



High Plains Tango: A Novel

By Robert James Waller

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High Plains Tango: A Novel By Robert James Waller

With over 10 million copies sold, bestselling author Robert James Waller returns with another haunting, evocative story.

The wild places are where no one is looking anymore. Out on the high plains, among Sioux reservations and silent buttes, you can hear the wind. And on the back of the wind is the sound of an old accordion mingling with the lonely thump of a single drum in the nighttime and a far-off warrior's cry.

To this, to a town called Salamander, comes Carlisle McMillan, a traveler and carpenter seeking a place of quiet amid the grinding roar of progress. There he finds two very different women: Gally Deveraux, who works at a diner and longs for something more than she is, and Susanna Benteen, beautiful and enigmatic, whom the town has labeled a witch. The women, Carlisle's carpenter's trade, and an old Indian known as Flute Player bring Carlisle a sense of contentment for a while. But his quiet is shattered as bulldozer treads begin to turn and the Yerkes County War commences.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

In an Author's Note at the end of *High Plains Tango*, Robert James Waller says: "Though this book stands by itself, it is a continuation of two of my other books: *The Bridges of Madison County* and, especially, *A Thousand Country Roads ... A Thousand Country Roads* details Carlisle McMillan's search for his father, Robert Kincaid, who played a central role in *The Bridges of Madison County*."

Waller just can't, try as he might, get back to Madison County. Even though there are those who love to trash *Bridges* as sentimental twaddle, there are legions more who celebrate it as a romantic tour de force. Whichever side you favor, let it be said that the book delivers exactly what it promises. Not quite true of this book. What promises to be a romance of Waller-like proportions turns into an environmental crusade which turns down the heat, and then switches back to romance and do-goodery.

Carlisle McMillan, Stanford graduate (which comes in handy later on) and wanderer, floats into the town of Salamander, South Dakota, one afternoon and decides to stay. It is far enough away from anything that smacks of "city" to be appealing. He buys property with a derelict house on it and rebuilds it in honor of his mentor, Cody Marx. Cody taught him everything he knows about fine carpentry, and about doing it right, even when it doesn't show. Cody's Way is a metaphor for house building and character building, and Carlisle has learned his lessons well.

There are two women in this tale: Gally Devereaux, married to a big jerk who has the good grace to die, and Susanna Benteen, the auburn-haired beauty who dances naked in the firelight. Does anybody but Waller know women like this? Things are perking along just fine until the long arm of Progress reaches all the way to Salamander, deciding to build a highway, and spoils everything.

There is a lyrical last chapter reminiscent of some of the best-remembered of Waller's prose, and a toast offered by Carlisle's mother, Wynn: "To ancient evenings and distant music." Sound familiar? --*Valerie Ryan*

From Publishers Weekly

A mysterious loner tries to find love and peace of mind in rural South Dakota in Waller's latest, a tepid, unfocused novel that begins when a handsome, independent drifter, Carlisle McMillan, arrives in the tiny town of Salamander. McMillan is the son of *Bridges of Madison County* photographer Robert Kincaid; he previously appeared in *A Thousand Country Roads*, in search of his father. The California native and master carpenter with a Stanford degree finds his interest piqued by Salamander, and he buys an abandoned house just outside town, making plans to rebuild it. But trouble comes calling when a corrupt developer decides to seize McMillan's house as part of a potentially lucrative highway project; McMillan fights back with a well-organized battle plan that gets him in trouble with most of the town's residents. Romance is in the offing, too, of course: McMillan takes up with comely Gally Devereaux shortly after her brutish husband dies, but the real object of his desire is beautiful Susanna Benteen, a wild, mysterious woman who keeps company with the local Sioux as they observe McMillan in his fight against the highway project. Waller offers a bit more substance here than in other post-*Bridges* offerings, but he's still hamstrung by cliché. The result is yet another half-baked attempt to recapture the magic of Madison County. *Agent, David Vigliano. (June)*
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From [Booklist](#)

Waller's latest book is centered on the son of Robert Kincaid, the hero of Waller's best-selling *The Bridges of Madison County* (1992). His name is Carlisle McMillan, and readers first learned about him in the sequel to that book, *A Thousand Country Roads* (2002). Carlisle, an enigmatic drifter, has wandered from California to South Carolina and is headed back west when he happens on the small South Dakota town of Salamander. In the local diner, he meets one woman, the unhappily married Gally Deveraux, and then becomes entranced by another, ethereal outsider Susanna Benteen, whom he catches sight of one night. Carlisle decides to make his home in Salamander so that he can avoid "the great economic colossus called progress." Poor Carlisle's timing couldn't be worse; in the hopes of invigorating the area, a plan is afoot to build a highway that will run right by Salamander and right through the old house that Carlisle has spent months renovating. Feelings about the highway divide the town, but Carlisle is determined to fight it with everything he has. Expect huge demand for this title from readers eager to continue reading about the Kincaid family. *Kristine Huntley*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Frank Miller:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even an issue. What people must be consider any time those information which is from the former life are challenging to be find than now is taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen with you if you take *High Plains Tango: A Novel* as your daily resource information.

William Kirby:

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Tamela Campbell:

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James Edgar:

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