

## Historical Perspectives of Tribes reflected in Louise Erdrich's 'Tracks'

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**Introduction:** The novel *Tracks* argue that the space between the Native and Western world's demands re-conception of home. It also suggests a type of warning to Natives who lose their connections to land, family, culture, language i.e. home. Home is not just a restoration but its power should not be transgressed, or the price of it may be too dear. Louise Erdrich's novel emphasizes the undeniable link between culture, place, heritage, people, imagination and time. Evers continues, 'By imagining who and what they are in relation to particular landscapes, cultures and individual members of cultures form a close relation with those landscapes.'

The present novel relates the consequences of Fleur Pillager's selfish quest for revenge on the man named John James Mauser who stole her land. In order to enter Mauser's residence to kill him, Fleur changes her appearance as a maid in need of work. She is successful in this initial task. Her desire to make Mauser suffer all the more, ironically, ends with her accepting Mauser's an emotional request for life. She offers to take her as his new wife. Her decisions are distinct disadvantages to her, her family, and community. Fleur's temporary stay leaves her an alcoholic, daughterless, and the mother of Mauser's mixed-blood, mentally deficient son. Only in coming home does Fleur survive the ordeal, some pieces of her life never return.

In *Tracks*, Natives negotiate the conflicting forces of Native and Western ideologies to ensure their cultural, social, and economic survival. *Tracks* portray home theme in its most traditionally Native sense. The plot centres on the seemingly hopeless fight to keep Pillager and Kashpaw homelands. This struggle is worsened by in-clan fighting and the eventual split of mixed-blood families as Morrissey and Lazarus who wish to sell their lands.

John Gamber have done much to argue similar points, it is also beneficial to view Erdrich's *Tracks* in light of Edward Said's understanding of Poetics of Space. Said contends 'The objective space of a house its corners, corridors, cellar, rooms are far less important than what poetically it is endowed with, which is usually a quality with an imaginative or figurative value we can name and feel'. Erdrich's *Tracks* is the creation of the world and its people with such fidelity and power that they become part of the common memory. Place, Imagination, people,