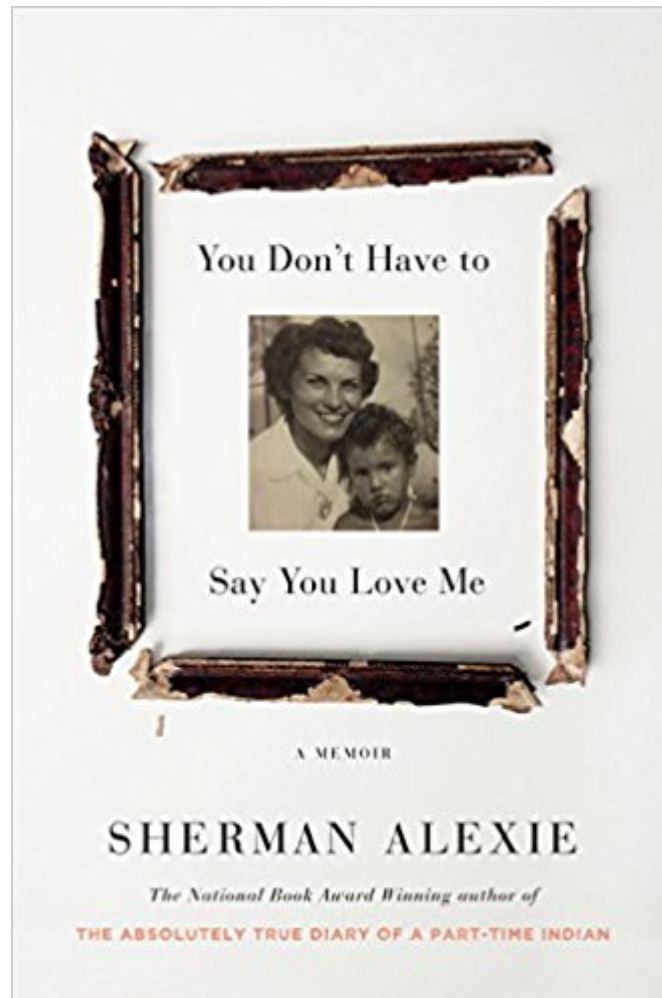


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You Don't Have To Say You Love Me: A Memoir



Synopsis

The Instant New York Times Bestseller One of the most anticipated books of 2017--Entertainment Weekly and Bustle A searing, deeply moving memoir about family, love, loss, and forgiveness from the critically acclaimed, bestselling National Book Award-winning author of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Family relationships are never simple. But Sherman Alexie's bond with his mother Lillian was more complex than most. She plunged her family into chaos with a drinking habit, but shed her addiction when it was on the brink of costing her everything. She survived a violent past, but created an elaborate facade to hide the truth. She selflessly cared for strangers, but was often incapable of showering her children with the affection that they so desperately craved. She wanted a better life for her son, but it was only by leaving her behind that he could hope to achieve it. It's these contradictions that made Lillian Alexie a beautiful, mercurial, abusive, intelligent, complicated, and very human woman. When she passed away, the incongruities that defined his mother shook Sherman and his remembrance of her. Grappling with the haunting ghosts of the past in the wake of loss, he responded the only way he knew how: he wrote. The result is a stunning memoir filled with raw, angry, funny, profane, tender memories of a childhood few can imagine, much less survive. An unflinching and unforgettable remembrance, *YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME* is a powerful, deeply felt account of a complicated relationship.

Customer Reviews

An Best Book of June 2017: Sherman Alexie's memoir, *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*, is an extraordinary look at the complicated relationship between a remarkable mother and an equally remarkable son, set, mostly, in the Spokane Indian Reservation where Alexie spent his childhood. His whip-smart, sometimes cruel mother saved the family when she stopped drinking, but was inexplicably tough on her kids -- something Alexie traces back to mental illness, sexual assault, and the Indian experience of violence and oppression. Family memoirs often seem like an opportunity for score settling, but Alexie is so aware of his own fallible memory and his own imperfections that this one won't make you bristle. His style is idiosyncratic -- passages of verse lead to passages of prose -- but it's readable, unpretentious, funny and deeply compassionate. --Sarah Harrison Smith, *The Book Review* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Praise for *YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME*: "With brazen honesty and humor throughout, Alexie writes about the many facets of his mother and her addiction's effect on his family and

childhood." ["Blends poetry and prose, and varies widely in tone as he explores old memories and new grief."](#) ["Blends poetry and prose, and varies widely in tone as he explores old memories and new grief."](#)

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