

# Rachel's Children: Stories from a Contemporary Native American Woman (Contemporary Native American Communities)

Steve Beard

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Rachel's Children is a true story, based on real events. It is an engaging and humorous account of a contemporary Ojibwa household and the woman and her children who are at its core. As their lives unfold, we understand how traditional beliefs and oral history help Rachel and her family cope as they encounter racism and educational discrimination in rural northern Michigan. When a white educator arrives in Rachel's household to learn about "Indians," she discovers the harsh reality of backwoods life. Beardslee is the queen of sucker punches?she writes in an unexpected combination of ethnography, theatrical script, and novel, echoing the Ojibwa style of storytelling. Her absorbing story about survival of the Native American family encourages a greater understanding of cultural diversity, and will be valuable for instructors in Native studies, multicultural education, women's studies, and anthropology.



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