

at, in my mind, is that the archaeology of hunter-gatherer complexity is itself much more complex than we originally thought. And this is, in effect, a big achievement of Prentiss and Kuijt's book as a whole. The eleven contributions in this volume have shown that there is much exciting research being done on the Plateau, that this research will undoubtedly contribute to a general archaeology of hunter-gatherer complexity, and that there remain several open-ended debates that should keep Plateau archaeologists busy for some time to come. These debates include the origin of a collector subsistence (whether it arrived from the Coast or developed autochthonously), the identification of ritual activity and its association with root foods, and the social consequences and/or causes of initial aggregation into and subsequent abandonment of large pithouse villages. Full of interesting ideas that will continue to be a source of testable models for other scholars, this book is worth its money. I would recommend it to any student (broadly defined) of both Plateau and Northwest Coast prehistory, and to those interested in (yes, you guessed it) the "evolution" of complex hunter-gatherers.

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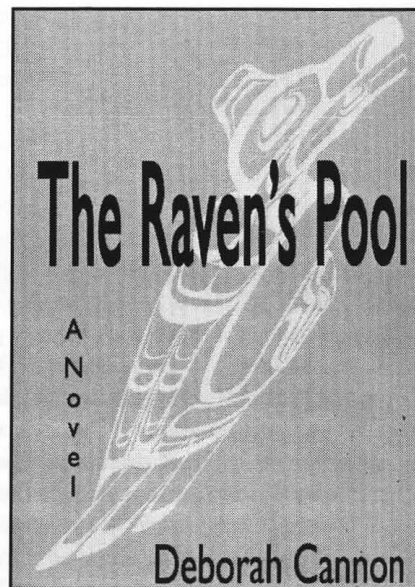
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The Raven's Pool

by
Deborah Cannon

Trafford Publishing,
Victoria, 2006.
244 pp.

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Cannon's book is a refreshing change for archaeologists, anthropologists or cultural resource specialists who are looking for a relevant novel to read in their spare time. The book is a blend of current issues in archaeology, Northwest Coast mythology, and a little romance. The novel begins with the main character, Dr. Jake Lalonde, an archaeologist who is accompanied by a graduate student Angeline Lisbon to investigate the discovery of a Raven's rattle. The setting is the west coast, Cedar Island in the San Juan Islands, which P. Clifford Radisson wants to develop into a tourist theme park called "Ravensworld". Jake's distaste for Radisson's mega-developments, destruction of nature and purchase of Haida artifacts is clear from the beginning and he had good reason to be concerned. Josie Davis, Jake's co-director does not seem to share his dislike of Radisson and the Regional Archaeologist, Tom Jelna, offers little support to Jake's opposition to the theme park. From Jelna's perspective, the island is government property and is scheduled for development. This is exactly what Jake LaLonde is trying to avoid but Radisson is a man who gets what he wants. Jake faces political obstacles and personal challenges in his efforts to save the archaeological heritage of Cedar Island and investigate the myth of the Raven. For most of the novel, he's seen as acting like a renegade with few supporters. Jake's crew are tempted by Radisson's offers for employment in the theme park and seem to support the development. This crew is an interesting mix and any reader who has spent time in the field, has spent time with one of these characters.

Although the setting of Cedar Island and the specific events are fictional, there is an authenticity to Jake's passion for archaeology and his struggles with developers that makes this novel a must read. Once you read *The Raven's Pool*, you will want to read the sequel — *White Raven*.

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