

February 14, 2006

Reviewer: Saidee M. Whitehorn, Seattle

*"Flight of the Goose* hits universal truths about the power of understanding, forgiveness, (not the "television talk show" kind of forgiveness), and redemption to heal. For me, this is very connected to the Land, Alaska; it is all a feedback loop.

I have lived and worked in Alaska with Native Alaskans as a psychiatric nurse practitioner. I have some understanding of, and fell in love with the people of the Far North immediately. It was as if I had always known them. I deeply love the Land. Lesley Thomas is part of that Land and it shows in her book. She has intricate knowledge of and respect for the people and culture. Her book portrays the complicated interweavings of culture, "progress", and how fear, love, and trauma coexist to shape experience. She does not romanticize these experiences as some writers do.

While her book is fiction, it feels more real and true than I can describe. I met many people from the villages with "psychiatric" issues, but I think her book tells a truer tale. I strive to make my work about the cultural and spiritual essence of what people encounter. It was such a pleasure to read a book with such depth, love, and understanding throughout.

Since reading her book, I find my mind wandering to the Land, the fear, the sorrow, and the joy of this book on a daily basis. *Flight of the Goose* stays with me, moves me. I love LOVE this book. I am going to be telling everyone I know about it. It has a certain transcendence that I want to share.