D. M. ROWELL

KOYH MI O BOY DAH

Long Biography

Like her protagonist Mud, D. M. Rowell comes from a long line of Kiowa storytellers within a culture that treasures oral traditions. She is an enrolled member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and has spent decades preserving sacred stories shared by tribe elders.

As a child, Rowell was heavily influenced by her traditional Kiowa grandfather, C. E. Rowell. He was an artist, master storyteller, recognized Tribe Historian, and one of the last readers of the Dohason and Anko deerskin pictoglyph recordings that chronicled a hundred years of Kiowa history. His stories, memories, and art instilled within Rowell a deep respect and love for her Kiowa culture and traditions.

Rowell was twelve when her grandfather pointed at her with his chin, in the style of the old ones, and decreed, "You. You will keep these stories alive. You are next." D. M. Rowell has never forgotten that moment or responsibility.

Rowell used her storytelling skills to build a successful thirty-two-year career as a Marketing Media Content Strategist for Fortune 1000 clients and innovative start-ups in Silicon Valley.

During her career spinning stories for corporations, Rowell often escaped to produce independent documentaries. She is an award-winning and nominated producer and scriptwriter on several documentaries, including Vanishing Link: My Spiritual Return to the Kiowa Way, seen on PBS and winner of TrailDance 2007 Best Oklahoma Documentary.

After her three-decade high-tech career, Rowell started a new chapter writing a mystery series that features a Silicon Valley professional Kiowa woman and her Plains Indian tribe. The first, Never Name the Dead, was a 2023 Simon & Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award Finalist.

Publishers Weekly said of Silent Are the Dead, "Rowell's clever second whodunit ... elegantly threads tangible details about tribal life into the action, which remains propulsive throughout ... readers will be convinced this series deserves a long run."

The third in the series, Eyes of the Dead, will be released in November 2026, followed by the fourth novel in 2027.

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