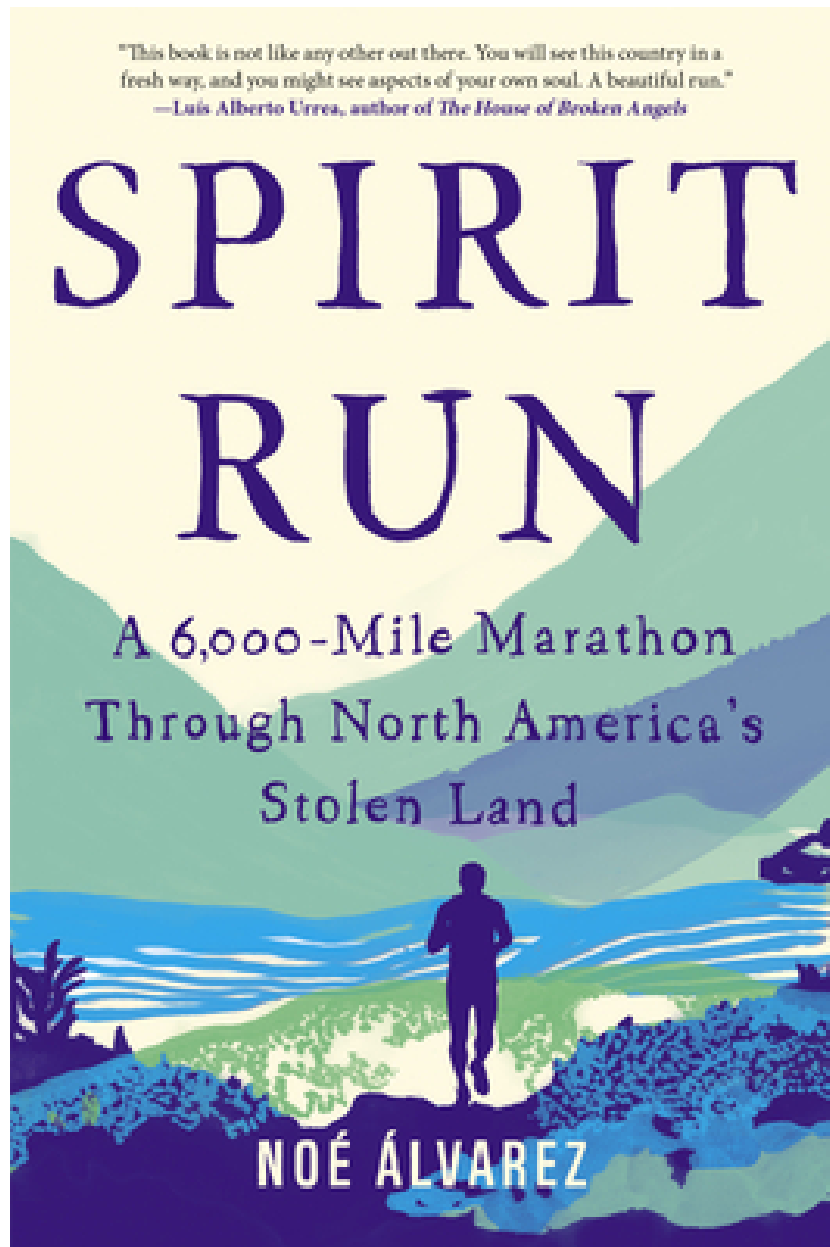


## Spirit Run: A 6,000-Mile Marathon Through North America's Stolen Land Book PDF Download



By:  
Noé Álvarez

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### Olive

The below review originally appeared on

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Though Central America was indeed the destination, it was hardly the start. In his memoir,

, Ãlvarez chronicles his experience traveling across the continent in a run hosted by Peace and Dignity Journeys. It is an event that happens only once every four years and lasts six months as indigenous peoples from anywhere on the continent participate in a highly symbolic run from Alaska to Panama, at which point the group will meet with a separate group of runners traveling north through South America. When pitched to Ãlvarez, the run was spoken about like a type of prayer, a way to spiritually connect with the land and learn "how to be human again."

It is a yearning for both connection and escape that seems to draw the author to the run. The son of immigrant parents, he hails from Washington State, specifically Yakima, a region whose fertile soils are famous and agricultural products are abundant. Apple and cherry trees grow with ease and their fruit has been historically handled by the state's immigrant populations. The author's Mexican mother is one such worker, a fruit sorter whose identity at work collapses into the homogenous working machine. Both of the author's parents urge him not to follow their path of becoming cogs in the wheel.

## Kerry

NoÃ© Ã•lvarez is the son of working-class, immigrant parents and he wants desperately to get out of Yakima, Washington. After an initial try at college, he signs up for the Peace and Dignity Journeys-- a run from Alaska to South America celebrating indigenous peoples. Along the way, he connects to the land and the people in ways he never expected. He finds a sense of peace within himself and a new appreciation for both where he's from and where he wants to go.

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Being from the Yakima Valley myself, and a fan of Raymond Carver, this book holds a special resonance for me. But that aside, this is a book about a journey. And like any great pilgrimage, this one is thoughtful, honest, emotional, and yes, spiritual.

## Chris LaTray

The world needs more books like SPIRIT RUN, written by people who have actually lived the experiences of marginalized communities, rather than just parachuted in, done a few interviews, and then written about them. NoÃ© Ã•lvarez speaks with an eloquent and much-needed voice for the working class, for the struggles experienced by people livingâ€”not just outside of, but ostracized byâ€”the mainstream as part of a community that is at the same time a key element of the

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Beyond that, though, the story of the run hinted at in the title is interesting enough on its own. The way Ã•lvarez threads the run and the people who undertake it through the rest of the narrative is done very well, and the book succeeds at being a kind of travel narrative/reporting piece as well. This is a timely and important book.

## Never Without a Book

3.5 stars super quick read. Full RTC .

## Sophie

This is an excellent memoir that combines vivid imagery and moving descriptions of the writer's experiences as a first generation American. He tells the story of his family in a powerful way that transports us to a different reality and helps us understand the modern immigration story. He also takes us on a journey throughout the Americas and weaves the lives of other runners into the story. Within the first few pages I was touched and tearing up from the power of real people's stories. There we

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