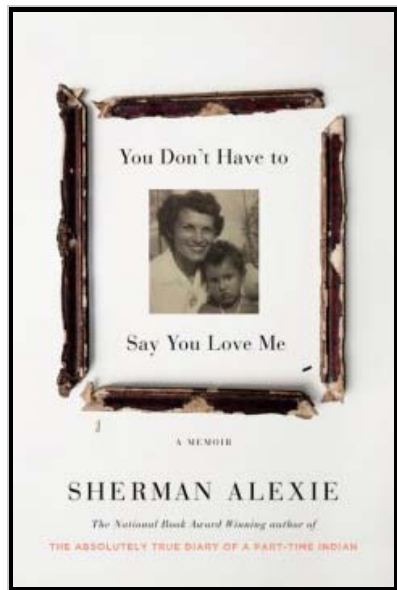


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## You Don't Have to Say You Love Me

A Memoir

by Sherman Alexie

**Price: \$28.00**(Hardcover)

Published: June 13, 2017



Rating: 5.0/5 (1 vote cast)

From the Publisher:

The Instant *New York Times* Bestseller

One of the most anticipated books of 2017--*Entertainment Weekly* and *Bustle*

A searing, deeply moving memoir about family, love, loss, and forgiveness from the critically acclaimed, bestselling National Book Award-winning author of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

Family relationships are never simple. But Sherman Alexie's bond with his mother Lillian was more complex than most. She plunged her family into chaos with a drinking habit, but shed her addiction when it was on the brink of costing her everything. She survived a violent past, but created an elaborate facade to hide the truth. She selflessly cared for strangers, but was often incapable of showering her children with the affection that they so desperately craved. She...

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### About The Author

Sherman Alexie

Winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, the PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction, a PEN/Hemingway Citation for Best First Fiction, and the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, Sherman Alexie is a poet, short story writer, novelist and performer. A Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian, Alexie...

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### Release Info

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### What We Say

Sherman Alexie is a poet, speaker, activist, humorist and perhaps best known for his young adult classic "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian." That hilarious and tough-minded book is about a kid who made the bold move to attend an all-white public school and thus symbolically leave the rez (knowing in a way it would mean he would some day literally leave the reservation for good and become an urban Indian). It's somewhat autobiographical and for fans who have read it,

this memoir is a funhouse mirror, as stories we have heard pop up but sometimes end differently or are sadder or rawer in ways that a (still pretty harsh) young adult book would not be. But this isn't a memoir covering Alexie's whole life so much as circling around and coming to grips with the complicated relationship he had with his mother. She is the beating heart, the inscrutable mystery and the reason for this work by the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene-American writer. It offers up poetry and stories and facts and descriptions of Sherman and his siblings debating what was and wasn't about their mother and their lives. (For those fabulists who just make stuff up, this is how it's done by artists and people who relish the truth -- lay it all out there.) Among the many heartbreaking details is the fact that his mother was the child of rape, a fact that Alexie typically zeroes in on with empathy -- did his grandmother see the rapist in his mother's face? Did that make her love his mother more, less or differently? And yet he takes in the wider scope, seeing Native Americans as a people defined by rape and brutality, from the white school teachers who literally beat their students and forced them into positions later seen as torture (Alexie got sick when he first saw photos from Abu Ghraib because it reminded him of school) to the wider rape of their land and peoples. This is an essay, a memoir, a history, a cry from the heart, a challenge to other Indians and a baring of his soul. Above all, by insisting on the unvarnished truth, it is an honor song to his mother. Poems can be found throughout but it's poetry from start to finish. -- Michael Giltz

## What Others Say

Praise for YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME:  
-

"With brazen honesty and humor throughout, Alexie writes about the many facets of his mother and her addiction's effect on his family and childhood."  
àJarry Lee, *BuzzFeed*, "22 Exciting New Books You Need to Read This Summer"  
-

"Blends poetry and prose, and varies widely in tone as he explores old memories and new grief."à*Entertainment Weekly*, *Summer's 20 Must Read Books*  
-

"He specifically focuses on his late mother, showing the many sides of her multifaceted character through dozens of poignant poems and essays. Their relationship is as complicated as Alexie's stories are enthralling."àStephanie Topacio Long, *Bustle*, *14 Best Nonfiction Books Coming Out in June 2017* -

"Sherman Alexie makes poetry out of the darkest parts of his (and his mother's) life... It's all a mighty attempt to understand who his mother was, who she is to him, and how to make peace with her."àJaime Green, *Google Play*, *Summer Reading*  
-

"There's straight personal...

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