



## Faces from the Land

**Theresa J. Slowik**

**Ben Marra**

**Linda Marra**

(April 2009)

Unknown \$30.00 (176pp)

978-0-8109-8335-9

Faces from the Land. The year after Ben and Linda Marra married, they went to a powwow. The purpose of the trip was to shoot photos for a Seattle printer that would show off their color capabilities. It was the beginning of a journey for the Marras. For twenty years, they've been following the "Red Road," or the powwow trail, photographing dancers against a plain brown background. The subjects always receive a photo or two in exchange, and no one is ever turned away. The detail of the beadwork, leatherwork, jingles, feathers, and weaving make this an important resource for both dancers and historians. The dancers that appear in the Marras books or exhibitions are also asked to submit a personal narrative. In *Faces from the Land* (Abrams, 978-0-8109-8335-9), the stories tell of dancing in prisons, falling asleep to a grandmothers Ojibwe stories, dancing for the fallen in Vietnam, and dancing for a grandfather. The dancers come from across the US and Canada. They are the descendents of warriors killed at the Big Hole Battle; they wear feathers from Pine Ridge. They mention in passing the years spent in Indian boarding schools, in World War II, but mostly, they thank their families who gave them the opportunity to respect the elders and their ceremonies. *ForeWords* cover image is taken from this treasure of a book.

(August 18, 2009)

*Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The author of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the author for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.*