

# Ashley’s Reads

## D.H. Lawrence and Joy Harjo: an unlikely pairing

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Every once in a while, when I’m reading something ostensibly for the first time, I think, “Hey, I’ve definitely read this before.” I can’t remember when or where, but it happened. Sometimes this forgetting is positive; other times, not so much.

Positive or not, I was recently (re)reading D.H. Lawrence’s “The White Stocking” when I experienced this phenomenon. Lawrence was a British modernist writer and poet. “The White Stocking” was published in 1914, toward the beginning of his literary career.

And the story is pure Lawrence: there’s a beautiful wife, lust, love, a power struggle, a communication breakdown, and domestic violence (spoiler!). The story explores a love triangle (real or imagined) between Ted Whiston, Elsie Whiston and her former employer, Sam Adams.

Ted and Elsie love each other, but their marriage isn’t perfect, and they like to push each other’s buttons. Adams is a playboy nearly twice Elsie’s age. He’s clearly attracted to her, and he sends her valentines, including the namesake white stocking.

This tension tests the married people’s relationship, revealing the gendered expectations that governed their peace. It also forces the reader to ask: What, truly, is independence? To what extent is (and should) one’s identity be shaped by others?

“The White Stocking” doesn’t end well, though Lawrence suggests a happy, reconciling conclusion. Of course

it’s more complicated than that. You’ll have to read the story to form your own opinions.

I also turned to Joy Harjo’s poetry collection “Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings,” which sounds like something that the Whistons should have read. Harjo, a member of the Muscogee Nation, is the current poet laureate of the United States. In addition to poems, she writes fiction and nonfiction and is an award-winning musician.

This volume grabbed my attention in a small bookstore in Montana. I mention this because Harjo’s work often deals with the relationship between humans, other animals and the earth, something that I thought about a lot while staying in Paradise Valley and hiking in Yellowstone National Park.

My enduring favorite from this collection, and a poem I turned to again this week, is “Once the World Was Perfect.” The poem’s message is simple but powerful: “Once the world was perfect, and we were happy in that world. / Then we took it for granted” (1-2).

Harjo’s message is especially prescient given Dan Kraker’s recent MPR article that describes the reasons for which Duluth is a nationally-recognized climate refuge. We need to steward and preserve those things that make

Duluth special and healthy: the lake, the parks and the clean air.



Submitted photo/Ashley Etter

Ashley Etter, a senior philosophy and English major, is the editor in chief of The Script. She is an amateur crocheter, painter and writer who daydreams often. She wants to be a philosopher when she grows up.

Joy Harjo will be (virtually) in the Northland!

Register for her event “Bringing Joy (Minanaawigwendamowin Biijigaadeg) here:

A square QR code with a black and white pixelated pattern, used for digital registration.

# Ned Talks

## Don’t be bored, get a boardgame!

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“Hey, Ned! Do you have a favorite game to play? I could really use some board game suggestions or even card game ideas for our next group gathering!”

Hiya, friend! Board games and card games are some of my favorite things, despite having to work around the flipper issue, so I definitely have some recommendations. There are, of course, the classics like “Monopoly,” “Sorry!” and “Pictionary,” which are all good fun. But! Good ‘ol Ned here knows some very good ones that are popular under the sea, although not so much on land. If you like debating with your friends, aren’t afraid of answering awkward questions and know the people you’re playing with, try “Scruples!” It’s a game where you are asked what you would do in certain situations and you

have to answer honestly. Everyone secretly votes on what your answer will be and the person to guess correctly the most wins! You can also challenge the person answering if you don’t think they’re being honest. However, “Scruples” is not for tadpoles, as the questions can get a bit spicy, so make sure you’re playing with adults.

I also recommend the “Daring Contest” card game. It’s got a wonderful llama on the box, and even narwhals love llamas! You pick a card from the deck and it will give you a dare to complete. If you do the dare, you receive points. If you don’t do the dare, you receive no points. The person with the most points at the end wins! There are even group dares where a judge declares which person did the dare the best. If you’re a fan of silliness, this is the game for you!



Submitted photo.

Ned the Narwhal is accepting questions! Look for his emails biweekly.

Across		Down	
Crossword: Harry Potter ANSWERS	2. Hufflepuff	13. Hermione	1. Gryffindor
	3. Dumbledore	16. Harry Potter	4. Luna Lovegood
	9. Leviosa	17. Lumos	5. Oculus Reparo
	10. Quidditch	19. Ravenclaw	6. Crucio
	11. Snape		7. Patronus
			8. McGonagall
			12. Slytherin
			13. Herbology
			14. Ron
			15. Hogwarts
			16. Wand