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# The Birchbark House Summary Of Chapters

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## NATHANAEL MARSHALL

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**Children of the Longhouse** Courier Corporation  
 “Haunted and haunting. . . . With fearlessness and humility, in a narrative that flows more artfully than ever between destruction and rebirth, Erdrich has opened herself to possibilities beyond what we merely see—to the dead alive and busy, to the breath of trees and the souls of wolves—and inspires readers to open their hearts to these mysteries as well.”— Washington Post Book World  
 From the author of the National Book Award Winner *The Round House*, Louise Erdrich's breathtaking, lyrical novel of a priceless Ojibwe artifact and the effect it has had on those who have come into contact with it

over the years. While appraising the estate of a New Hampshire family descended from a North Dakota Indian agent, Faye Travers is startled to discover a rare moose skin and cedar drum fashioned long ago by an Ojibwe artisan. And so begins an illuminating journey both backward and forward in time, following the strange passage of a powerful yet delicate instrument, and revealing the extraordinary lives it has touched and defined. Compelling and unforgettable, Louise Erdrich's *Painted Drum* explores the often-fraught relationship between mothers and daughters, the strength of family, and the intricate rhythms of grief with all the grace, wit, and startling beauty that characterizes this acclaimed author's finest work.

**Future Home of the Living God** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

**Key Selling Points** A lyrical celebration of newborn babies. Richard Van Camp is the award-winning and bestselling author of *Little You*, *Welcome Song for Baby* and *May We Have Enough to Share*. Illustrator Julie Flett received a Bologna Ragazzi Special Mention (2019) for her work on *We Sang You Home*. *We Sang You Home* was a CCBC Best Book and Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year.

*We Sang You Home / kiki-kîwê-nikamôstamâtinân* Harper Collins  
 A New York Public Library 2017 Best Books for Teens selected title! It's the start of Jordan Sun's junior year at the Kensington-Blaine Boarding School for the Performing Arts. Unfortunately, she's an Alto 2, which—in the musical theatre world—is sort of like being a vulture in the wild: She has a spot in the ecosystem, but nobody's

falling over themselves to express their appreciation. So it's no surprise when she gets shut out of the fall musical for the third year straight. But then the school gets a mass email: A spot has opened up in the Sharpshooters, Kensington's elite a cappella octet. Worshiped . . . revered . . . all male. Desperate to prove herself, Jordan auditions in her most convincing drag, and it turns out that Jordan Sun, Tenor 1, is exactly what the Sharps are looking for.

Ghost Hawk South Dakota State Historical Society

Howard's family are Abenaki Indians who fled to New York from Vermont in the early twentieth century. They hid their Indian ancestry to avoid the Vermont Eugenics Project, an attempt to sterilize those who were infirm, mentally ill, of mixed heritage, or illegitimate. Many Abenaki were victims of this program and as a result the Abenaki culture faced possible extinction. In this story Howard's Uncle Louis, an Abenaki, tries to prevent that possibility by helping the boy learn the ways and culture of the Abenaki people. Chickadee Macmillan + ORM

In the tradition of ANNE OF GREEN GABLES and PIPPI LONGSTOCKING comes a heart-warming novel about love, family, grief, joy and the power of laughter and imagination. When Inge Maria arrives on the tiny island of Bornholm in Denmark to live with her grandmother, she's not sure what to expect. Her grandmother is stern, the people on the island are strange, and children are supposed to be seen and not heard. But no matter how hard Inge tries to be good, mischief has a way of finding her. Could it be that a bit of mischief is exactly what Grandmother and the people of Bornholm need?

Waterless Mountain Penguin

When Ohkwa'ri overhears a group of older boys planning a raid on a neighboring village, he immediately tells his Mohawk elders. He has done the right thing—but he has also made enemies. Grabber and his friends will do anything they can to hurt him, especially during the village-wide game of Tekwaarathon (lacrosse). Ohkwa'ri believes in the path of peace, but can peaceful ways work against Grabber's wrath? "An exciting story that also offers an in-depth look at Native American life centuries ago." —Kirkus Reviews

The Night Watchman Candlewick Press Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, *The Game of Silence* is the second novel in the critically acclaimed Birchbark House series by New York Times bestselling author Louise Erdrich. Her name is Omakayas, or Little Frog, because her first step was a hop,

and she lives on an island in Lake Superior. One day in 1850, Omakayas's island is visited by a group of mysterious people. From them, she learns that the chimookomanag, or white people, want Omakayas and her people to leave their island and move farther west. That day, Omakayas realizes that something so valuable, so important that she never knew she had it in the first place, could be in danger: Her way of life. Her home. The Birchbark House Series is the story of one Ojibwe family's journey through one hundred years in America. The New York Times Book Review raved about *The Game of Silence*: "Erdrich has created a world, fictional but real: absorbing, funny, serious and convincingly human."

