

August Book Club Notes

Thursday, August 15
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Murder on the Red River

By Marcie R. Rendon

Cash Blackbear, a young Ojibwe woman traumatized by a childhood spent in foster homes, earns a living driving grain trucks and playing pool in seedy bars. She teams up with the sheriff, her only friend, to solve the murders of two farm workers killed for their paychecks. Author **Marcie Rendon will appear via Zoom to answer our questions.**

Meet Marcie Rendon

Marcie R. Rendon is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation (Ojibwe) who has made her mark as an author, playwright, poet, and freelance writer. She is known as the award-winning author of the Cash Blackbear mystery series and other fiction and nonfiction works. Her latest book, **Where They Last Saw Her**, will be released Sept. 3 (and can be preordered!). She is also a community arts activist who supports other native artists, writers and creators.

Twin Cities PBS: Native Resilience Through the Written Word

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bneb0_aOj0&ab_channel=TwinCitiesPBS

(4:02)

The Red River

The Red River in the book is the Red River of the North and flows north along the Minnesota-North Dakota border into Manitoba, Canada. There's also a Red River of the South in cowboy country, flowing east from the Texas panhandle along the borders with Oklahoma and Arkansas and into Louisiana.

Accuweather: Why Does the Red River Flow North?

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x74a8le>

(1:00)

Coming Up Next

A Ballad of Love and Glory

By Reyna Grande

The Mexican-American War is the war that America can't remember and Mexico can't forget. Reyna Grande's novel is rooted in history that's been re-imagined as an epic romantic tale told

from a Mexican perspective. The real-life hero, John Riley, leads troops fighting for Mexico under an Irish banner. He is paired with a fictional faith healer, Ximena, based on women who supported the troops during the war. **Author Grande will appear via Zoom to answer our questions.**

Thursday, October 17
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Half Broke Horses

By Jeannette Walls

Meet the no-nonsense Lily Casey Smith, who was breaking horses at age six and teaching in a one-room school by 15. She survived floods, droughts, tornadoes, tragedies and the Great Depression. Jeannette Walls tells her grandmother's story as a "true-life novel," which is a prequel to **The Glass Castle**, the best-selling memoir and movie about Walls' traumatic childhood.

Thursday, November 21
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire

By Peter Stark

John Jacob Astor envisioned a grand trading empire circling the globe from a base in the Pacific Northwest. Read about the men (and one woman) he sent west by land and sea to face raging waters, hostile Indians, starvation, disease, betrayal and the threat of British invasion in the War of 1812. Author Stark will appear via Zoom.

Thursday, December 12
11 a.m.-12:30

James

By Percival Everett

Raft the Mississippi River with Huck Finn and his enslaved companion, James, who uses his intelligence to outwit the cruel whites they encounter. James is constantly at risk of capture or death but ultimately heroic in this reimagining of Mark Twain's American classic.