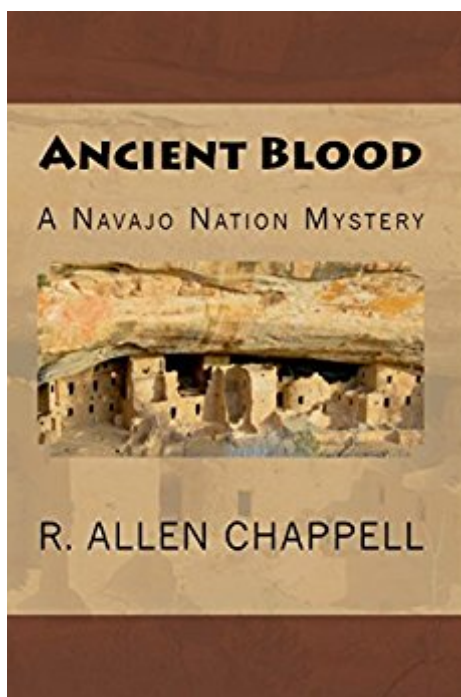


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Ancient Blood: A Navajo Nation Mystery



Synopsis

Charlie Yazzie's former archaeology professor becomes the target of a ruthless Indian rights movement - one determined to end an investigation that could change the face of an ancient tribe. Charlie and Thomas Begay find themselves caught up in a dangerous intrigue-filled adventure involving one of the canyon's oldest riddles. Dark secrets are revealed in this fast-paced mystery of a forgotten people.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've read all the Chappell books and this may be my favorite. Plenty of mystery and action with some very interesting Southwest archaeology to boot. You'll meet some interesting new characters plus enjoying all the regulars from his earlier books. If you like mysteries or stories about Navajos and the Southwest, you have to read Chappelle's novels. He tells a good story, writes in a terse, direct style, includes lots of dialog, and his descriptions of places are right on. I've lived where he writes about and his stories take me back there.

Ancient Blood, the third in this series, is as great as Navajo Autumn and Boy Made of Dawn! Each book in this series introduces new characters, and builds on old characters from previous

stories. Ancient Blood introduced me to a controversial and not widely known theory about the Anazazi and their exodus from their cliff dwellings in the Four Corners region. I found it very thought provoking and spell binding reading. High marks for Ron Chappell. I hope his well doesn't run dry anytime soon!

This book had a great story line. Reading the previous books in the series was a huge help with the characters. I think without that you would go "huh?" a lot due to a lack of history that is referred to. There were some editing issues that drove me nuts. I am a slow dyslexic reader, so I don't like fighting that to get through a story. I'm sure if you are reading this you have already got the basic story line from all of the good reviewers that spell out the story line. I enjoy the character development that Campbell uses. He is good at it. Be prepared in this book if you are a speed reader to slow down when the Navahos are talking. He writes the language like he hears it being spoken. That slowed me down and made me wonder if some of it is editing or he was trying to bring me into their character of speech. I stick to my previous statement in an earlier review that Chappell is not Tony Hillerman. But that's OK because after reading several of the stories I honestly don't think he is trying to be. Same setting different stories and a very different "feel" to his books. I feel that I get left down by the ending in many of the books I read. "OK so now that you are done good bye." This one ran the edge. I think we as readers are due a little more "after all the stuff is done" that a couple of pages of epilogue is warranted. Chappell kind of does this, but this one could have used some more. But, the book kept my interest and I enjoyed the read. And I guess that's what it's really all about.

Chappell seems to improve with each book! The characters are becoming more dimensional and they are mostly quite companionable. I like it when the good guys are good and the bad guys are really bad - so I can tell them apart! The many cultural tidbits and historical data are quite intriguing. I feel drawn into the debate concerning the Anazazi! Great flavor in the setting too! I drive those washboard back roads, breathe the dust and smell the sage and rain that can't quite make it to the ground. More!

I'm glad someone has taken the lead and channeled Tony Hillerman to write some very interesting stories regarding the original Americans. Mixing fact with fiction develops a relationship with the original "people". I hope to see more from Mr. Chappell.

This is a fascinating read, especially for Hillerman fans who have no more left to read. My only annoyance with the book is the teasers along the way that there is something dire being covered up, when it is, in fact, something well known in archaeological and mystery circles for a number of years and has been used as a device by other writers, in this case the Gears. I felt the same way about The Da Vinci Code as I also knew what the big secret was supposed to be there as I and many others had read Holy Blood, Holy Grail and seen the tv shows on this supposed secret many years before. Here, the characters are well drawn and their varied backgrounds interesting. update: I had read this book out of order and after reading the others have reread it and it is a better book once the characters and their pasts together are better understood. So, I am upping my review from 4 to 5 stars! I recommend reading the series in order even though they are advertised as stand alone novels.

Although I don't know the accuracy of the information presented in R Allen Chappell's books, I really appreciate learning about the Navajo people and their lands of the southwest. The plot has its twists and turns, and keeps you wondering where the characters will go next to solve the mystery.

Gotta' say R.Allen Chappell is the "serious" contender for the replacement to Tony Hillerman. Big ol' YIPPEE!! All five of this series was very satisfyingly excellent in regards to portraying an accurate representation of modern day Navajos. Yes, there is a mystery.....but for me that took second place to the characterizations of Charlie Yazzie, Thomas Begay, and Harley Ponyboy. The history of the Anasazie migration (was this represented accurately?) is quite interesting if you lived in the 4 Corners area. Did I say: YIPPEE!!!

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