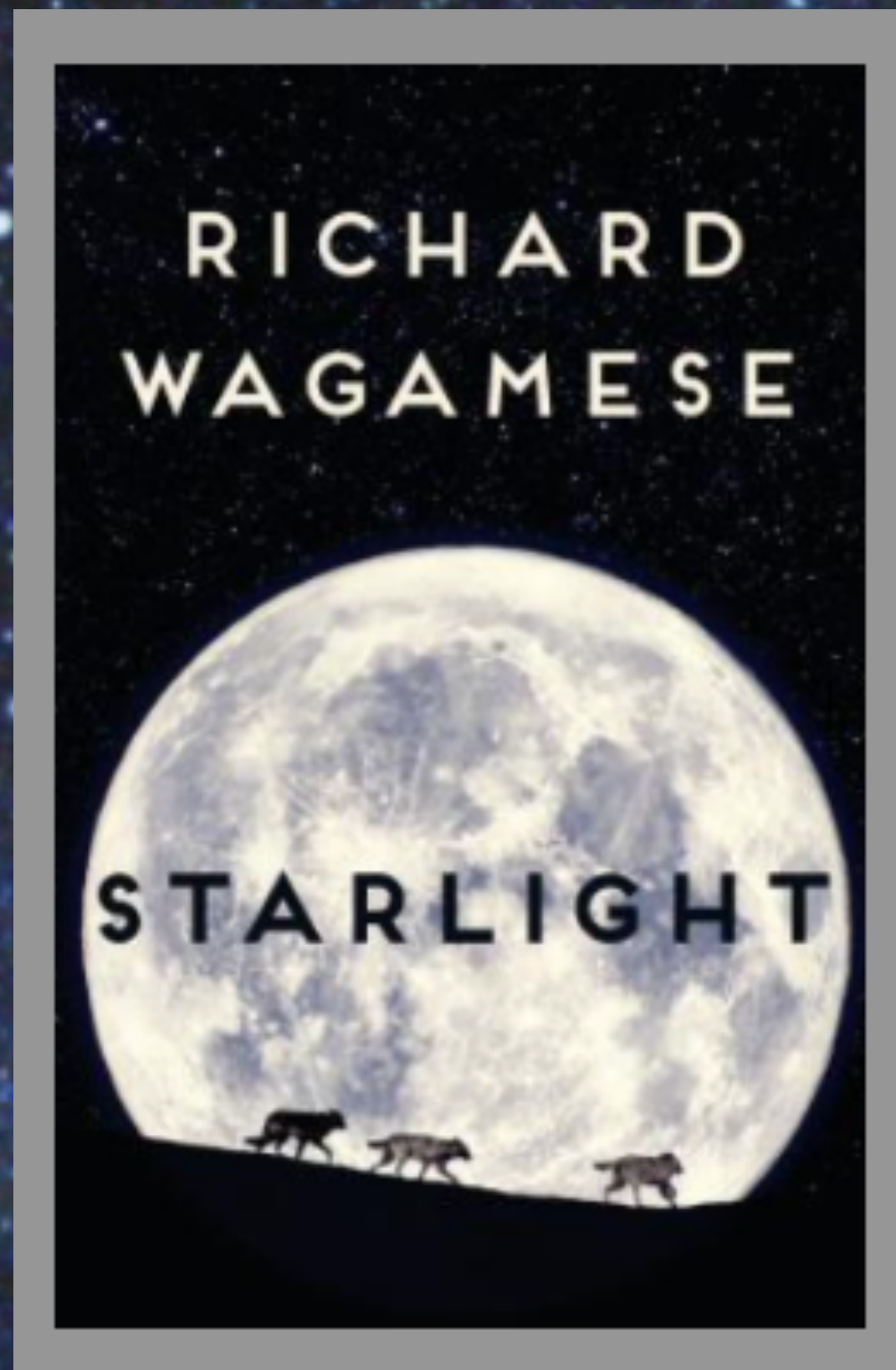


RICHARD WAGAMESE

STARLIGHT

ACTS' Monday Night Book Study #47- 09



Monday Night Book Study
with

WAYNE, JOAN, BRENDA

ST. DAVID'S BOOK STUDY TEAM

BEFORE WE BEGIN



OPENING WITH BERNARD





Key Discoveries

- Frank and Emmy's love changed them in profound ways.
- Emmy is driven with rage and desirous of revenge.
- Violence will not bring Emmy peace — Wagamese's novels tend toward reconciliation and healing.

