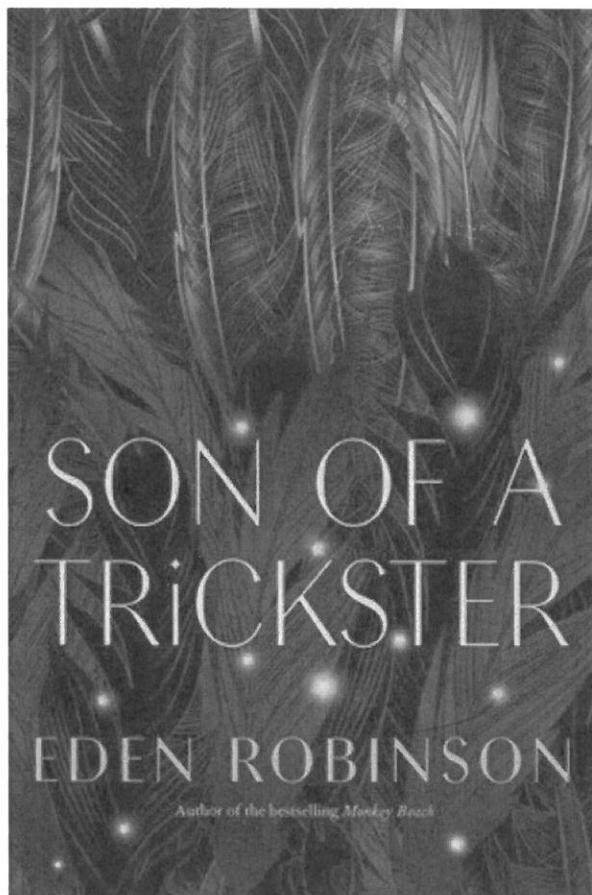


Review: *Son of a Trickster*

By Alice Albarda



Son of a Trickster by Eden Robinson

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316 pages, hardcover

Grades 10+

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When Jared was a kid, his maternal grandmother claimed that he wasn't human and called him Trickster.

Now sixteen, Jared lives in a world characterized by drug use, abuse, and poverty. His mother has a tendency to disappear with her drug dealer boyfriend Richie, the latest in a string of violent and dangerous boyfriends. Jared is a frequent drug user himself, selling edibles when he needs money. More than one chapter begins with Jared waking up after blacking out the night before. He begins to experience what he thinks are strange hallucinations: talking ravens, a snarling monster hiding inside an old lady. As the hallucinations become more frequent, Jared begins to question what is real and who he is.

Set in British Columbia, *Son of a Trickster* interweaves elements of First Nations folklore and history with Jared's present-day experience as a young man on the fringes of society. There are many mature themes in this book, but these are the realities of Jared's life. Drugs, sex, and violence are his everyday experience and he is trying to stay afloat. Jared is more than a burnout

delinquent: he is at his core a person who cares about others.

Son of a Trickster is the first in a planned trilogy by Eden Robinson and it is an extremely promising beginning.

Jared's likeability in the face of his intense and chaotic life will leave readers hotly anticipating the rest of the trilogy.