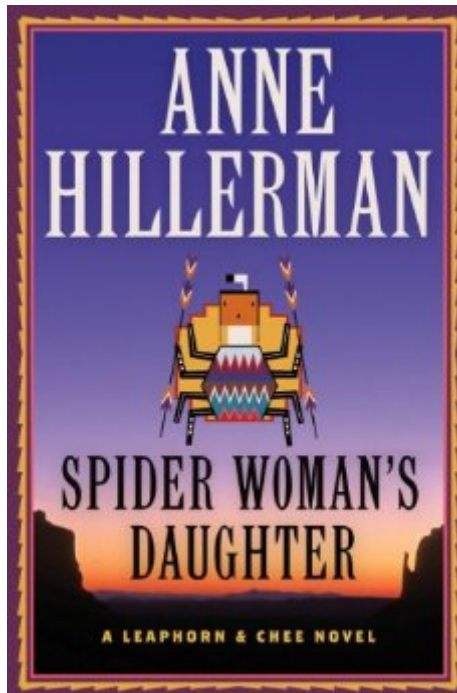


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Spider Woman's Daughter: A Leaphorn & Chee Novel (Navajo Mysteries Book 19)



Synopsis

Anne Hillerman, the talented daughter of bestselling author Tony Hillerman, continues his popular Leaphorn and Chee series with *Spider Woman's Daughter*, a Navajo Country mystery, filled with captivating lore, startling suspense, bold new characters, vivid color, and rich Southwestern atmosphere. Navajo Nation Police Officer Bernadette Manualito witnesses the cold-blooded shooting of someone very close to her. With the victim fighting for his life, the entire squad and the local FBI office are hell-bent on catching the gunman. Bernie, too, wants in on the investigation, despite regulations forbidding eyewitness involvement. But that doesn't mean she's going to sit idly by, especially when her husband, Sergeant Jim Chee, is in charge of finding the shooter. Bernie and Chee discover that a cold case involving his former boss and partner, retired Inspector Joe Leaphorn, may hold the key. Digging into the old investigation, husband and wife find themselves inching closer to the truth...and closer to a killer determined to prevent justice from taking its course.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a difficult book to review. On the one hand, it is the 19th entry in a popular series, so we come with pretty fixed preconceptions. On the other hand, it is a "first novel," so some of those

preconceptions are not really germane. Add the complication that the quality of the Chee/Leaphorn books fell precipitately during the last years of Tony Hillerman's career, and you have yet another ambiguous gauge for this novel. It's good enough that I'll be ready to buy another, if there is another. It's better than the last three novels, and about on par with *The Wailing Wind*. Anne Hillerman has a firm grasp of the unique setting, in the broadest sense, of the Chee/Leaphorn world. The book is fun because it does the "Navajo schtick" very well, balancing insider/outsider perspectives as delicately and respectfully as Tony did, and it provides understanding of the Navajo world tempered by the humility of a sympathetic white outsider. The book focuses on Bernie Manuelito, Jim Chee's love interest (now wife) and a solid competent cop in her own right. Looking at the world through Bernie's eyes is a nice tweak of the usual Hillerman territory, and elements of Bernie's personal story are promising for future development. What's bad about it? Well most notably, Anne doesn't have a very good grasp of how to write a mystery. That was one of Tony's fortes, although in the books after *The First Eagle* he pretty much coasted for that element. Here, we figure out the killer's identity long before we are supposed to, and Jim Chee's inability to catch up with us is exasperating. Bernie lacks a good deal of information available to Chee (she has been ordered off the case), but it does seem that she is awfully slow to put two and two together.

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