Noteworthy Harper Collins

Enter the vivid and cinematic world of Faloiv in the first book of this dazzling YA sci-fi/fantasy series, perfect for fans of *Carve the Mark*, *Red Rising*, and *These Broken Stars*. Octavia has always dreamed of becoming a whitecoat, one of the prestigious N'Terra scientists who study the natural wonders of Faloiv. So when the once-secretive labs are suddenly opened to students, she leaps at the chance to see what happens behind their closed doors. However, she quickly discovers that all is not what it seems on Faloiv, and the experiments the whitecoats have been doing run the risk of upsetting the humans' fragile peace with the Faloii, Faloiv's indigenous people. As secret after disturbing secret comes to light, Octavia finds herself on a collision course with the charismatic and extremist new leader of N'Terra's ruling council. But by uncovering the mysteries behind the history she's been taught, the science she's lived by, and the truth about her family, she threatens to be the catalyst for an all-out war.

Birchbark Brigade Orion Children's Books

In this award-winning sequel to *Chickadee*, acclaimed author Louise Erdrich continues her celebrated Birchbark House series with the story of an Ojibwe family in nineteenth-century America. Named for the Ojibwe word for little bear, Makoons and his twin, Chickadee, have traveled with their family to the Great Plains of Dakota Territory. There they must learn to become buffalo hunters and once again help their people make a home in a new land. But Makoons has had a vision that foretells great challenges—challenges that his family may not be able to overcome. Based on Louise Erdrich's own family history, this fifth book in the series features black-and-white interior illustrations, a note from the author about her research, and a map and glossary of

Ojibwe terms.

Love Medicine HarperCollins

At the end of a winter-long journey into manhood, Little Hawk returns to find his village decimated by a white man's plague and soon, despite a fresh start, Little Hawk dies violently but his spirit remains trapped, seeing how his world changes.

When Mischief Came to Town

HarperCollins

A history of the North American fur trade, based on primary sources. The North American fur trade, set in motion by the discovery of the New World in the fifteenth century, was this continent's biggest business for over three hundred years. Furs harvested by Ojibwa natives in the north woods ended up on the sleeves and hems of French princesses and Chinese emperors. Felt hats on the heads of every European businessman began as beaver pelts carried in birchbark canoes to trading posts dotting the wilderness. Iron tools, woolen blankets, and calico cloth manufactured in England found their way to wigwams along the remote rivers of North America. The fur trade influenced every aspect of life—from how Europeans related to the Indians, how and where settlements were built, to how our nation formed. Drawing on primary sources, including the diaries of Ojibwa, American, and French traders of the period, this Society of School Librarians International Honor Book gives readers a glimpse of a little-known story from our past.

**The Porcupine Year** Yearling

A beautifully written, timeless tale by Cao Wenxuan, best-selling Chinese author and 2016 recipient of the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award. Sunflower is an only child, and when her father is sent to the rural Cadre School, she has to go with him. Her father is an established artist from the city and finds his new life of physical labor and endless meetings exhausting. Sunflower is lonely and longs to play with the local children in the village across the river. When her father tragically drowns, Sunflower is taken in by the poorest family in the village, a family with a son named Bronze. Until Sunflower joins his family, Bronze was an only child, too, and hasn't spoken a word since he was traumatized by a terrible fire. Bronze and Sunflower become inseparable, understanding each other as only the closest friends can. Translated from Mandarin, the story meanders gracefully through the challenges that face the family, creating a timeless story of the trials of poverty and the power of love and loyalty to overcome hardship.

The Round House Scholastic Inc.

Newbery Medalist Karen Hesse emerges

readers in a small Vermont town in 1924 with this haunting and harrowing tale. Leanora Sutter. Esther Hirsh. Merlin Van Tornhout. Johnny Reeves . . . These characters are among the unforgettable cast inhabiting a small Vermont town in 1924. A town that turns against its own when the Ku Klux Klan moves in. No one is safe, especially the two youngest, twelve-year-old Leanora, an African-American girl, and six-year-old Esther, who is Jewish. In this story of a community on the brink of disaster, told through the haunting and impassioned voices of its inhabitants, Newbery Award winner Karen Hesse takes readers into the hearts and minds of those who bear witness.

