

## **The Chicago Tribune**

### **STORM RIDERS**

By Craig Lesley

Picador, \$24

Clark Woods is a single father who has been struggling for eight years to raise his foster son, Wade, a Tlingit Indian orphan who suffers from the aftereffects of fetal alcohol syndrome. As the book begins, a girl is found drowned in a pond outside the complex where Woods, his mother and Wade live. Woods had adopted the boy, who is the cousin of his ex-wife, Payette, as a way to keep his marriage together, but Payette soon tired of Wade's unpredictable behavior and left them.

Over the years, Wade began to exhibit violent, even psychotic behavior, but Woods was determined not to give up and abandon the boy the way his own father had abandoned him when he was young. When Wade is accused of drowning the girl, Woods must face the fact that his son might have committed the deed, but still fights furiously to keep the boy from being taken from him and put into the state mental-health system.

Craig Lesley's examination of the bonds between fathers and sons is compelling, making this a powerful tale with a strong emotional core.