



(Book descriptions taken from online sources directly related to the sale of these books.)

### **The Mishomis Book: The Voice of the Ojibway** - Edward Benton Banai

The Ojibway is one of the largest groups of Native Americans, belonging to the Anishinabe people of what is today the northern United States and Canada. The Mishomis Book documents the history, traditions, and culture of the Ojibway people through stories and myths passed down through generations. Written by Ojibway educator and spiritual leader Edward Benton-Banai, and first published in 1988, The Mishomis Book draws from the traditional teachings of tribal elders to instruct young readers about Ojibway creation stories and legends, the origin and importance of the Ojibway family structure and clan system, the Midewiwin religion, the construction, and use of the water drum and sweat lodge, and modern Ojibway history.

Written for readers from all cultures-but especially for Ojibway and Native youth-The Mishomis Book provides an introduction to Ojibway culture and an understanding of the sacred Midewiwin teachings, aiming to protect this knowledge by instilling its importance in a new generation. Encouraging the preservation of a way of life that is centered on respect for all living things, these vibrant stories about life, self, community, and relationship to nature are just as relevant to the modern reader as they were hundreds of years ago.

### **Gitchigami Hearts: Stories and Histories from Misaabekong** - Linda LeGarde

Long before there was a Duluth, Minnesota, the massive outcropping that divides the city emerged from the ridge of gabbro rock running along the westward shore of Lake Superior. A great westward migration carried the Ojibwe people to this place, the Point of Rocks. Against this backdrop—Misaabekong, the place of the giants—the lives chronicled in Linda LeGarde Grover's book unfold, some in myth, some in long-ago times, some in an imagined present, and some in the author's family history, all with a deep and tenacious bond to the land, one another, and the Ojibwe culture.

Within the larger history, Grover tells the story of her ancestors' arrival at the American Fur Post in far western Duluth more than two hundred years ago. Their fortunes and the family's future are inextricably entwined with tales of marriages to voyageurs, relocations to reservation lands, encounters with the spirits of the lake and wood creatures, the renewal of life—in myth and in art, the search for meaning in the transformations of our day is always vital. Finally, in one man's struggles, age-old tribulations, the intergenerational traumas of extended families and communities, and a uniquely Ojibwe appreciation for the natural and spiritual worlds converge, forging the Ojibwe worldview and will to survive as his legacy to his descendants.

Blending the seen and unseen, the old and the new, the amusing and the tragic and the hauntingly familiar, this lyrical work encapsulates a way of life forever vibrant at the Point of Rocks.



### **The Birchbark House** – Louise Erdrich

She was named Omakayas, or Little Frog, because her first step was a hop. Omakayas and her family live on an island in Lake Superior. Though there are growing numbers of white people encroaching on their land, life continues much as it always has.

But the satisfying rhythms of their life are shattered when a visitor comes to their lodge one winter night, bringing with him an invisible enemy that will change things forever—but that will eventually lead Omakayas to discover her calling. By turns moving and humorous, this novel is a breathtaking tour de force by a gifted writer.

The beloved and essential Birchbark House series by Louise Erdrich includes *The Birchbark House*, *The Game of Silence*, *The Porcupine Year*, *Chickadee*, and *Makoons*.

### **A Little History of my Forest Life** - Eliza Morrison and Victoria Brehm

Written in 1894 and recently recovered from the archives of the University of Minnesota, this autobiography tells the story of a Chippewa-Scots-French woman from Madeline Island in Lake Superior. The child and grandchild of fur traders, Eliza Morrison describes her family's starving time on their homestead, and her travels by boat, dog sled, and on foot. Métis culture comes alive as Native American lore blends with homesteading stories, giving a nineteenth century woman's view of the Wisconsin Death march, the Dream Dance, Indian marriage and burial customs, making maple sugar, and the Chippewa-Dakota War. She relates two never-before-recorded Native stories, complete with songs. Includes glossaries of names, places, and Chippewa words.

### **The St. Croix Trail Country** - William Gray Purcell

This is a delightful, nostalgic recollection of the author's boyhood summers in the beautiful lake country of northern Wisconsin. William Gray Purcell was born in 1880 and grew up in Oak Park, Illinois. During the years from 1887 to 1901 he spent every summer with his grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. William Cunningham Gray, at their Island Lake summer home in the region of the old St. Croix Trail, south of Bayfield, Wisconsin. The country at that time was largely an unsettled wilderness, heavily forested, and inhabited mainly by Indian families, a few hardy woodsmen, and abundant wildlife. Mr. Purcell recalls the joys of summertime living in this unspoiled natural setting and recounts, too, stories he heard around the campfire of the experiences of Indians and pioneer settlers in the West.

### **An Indigenous People's History of the United States** - Roxanne Dunbar

Recipient of the American Book Award, this is the first history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples. Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.