OUR PURPOSE: TO FIND
BETTER WAYS TO KNOW THE
TRUTH AND EXPERIENCE
RECONCILIATION



STUDY OUTLINE

DATE		
10	Nov. 29	STARLIGHT AND COMPANY: BOOKS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE



Housekeeping



We can't heal what we don't first
acknowledge. R.R.

there is so much strength in you
and I want to tell you that if you break
do it moving forward not away
risk everything
for the real victory is the journey itself
and the only thing we take away or leave behind
is the story of that trek
to be told and retold forever
on the tongues of those we love

you taught me that
in your lodges and your teachings you showed me
that the world remains a wild place
and our only choice is harmony
way hi ya hey way hi

I can't replace the years they took away from you
salve the bruises and the scars they left upon your skin
heal the seeping wounds you carry after all these years
or return the disappeared ones to your arms
I can't erase that past
but I can learn to dance and I can learn to sing
in the language that has always been my own
I can celebrate in the ceremony and the ritual
they could never take away
become in my own way
the expression of you
before the darkness fell
and after the light returned
as it does now
where warriors dance the sun across the sky
and sing the rain down upon the land
way hi ya hey way hi

THE ENDING: A NOTE



“And then they began to run.”

THE ENDING: A NOTE



- Wagamese's Third Novella was "To Fight No More Forever" — the basis for "Starlight."
- "He smiled again. Then he ran after her."



PUBLISHER'S NOTE: McClelland and Stewart

- submitted in July 2017, published in 2018
- Medicine Walk was used to edit
- Themes and images resonate with his 2015 essay — Finding Father

FINDING FATHER

“Most of us never did.”
(make it home)

Sound Bite: 1:45 m.

Stanley Raven:
Richard's Father



FOR JOSHUA



Staring the modern world in the eye, Richard Wagamese confronts its snares and perils. He sees people coveting without knowing why, looking for roots without understanding what constitutes home, searching for acceptance without extending reciprocal respect, and longing for love without knowing how to offer it. He sees this because he lived it.

For Joshua is Wagamese's love letter to his estranged son. Ojibway tradition calls for fathers to walk their children through the world and teach them their place in it. To teach them they belong. In this intimate memoir, Wagamese describes his own tumultuous journey--though childhood trauma, racism, and substance abuse--and his fight to emerge stronger. His road to self-knowledge has been long and treacherous, but this has furnished him, if not with a complete set of answers, then at least with a profound understanding of the questions.



What resolution would you like to have seen?
What ending would you like?
What will you take away from this study of Richard Wagamese and “Starlight”?

Break out rooms

Bitterness and alienation in relationships, urban vs rural lifestyles, life-changing moments for me, meanings of reconciliation... Finding Father ... Alternative Endings....



"STARLIGHT"

CONCLUDING
THOUGHTS
& BREAKOUT
ROOM
SHARING

PART TWO WITH BRENDA



RICHARD WAGAMESE: THE WRITER AND THE MAN



Words of Wisdom Shared

We are not the things we accumulate.
We are not the things we deem
important. We are story. All of us. What
comes to matter then is the creation of
the best possible story we can while
we're here; you, me, us, together. When
we can do that and we take the time to
share those stories with each other, we
get bigger inside, we see each other, we
recognize our kinship – we change the
world, one story at a time...”

— **Richard Wagamese**

“We approach our lives on different trajectories, each of us spinning in our own separate, shining orbits. What gives this life its resonance is when those trajectories cross and we become engaged with each other, for as long or as fleetingly as we do. There's a shared energy then, and it can feel as though the whole universe is in the process of coming together. I live for those times. No one is truly ever "just passing through." Every encounter has within it the power of enchantment, if we're willing to look for it.”

