



RED KNIFE
A Cork O'Connor Mystery
William Kent Krueger

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Mr. Krueger, in his comments about *Red Knife*, has stated that he intended the book to be an exploration of violence, which he's concerned has become an accepted cultural norm in our society. Do you agree?

Although the book centers on modern day events, it opens with an historic scene of battle between the Ojibwe and their enemies, the Lakota, two hundred years earlier. What did you think of this introduction to the story? Did you understand its connection to the subsequent events?

The Ojibwe culture figures significantly in *Red Knife*, as well as the other books in the Cork O'Connor series. How did you feel about the way this culture was portrayed?

Family relationships are important in *Red Knife*. Compare the O'Connor family, the Kingbird family, and the Reinhardt family. What are the elements that bind families together and what elements divide them?

What do you think of Cork O'Connor as a protagonist?

Who are some of your favorite characters in this story and why do you like them?

What part does the landscape of northern Minnesota play in the story? Did you think it was a setting that was evoked well?

Some critics have seen events in the book as advocating vigilantism. Thinking specifically about the events at Black Duck Lake, what do you believe?

What do you think of the school shooting that ends the book? Was it gratuitous, or did it serve another purpose?

The final chapter of the book concerns the eventual paths that characters in the story will take. How did you respond to this look into the future?

In the end, Cork's response to the violence he's seen and also been a part of is to give up his firearms. In reply to Henry Meloux's objection, Cork says, "Maybe you can't alter the human heart, Henry, but you can remove the weapons. Maybe not so many people would kill then or so many die." Do you think this a realistic response to the violence in the world today?

Based on your experience with *Red Knife*, would you read another Cork O'Connor novel? Would you suggest this author's works to others?