Of primarily Chippewa, Cree, French, and Scottish descent, the Métis people have flourished in Canada and the northwestern United States for nearly two hundred years. Yet their Métis identity is often ignored in the United States, where they have never received federal recognition.

Examining a Métis community, Foster combines social, political, and economic analysis to show how people adapt to changing conditions while retaining their culture and traditions. This pathbreaking work reveals the difficulties of ethnic identification encountered by all peoples of mixed descent.

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