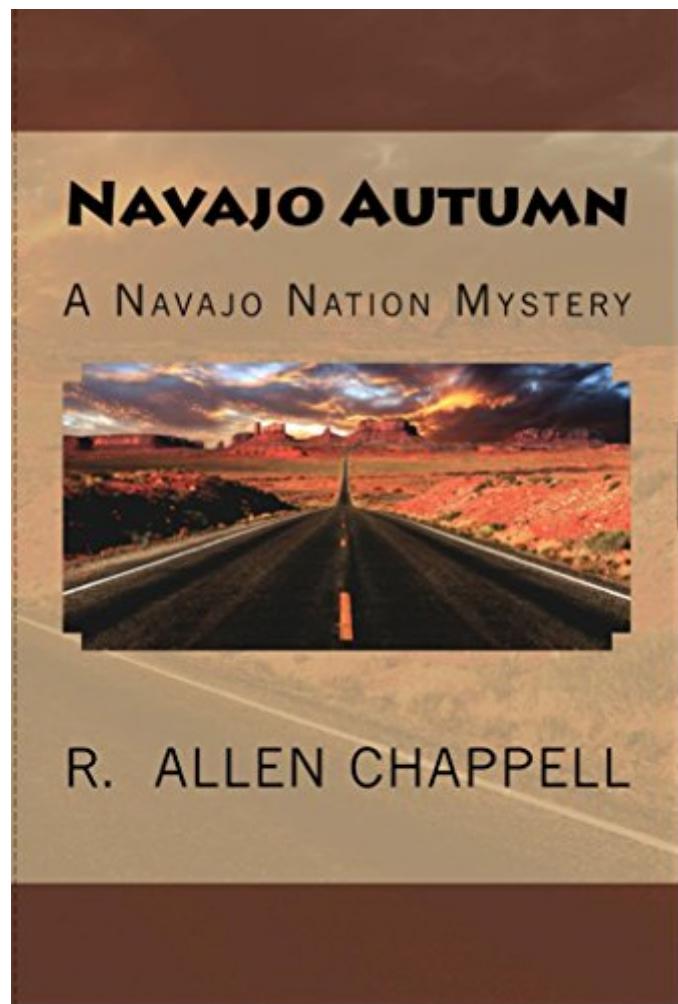


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Navajo Autumn: A Navajo Nation Mystery



Synopsis

Thomas Begay is found dead-drunk under the La Plata Bridge ...not unusual for Thomas Begay. What is unusual, is BIA investigator Patsy Greyhorse, found lying beside him ...not drunk, or even a Navajo, but very dead nonetheless. Long time friend Charlie Yazzi, fresh from law school, risks his career ...and even his life to help his old schoolmate. The Answer seems to lie with the Yeenaaldooshii ...should one choose to believe in such things. In the far reaches of the reservation there still are traditional Navajos living their lives with few concessions to modern mores. Guided by their strong sense of cultural heritage these outliers remain a strong anchor for the Navajo Nation. This story follows the lives of such people, caught up in a plot that could have far reaching implications for the entire tribe. "The depth of characters and culture transcends that generally seen in novels of the genre."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am a big Tony Hillerman fan and have fallen in love with the 4 corners area in large part due to his works. I'm always looking for more great stories in that setting with the Dine as primary characters. I wasn't sure what I was going to get with Mr. Chappell's work, but it was both inexpensive and relatively short, so I felt worth trying. And I am very glad I did! I found the story immediately

engrossing and the narrative does a great job of establishing itself in the land and its people. Like some other reviewers, I felt that I saw through the mystery quite early. But that didn't particularly disappoint me - I was more interested in how the characters were going to successfully resolve the central mystery and its related complications. Other reviewers criticized the proofreading and grammatical structure of the story. I didn't find those issues to be a huge problem for me. Mr. Chappell is a good story teller and a good story is going to carry the reader past those things. A bad storyteller with excellent grammar is not preferable! All that said, I did feel that the character development was inconsistent. Charlie is first established as a college-educated Navajo with ambitions. Later he is more of an altruistic friend who readily ignores his superiors. It was a tad difficult to get a fix on Charlie's character at first, but once I discarded the initial impression, it was fine. Still, not something readers should have to do. Thomas was a bigger problem. A never-do-well drunk, his relationship with the mother of his ex is not really brought out till pretty far along in the book. And Thomas turns out to be stronger and better than the character you first meet. Two different people, in fact.

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