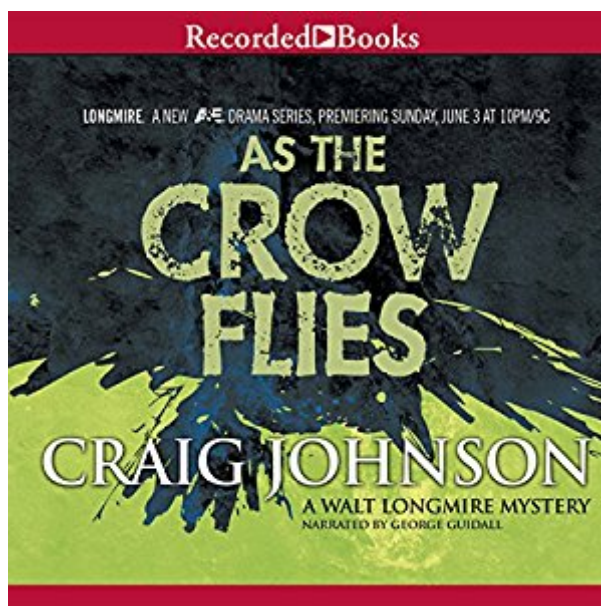


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# As The Crow Flies: A Walt Longmire Mystery, Book 8



## Synopsis

Craig Johnson has won multiple awards and earned starred reviews from Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and Kirkus Reviews for his New York Times best-selling Walt Longmire mysteries. Embarking on his eighth adventure in *As the Crow Flies*, Sheriff Longmire is searching the Cheyenne Reservation for a site to host his daughter's wedding, when he sees a woman fall to her death. Teaming up with beautiful tribal chief Lolo Long, Walt sets out to investigate the suspicious death.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The main character is Walt Longmire, Sheriff of Absaroka County. He drives a pickup truck named Bullet, he carries a Colt M1911 (whatever that is), and wears cowboy boots and a custom made cowboy hat. There are 11 books in the series. So, I started with the first, *Cold Dish*, and am now on number 11 with the 12th coming out in May 2015. I love these books because they are stripped of any high tech contrivances, delve into Indian lore and mysticism, and have very well defined, yet flawed, characters. Walt was a former college football lineman at USC, Vietnam veteran, and a recent widower. He remains a decent man despite his wide ranging knowledge of humanity at its worst. His side kick is Henry Standing Bear otherwise known as the Cheyenne Nation. He also was a football player at USC, a Vietnam Vet, and now runs a bar on the reservation named The Painted Pony. When he speaks, it is without any contractions. Handsome devil, too. Walt's deputy is Victoria Moretti, Vic, who's from Philly and has a really dirty mouth (not

my favorite character). Not because she has a dirty mouth, which is a mainstay of her character, but because of the story arc. And then there is Walt's daughter, Cady, who is a big city lawyer and whose relationship with her father is tenuous, at best. The plots are not as sexy as CSI's. Instead they delve more into the mundane of everyday living i.e. poverty, human trafficking, polygamy, fracking, survival, and the still difficult relationship between whites and Native Americans. I like the fact that Walt has a sense of humor. In *As the Crow Flies*, Walt is sitting by a man who gets shot in the mouth by a bartender and sees, "blood, tissue, and teeth scattering onto the table." When Lucian, an old coot who was sheriff before Walt, asks Walt how the guy is doing, he responds, "Alive, but he's going to need some dental work." He's also smart quoting Shakespeare, explaining the caste system of India, and is an encyclopedia on the history of the old west. As Lucian says, "Better than a bookmobile." The thing I don't like about Walt, but I'm sure some would call it heroic, is that he is tenacious to a fault. Once he starts a case, he finishes it no matter whether his daughter is getting married or she's having a baby. If you want a break from all of these high tech procedurals and from big city soot and crime, pop the top of a Rainer beer, Walt's favorite, sit in front of a roaring fire and read away. You might even want to buy a pair of new boots. To save you time, here is a list of Johnson's books in order. It does help to read them in order. There is some sequence plotting. Cold Dish, Death Without Company, Kindness Goes Unpunished, Another Man's Mocassins, The Dark Horse, Junkyard Dogs, Hell is Empty, Divorce Horse, As the Crow Flies, Christmas in Absaroka County, Messenger, A Serpent's Tooth, The Steamboat, Any Other Name, Dry Bones.

This was a good listen. The hero, a Wyoming sheriff, uses native American myths to forward his investigations. This book includes a long scene in which the hero goes under a peyote induced vision quest. The book is part of a series and introduces two interesting new characters: a six foot tall woman police chief and a young Cherokee man with a closet full of guns and an inclination to use them. The ending was lame, but you can't have everything.

Cady's getting married and that's a problem because the wedding site she wants is not available. Henry Standing Bear, who promised Cady that he'd take care of it, has enlisted Sheriff Walt Longmire to find a suitable alternate

location for his daughter's wedding. Unfortunately, while scouting a promising site, Henry and Walt are witness to a Crow Indian woman plunging to her death from a high cliff. Was it suicide? Was she pushed? Or was it a tragic accidental fall? (I'm going to forgive author Craig Johnson at this point for a terrible pun in the title on flying crows.) Walt is first on the scene to examine the body but is soon joined in his investigation by the FBI and a new police chief on the Cheyenne reservation whose name is Lolo Long. Lolo has just returned from a duty tour in Iraq as a medic and has an attitude as big as Wyoming. Walt adopts a conciliatory and professional relationship with Lolo as her mentor and she ratchets down her attitude to cooperate and learn. The book takes a brief side excursion into Indian mysticism as Walt accepts an invitation for a peyote smoke with several older gentlemen. Along the way, he has a conversation with a bear and one with a sassy crow who sounds a lot like undersheriff Vic Moretti. It's not totally without value because he does get some good ideas from the crow that will help him later solve the crime. But what about the wedding? Does Cady get hitched? You'll have to read the epilogue to find out and I'm certain you won't be disappointed.

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