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Fiction by ~KADASHAN

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## "THIS ISYAKUTAT"

Bert Adams, Sr., who writes under his Tlingit names Kadashan and Naats'keek, offers one of the first and few glimpses into the daily lives of the Tlingit Indians. His stories describe the Tlingit as they live today in Southeastern Alaska. The Tlingit have been in contact with Westerners for over 250 years. The pervasive thinking is that they have completely abandoned their traditional culture and values in favor of western ways. While his is that they have completely abandoned their traditional culture and values in favor of western ways. While his writings were not specifically designed to counter this popular supposition, Bert successfully describes, in a simple manner, the ways in which the Tlingit have incorporated traditional beliefs and values into their daily lives.

He shows his greatest strength when he writes of the common, ordinary events in village life. A trip to the store is filled with the subtle nuances and thoughts of individuals reared in both the Tlingit and western cultures. Hunting and fishing trips illustrate the challenges facing the participants as well as the simple pleasures of these ventures. Additionally, Bert aptly reveals the knowledge villagers possess of their environment. The author also deals with the conflicts and tensions faced by Tlingit youth whose world is challenged by new ways. In this collection, the author also offers his own thinking of the institutions which act as a buffer between the Tlingit and Western societies and on the laws that impact Tlingit culture.

Bert's stories reveal an intimate knowledge as well as love of village life. His enthusiasm carries over to readers. When his stories were first published in the "ALASKA NATIVE MAGAZINE", they were instantly popular. This collection should receive the same warm welcome.

~ Rosita Worl

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