. Dawn is excited, as one-on-one time with her mostly single mom is precious. However, when they get there, her mom informs her that she's there "to play bingo, not to have fun."

"At first it was awkward sitting next to the same white people who glared at Native people when they walked into their stores, but after sharing a few fingernail-biting jackpots, racism faded into the background as they concentrated on the true enemy:

'Goddamn fuckin' bingo caller!'

'I only needed one number for a fucking hour!'

'Last fucking time I play at this hall!' " (p. 53-4)

You can see from this quotation that Dumont doesn't shy away from more serious, tough topics like racism.

Poverty, alcoholism, and residential school trauma also come up throughout the book. The focus, though, is always on humour and resilience. I'd argue that humour as resilience and medicine is Dumont's strategy throughout the book.

Dawn is a great, rounded, flawed character who I found impossible not to love and identify with, especially as her personality as a book-loving, socially awkward nerd is revealed as she grows up. When describing the difference between herself and her cool older sister Tabitha, for example, she says:

"Tabitha and I were further divided by our innate differences. If you put her in a room full of people, they would be drawn to her quiet confidence in a matter of minutes. If you put me in a group of people, I would find a book and ignore them, too ashamed of my incredible need to be liked to reach out." (p. 206)

One of the things that makes these stories so funny is that you have younger Dawn as she stumbles through life embarrassing herself to no end, but you also have older, wiser Dawn's perspective and sharp humour colouring the stories. In a nod to oral storytelling traditions, it's like older Dawn is telling you stories about her childhood at the kitchen table, but a bit embellished for extra fun. Dumont's comedic timing is impeccable.

For me, there's no higher praise I can give than telling you that this book made me laugh out loud more times than I could count. Sometimes classified as YA, sometimes as an adult book, *Nobody Cries at Bingo* is definitely on the higher end of YA due to the reading level and length. As you've seen, there's also some swearing, as well as violence and references to sexuality and trauma.

Dumont has a willingness to joke about the dark stuff that will remind you of Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and Miriam Toews's *A Complicated Kindness*. Also like those books, *Nobody Cries at Bingo* has a lot of heart. If you're looking for stories that are heartfelt, hilarious, and steeped in the everyday lived experience on the Rez, *Nobody Cries at Bingo* is for you.

Cynthia Alice says

Really enjoying this book, author, genre!

Loved it!

And, it deepened my awareness of, appreciation for, the phenomenal richness of life on reserves, both those I've been to and those in this book that I haven't.

Feel a need to reread it. There was so much there!

Magdelanye says

No matter where we went or how we got there, I wanted to know that I could depend on a book to centre myself. Books were my cigarettes. p40

By the time I read these words, I already knew that Dawn, despite some differences in focus (I like to smoke while reading) is my kind of person. Her tough humour, self-deprecation, her resilience and astute observation allow what could have been discouraging into an enjoyable and informative read.

Jessica says

This book seriously needs an editor. It is compiled as a collection of short stories, but it lacks continuity. Chronological order would be nice as would a reason for the significant gap between middle school and college. If grammar is your thing, you will be distracted continuously.

I picked it up because it got a really strong review from Book Riot...so strong that I wasn't deterred when I couldn't get it through the Chicago Public Library system or Paperback Book Swap. I ordered it from the Canadian publisher.

I think I would really enjoy some of these stories if I heard them on the Moth Radio Hour. Dawn's mother would make an especially intriguing character study. She channels Roseanne from the TV show that aired during the same time frame of these stories. My favorite anecdote is when Dawn has gone for an extended stay to her cousins' house and gets teased mercilessly. She breaks down and calls home..."I turned the tears full blast, and claimed that I was having migraine headaches and that I might be going blind and deaf. 'Well, if you go deaf and blind, then I guess it wouldn't really matter where you are then,' Mom reasoned."

I was able to finish the book so I don't consider it a waste of paper, but I had hoped for so much more from a book with such a great title.

Book Riot Community says

This is quite possibly the funniest book I've ever read; it had me laughing out loud and dog-earing pages to go back to practically every five minutes. Have you ever peed your pants in public? Been called 'bannock belly' by your cousins cause you're a little chubby? Had your mom tell you every boy you're remotely interested in is actually your cousin until you start to get a little suspicious? All these things and more happen to the main character Dawn, a Cree/Metis girl growing up in Saskatchewan on a reserve. If you're a book-loving, socially awkward nerd like Dawn, you'll especially love Nobody Cries at Bingo. She describes herself like this: "If you put me in a group of people, I would find a book and ignore them, too ashamed of my incredible need to be liked to reach out." It's a hilarious, but also heartfelt book that is criminally not very well known.

—Casey Stepaniuk

from The Best Books We Read In November 2016: <http://bookriot.com/2016/12/01/the-be...>

Siobhan says

I really, really enjoyed this. Dumont is wisecracking and super corny; and she precisely captures the anxious self-consciousness of nerdy kids growing up. Details of reserve life (alcoholism, violence, poverty) are treated here with belly-laughing survival humor. There is a virtuosic chapter on her childhood love of Conan the Barbarian that you just have to read to believe. Basically this is a book that depicts indigenous families

and reserve life with tremendous affection. I can't wait to read her other stuff, and I am also happy to know now about the similarly colorful and affectionate art of Jim Logan (on the cover).