— Richard Wagamese, [Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations](#)

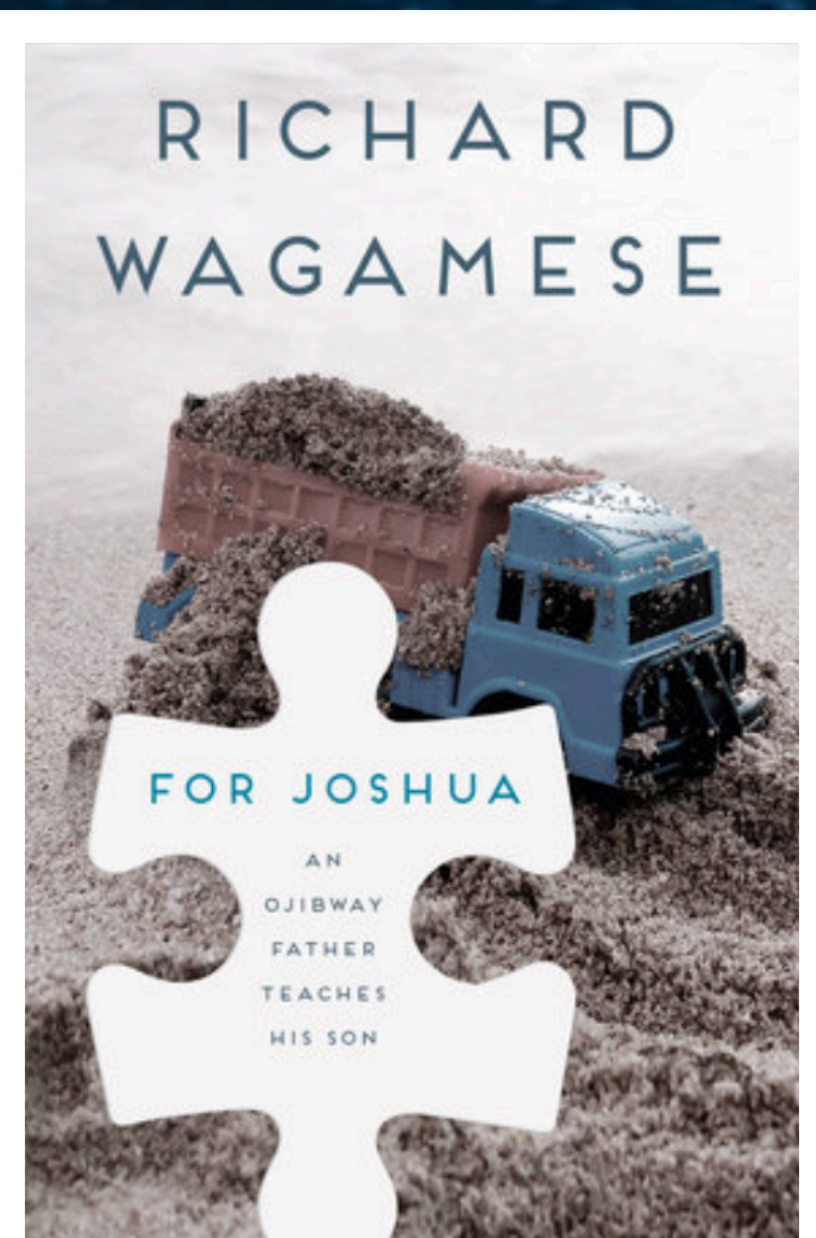
CBC - Next Chapter with
Shelagh Rogers 3:45 m.

2018: Interview with Wesley
French — narrator of 'Starlight.'



SESSION #9

Endings





Next Week: Session #10

OPENING:

CLOSING:

- BOOKS THAT HAVE CHANGED OUR LIVES
- BOOKS THAT WILL CHALLENGE US TO LEARN AND LISTEN NEXT YEAR

- *STARLIGHT* AND OTHER BOOKS
- COME PREPARED TO SHARE A BOOK OR TWO THAT HAS HAD AN IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE

Closing with Sheryl



STARLIGHT