The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate  
Holiday House

A magical coming-of-age story from Coretta Scott King honor author Jewell Parker Rhodes, rich with Southern folklore, friendship, family, fireflies and mermaids, plus an environmental twist. It's city-girl Maddy's first summer in the bayou, and she just falls in love with her new surroundings - the glimmering fireflies, the glorious landscape, and something else, deep within the water, that only she can see. Could it be a mermaid? As her grandmother shares wisdom about sayings and signs, Maddy realizes she may be the only sibling to carry on her family's magical legacy. And when a disastrous oil leak threatens the bayou, she knows she may also be the only one who can help. Does she have what it takes to be a hero? Jewell Parker Rhodes weaves a rich tale celebrating the magic within.

**The Sentence** Harper Collins  
WINNER OF THE 2021 PULITZER PRIZE  
FOR FICTION NEW YORK TIMES  
BESTSELLER WASHINGTON POST, NPR,  
CBS SUNDAY MORNING, KIRKUS, CHICAGO  
PUBLIC LIBRARY, AND GOOD  
HOUSEKEEPING BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR  
Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich's grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman. Thomas Wazhashk is the night watchman at the jewel bearing plant, the first factory located near the Turtle Mountain Reservation in rural North Dakota. He is also a Chippewa Council member who is trying to understand the consequences of a new "emancipation" bill on its way to the floor of the United States Congress. It is 1953 and he and the

other council members know the bill isn't about freedom; Congress is fed up with Indians. The bill is a "termination" that threatens the rights of Native Americans to their land and their very identity. How can the government abandon treaties made in good faith with Native Americans "for as long as the grasses shall grow, and the rivers run"? Since graduating high school, Pixie Paranteau has insisted that everyone call her Patrice. Unlike most of the girls on the reservation, Patrice, the class valedictorian, has no desire to wear herself down with a husband and kids. She makes jewel bearings at the plant, a job that barely pays her enough to support her mother and brother. Patrice's shameful alcoholic father returns home sporadically to terrorize his wife and children and bully her for money. But Patrice needs every penny to follow her beloved older sister, Vera, who moved to the big city of Minneapolis. Vera may have disappeared; she hasn't been in touch in months, and is rumored to have had a baby. Determined to find Vera and her child, Patrice makes a fateful trip to Minnesota that introduces her to unexpected forms of exploitation and violence, and endangers her life. Thomas and Patrice live in this impoverished reservation community along with young Chippewa boxer Wood Mountain and his mother Juggie Blue, her niece and Patrice's best friend Valentine, and Stack Barnes, the white high school math teacher and boxing coach who is hopelessly in love with Patrice. In *The Night Watchman*, Louise Erdrich creates a fictional world populated with memorable characters who are forced to grapple with the worst and best impulses of human nature. Illuminating the loves and lives, the desires and ambitions of these characters with compassion, wit, and intelligence, *The Night Watchman* is a majestic work of fiction from this revered cultural treasure.

*Written in Stone* HarperCollins  
Fall under the spell of this fantasy-adventure story about a Lebanese-American girl who finds the courage to save her grandmother. Perfect for fans of *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*. Teta, Sami's Lebanese grandmother, has been ill for a while, slipping from reality and speaking in a language only Sami can understand. Her family thinks Teta belongs in a nursing home, but Sami doesn't believe she's sick at all. Desperate to help, Sami casts a spell from her grandmother's mysterious charm book and falls through an ancient mirror into a world unlike any other. Welcome to Silverworld, an enchanted city where light and dark creatures called

Flickers and Shadows strive to live in harmony. But lately Flickers have started going missing, and powerful Shadow soldiers are taking over the land. Everyone in Silverworld suspects that Shadow Queen Nixie is responsible for the chaos, which is bad enough. But could Nixie be holding Sami's grandmother in her grasp too? To save Teta and Silverworld, Sami must brave adventure, danger, and the toughest challenge of all: change.

**The Plague of Doves** Harper Collins  
"A heart-healing, mocs-on-the-ground story of music, family and friendship." -- Cynthia Leitich Smith, author of *Tantalize* and *Rain is Not My Indian Name*. Lewis "Shoe" Blake is used to the joys and difficulties of life on the Tuscarora Indian reservation in 1975: the joking, the Fireball games, the snow blowing through his roof. What he's not used to is white kids being nice to him -- kids like George Haddonfield, whose family recently moved to town with the Air Force. As the boys connect through their mutual passion for music, especially the Beatles, Lewis has to lie more and more to hide the reality of his family's poverty from George. He also has to deal with the vicious Evan Reinger, who makes Lewis the special target of his wrath. But when everyone else is on Evan's side, how can he be defeated? And if George finds out the truth about Lewis's home -- will he still be his friend?

