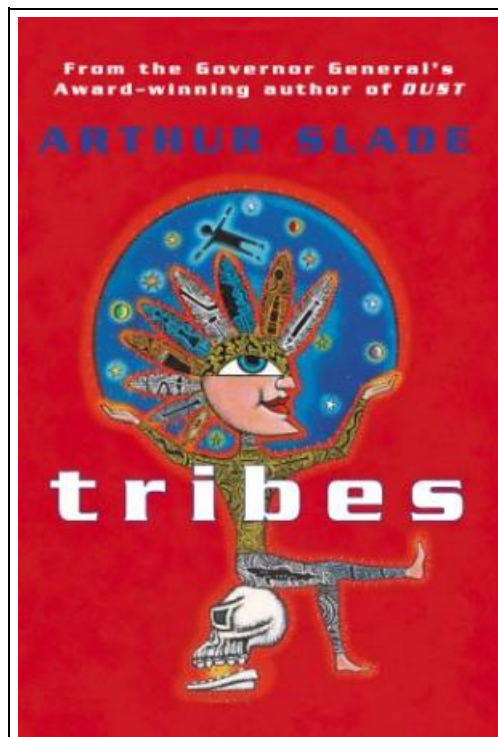


Tribes



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Reviews

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(Enrique Ritchie Sr.)

TRIBES



HarperTrophy Canada, Scarborough, ON, Canada, 2002. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. 1st Edition. Book Description: Let me explain. Numerous tribes exist in friction at our school. The LogoTribe exhibit name brands wherever and whenever possible. The Digerati Tribeworship bytes and silicon chips. The Lipstick/Hair Spray Tribe perform elaborateappearance alterations to attract mates. The Gee-The-Seventies-Were-Great-Even-Though-I-Wasnt-Born-YetTribe have predictable backwards habits. The Hockey Tribe subdivides into Oilers,Canadiens, Rangers and other assorted clans. And finally theres us, the quasi-omniscient Observers. Percy Montmount, Jr., along with his best friend Elissa, have dubbedthemselves the Observers of their grade 12 graduating class at SaskatoonsGroverly High. Ever since the death of his father a renowned anthropologistwhom Percy believes died in the Congo from a bite of a tsetse fly -- Percy hasmysteriously taken on his dads eyes, and his occupation, to examine the ofteninexplicable and ritualistic behaviors of his peers. Armed with his field studynotebook, Percy tries to remain detached from his subjects, including Justin, anAlpha Male bully from the Jock Tribe, and Marcia Grady, a beautiful member ofthe Lipstick/Hairspray Tribe and various other sects: the Teacher tribe; theBorn Again tribe; the Cool and Detached tribe; not to mention Mr. Verplaz, theShaman. For Percy its crucial to withdraw, analyze, and remain coolly above itall. But hes studying real people, who complicate things. Like Elissa, theonly person who can come close to him, maybe too close and his no longernot-so-scientific interest in her (or her webbed foot) is battling his desperateneed not to feel any emotion. As graduation approaches, the looming ritualratchets up Percys deepest, hidden feelings and reveals the truth about hisfathers disappearance. Tribes is marked by caustic humour and wry overtones but it is alsolayered with a subtle and poignant sensitivity about the often unquantifiablecondition of adolescence. With a surprise ending and a hero whose offbeatbehavior belies...



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