



# Return of the Bones: Inspired by a True Native American Indian Story

*Belinda Vasquez Garcia*

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## **Return of the Bones: Inspired by a True Native American Indian Story** Belinda Vasquez Garcia

An award winning book about a little-known chapter of Native-American history! Generations collide when a woman agrees to drive her grandfather across the country to bring home the remains of their fallen Native American ancestors. A dazzling, family epic of love, massacre, mystery, and forgiveness.

In 1915, 2,067 skeletons were stolen from the ghost pueblo of Pecos. The bones were transported from the American West to Harvard University and held captive for medical research. In present day and across thousands of miles to the reservation, the wind carries their cries to Grandfather who hears the bones longing for home.

Hollow-Woman and Grandfather are the last of the Pecos people, but she is not interested in early Indian life, war, stories, or tales. She works at a Native American casino and is of the modern ways of America, while Grandfather is a chief who values tradition. Hollow-Woman hopes the road trip will heal their broken hearts. He wants her to love the missing bones, as he does and value their culture. Grandfather is a powerful shaman. He fashions a magical dream catcher that will sometimes hurl his granddaughter into the past to experience the days of her ancestors.

While driving a ratty, old pickup-camper, Hollow-Woman and Grandfather bicker from New Mexico to the Peabody Museum in Boston. The pages are filled with Grandfather's comical wisdom while embracing the heartbreak and spirituality of the Native Americans.

Did you know that President George W. Bush's grandfather, Prescott Bush, dug up Geronimo's grave and stole his skull to be used as initiation into the Skull and Bones Society at Yale?

You may know these famous bones on which landmark studies proved that exercise prevents osteoporosis! The desecration of these Indians' graves was the beginning of American Archaeology.

Return of the Bones won Best Historical Fiction for the New Mexico / Arizona Book Awards, a Best ebook, and a Best Audio Book award.

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