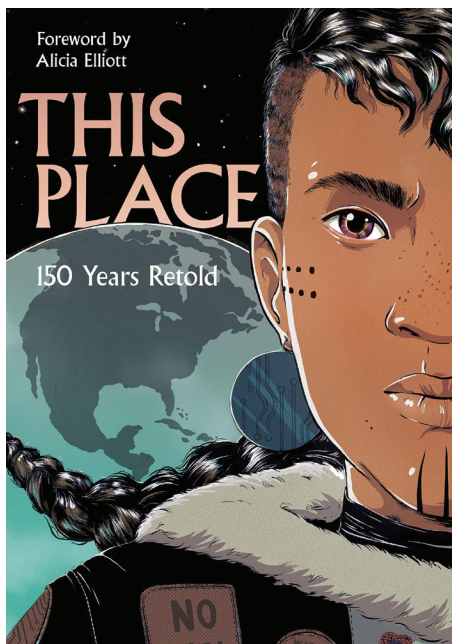


Angela Thompson

A Great Find



This Place: 150 Years Retold

Various Contributors Including Katherena Vermette, Richard Van Camp and Chelsea Vowel
HighWater Press: 2019

This graphic-text compilation explores pivotal moments of Indigenous resolve, resilience, and resistance. Featuring a number of writers representing a broad range of Indigenous voices, communities and experiences, the last 150 years of history are brought to life in four-colour, graphic novel art.

In her forward, Alicia Elliott espouses that Indigenous people live in a post-Apocalyptic world, “The world as we knew it ended the moment colonialism started to creep across these lands. But we have continued to tell our stories, we have continued to adapt. Despite everything, we have survived”.

A timeline that begins with Confederation and ends in 2018 chronicles the struggles and successes of Indigenous peoples — land claims, treaties, court battles, and landmark decisions. From one end of the country to the other, leaving no decade untouched, gorgeous illustrations and colour accompany engaging stories written by a host of acclaimed Indigenous authors and illustrators. We learn about Annie Bannatyne and her resolve to expose the deceptions of Charles Mair during the Northwest Rebellion, the resilience of Francis “Peggy” Pegahmagabow, a decorated war hero who was then denied loans that were given to other returning veterans, and the members of the Wabuseemoong reserve who stood up to Children’s Aid Society and refused to let any more children be removed from their community. This is just a taste of the stories that this anthology brings to light.

Each graphic text is informed by meticulous research and the listing of sources at the back of the anthology can serve as a springboard into a deeper exploration of each of the conflicts.

Above all, this collection illuminates a core message that, “It’s our responsibly as readers to carry and nourish the seeds, letting them grow inside us as we go on to create our own stories” (Edwards 2). This is her challenge to all readers; it is a challenge that should be embraced. ■