Acclaimed adult author Eric Gansworth makes his YA debut with this wry and powerful novel about friendship, memory, and the joy of rock 'n' roll.  
Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country Little, Brown Books for Young Readers  
From acclaimed Nigerian storyteller Atinuke, the first in a series of chapter books set in contemporary West Africa introduces a little girl who has enchanted young readers. Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa, amazing Africa, with her mother and father, her twin baby brothers (Double and Trouble), and lots of extended family in a big white house with a beautiful garden in a compound in a city. Anna is never lonely—there are always cousins to play and fight with, aunties and uncles laughing and shouting, and parents and grandparents close by. Readers will happily follow as she goes on a seaside vacation, helps plan a party for Auntie Comfort from Canada (will she remember her Nigerian ways?), learns firsthand what it's really like to be a child selling oranges outside the gate, and longs to see sweet snow. Nigerian storyteller Atinuke's debut book for children and its sequels, with their charming (and abundant) gray-scale drawings by Lauren Tobia, are newly published in the US by Candlewick Press,

joining other celebrated Atinuke stories in captivating young readers.

*Anna Hibiscus* Odyssey Editions

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle

Award in Fiction Finalist for the PEN

Faulkner Award In this literary

masterwork, Louise Erdrich, bestselling

author of the National Book Award-winning

*The Round House* and the Pulitzer Prize

nominee *The Plague of Doves*, wields her

breathtaking narrative magic in an

emotionally haunting contemporary tale of

a tragic accident, a demand for justice,

and a profound act of atonement with

ancient roots in Native American culture.

North Dakota, late summer, 1999.

Landreaux Iron stalks a deer along the

edge of the property bordering his own.

He shoots with easy confidence—but when

the buck springs away, Landreaux realizes

he's hit something else, a blur he saw as

he squeezed the trigger. When he

staggers closer, he realizes he has killed

his neighbor's five-year-old son, Dusty

Ravich. The youngest child of his friend

and neighbor, Peter Ravich, Dusty was

best friends with Landreaux's five-year-old

son, LaRose. The two families have always

been close, sharing food, clothing, and

rides into town; their children played

together despite going to different

schools; and Landreaux's wife, Emmaline,

is half sister to Dusty's mother, Nola.

Horrified at what he's done, the recovered

alcoholic turns to an Ojibwe tribe

tradition—the sweat lodge—for guidance,

and finds a way forward. Following an

ancient means of retribution, he and

Emmaline will give LaRose to the grieving

Peter and Nola. "Our son will be your son

now," they tell them. LaRose is quickly

absorbed into his new family. Plagued by

thoughts of suicide, Nola dotes on him,

keeping her darkness at bay. His fierce,

rebellious new "sister," Maggie, welcomes

him as a coconspirator who can ease her

volatile mother's terrifying moods.

Gradually he's allowed shared visits with

his birth family, whose sorrow mirrors the

Raviches' own. As the years pass, LaRose

becomes the linchpin linking the Irons and

the Raviches, and eventually their mutual

pain begins to heal. But when a vengeful

man with a long-standing grudge against

Landreaux begins raising trouble, hurling

accusations of a cover-up the day Dusty

died, he threatens the tenuous peace that

has kept these two fragile families whole.

Inspiring and affecting, LaRose is a

powerful exploration of loss, justice, and

the reparation of the human heart, and an

unforgettable, dazzling tour de force from

one of America's most distinguished

literary masters.

Makoons Harper Collins

"A fiercely imagined tale of love and loss,

a story that manages to transform tragedy

into comic redemption, sorrow into heroic

survival." —New York Times "[A] beguiling

family saga....A captivating jigsaw puzzle

of longing and loss whose pieces form an

unforgettable image of contemporary

Native American life." —People A New

York Times bestselling author, a Pulitzer

Prize finalist, and winner of the National

Book Critics Circle Award, Louise Erdrich is

an acclaimed chronicler of life and love,

mystery and magic within the Native

American community. A hauntingly

beautiful story of a mysterious woman

who enters the lives of two families and

changes them forever, Erdrich's classic

novel, *The Antelope Wife*, has enthralled

readers for more than a decade with its

powerful themes of fate and ancestry,

tragedy and salvation. Now the acclaimed

author of *Shadow Tag* and *The Plague of*

*Doves* has radically revised this already

masterful work, adding a new richness to

the characters and story while bringing its

major themes into sharper focus, as it

ingeniously illuminates the effect of

history on families and cultures, Ojibwe

and white.

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