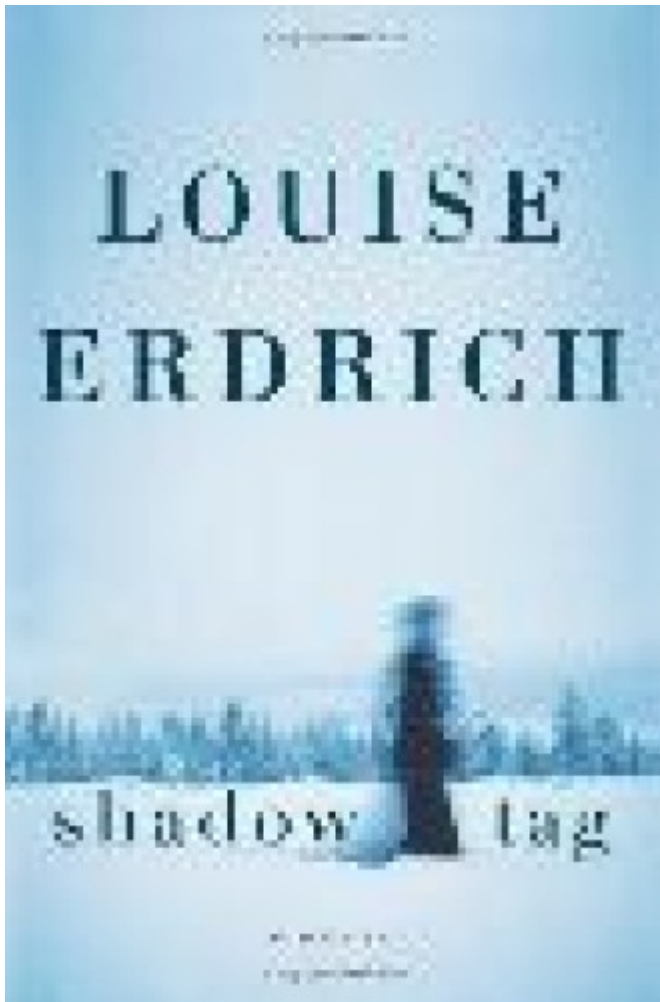


# BookMarks

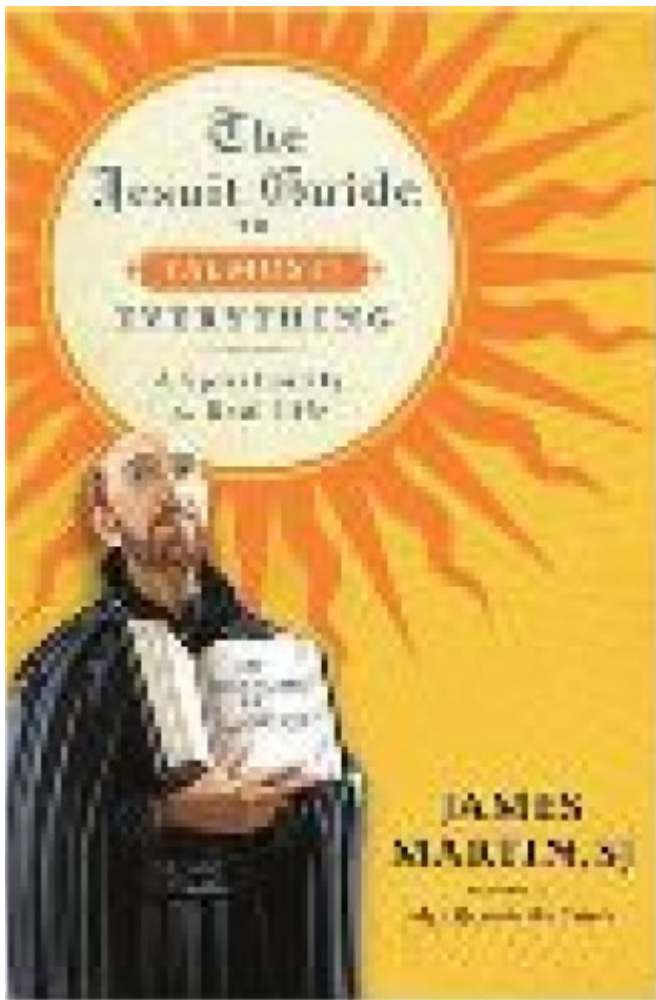
Books in the [June 1, 2010](#) issue

## In Review



### **Shadow Tag: A Novel**

Louise Erdrich  
Harper



## **The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything: A Spirituality for Real Life**

James Martin, S.J.  
HarperOne

Erdrich has left her cache of short stories and novels infused with the Native American experience behind and moved into new territory. While the humor, color and pathos of her Ojibwa heritage are still visible in *Shadow Tag*, these features have moved into the background, shoved aside by a focus on the looming crisis of a marriage. The power of the novel lies in the way it shows how anger, pain and fear in the relationship are eerily mixed with domestic happiness—warm moments at mealtime, time-outs for frantic lovemaking. Yet the conflict deepens, and the pressure within the family builds. Erdrich is said to have written this book in one fell swoop, and the reader experiences a similar kind of engulfment. One is absorbed almost unwillingly into the most intimate of dramas. Although Erdrich does not call

the book autobiography, it contains parallels to her own life and marriage to writer Michael Dorris.

Before entering the Society of Jesus in 1988, Martin was an executive with General Electric. He's since become a popular commentator on Catholic spirituality (*My Life with the Saints*) and the Ignatian tradition. His new book is an introduction both to spirituality and to the unique contributions of the Jesuit tradition: finding God in all things, contemplation leading to action, an incarnational theology and the pursuit of freedom and detachment. Martin covers topics very familiar to people already steeped in Christian spirituality: the prayer of examen (or review of the day), centering prayer, a prayerful and imaginative engagement with gospel stories and the Ignatian approaches to discernment and decision making. Martin likes to tell anecdotes.