

A man finds a kachina in his backyard. Suburban Scottsdale, new beautiful home. The kachina is just standing there looking puzzled. He thinks its one of the neighbors--great joke, Charlie, really great outfit, where'd you get it?" Kachina doesn't say anything. It's apparent after a while that its something else, and its not going to go away. He goes through perōd thinking that its some kind of crazy indian. Fears for wife and kid. Calls police, but when they come, he decides to let it stay. His wife begins to sort of like it. Sort of likes the fox tale down the back. Muscuārthighs, etc. The little boy eventually gets a drum and starts beating it and the kachina dances. It rains. Neighbors think its a great conversation piece--good for parties. The wife feeds it but it never eats. Or at least never touches it--perhaps takes it as spirit food as they feed at Hopi. He goes to books and finds out what they are--interspersed by quotes on Kachinas. Little kids love it. Older kids try to hassle it. There is a time when teenagers start to molest it--threatening. The kachina pulls up into itself and the power stops the trouble. The kids go away. Man makes contact with person at university or at museum, tries to find out more. Guy comes and indentifies it. Tells him more about kachinas. Theory going that it is deranged indian from reservation who has stolen mask. (See for instance The Hopi Indians ~~xxx~~ of Old Oraibi--Mischa Titiev, Un of Mich Press--story of Ralph in early pages) Watches it in moonlight, can't call reservation, and there are no police there--and knows enough not to want to call BIA. Goes to Hopi country himself, asks around, sees kachinas dance, asks questions, perhaps gets in trouble and is almost killed. The kachina appears and ~~zzz~~ saves him. Goes home much troubled, expects kachina gone. It is still there. Somehow or other ther's possibility that it is the real ones, and not the impersonator. Have to be careful there. Basically comic novel, have to be short so it doesn't over-work a good thing.