

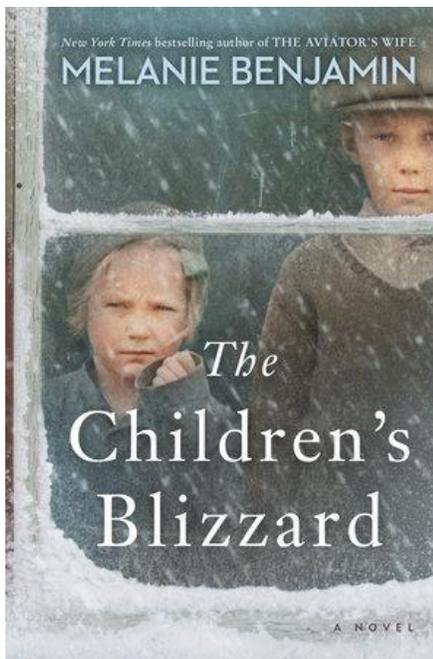
2022

Our History Is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance

by Nick Estes

Estes’s book talks about timely issues in terms of protests and actions and the water protectors movement, but also puts them in a context of a couple of centuries worth of Indigenous resistance to the kinds of injustices that have been perpetrated on Native American people and their land. It ties these issues together with a focus on the Oceti Sakowin — the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota tribes of South Dakota.

Estes, who has researched the politics of water and the Missouri River for more than a decade, has received critical acclaim for his scholarly and thoughtful approach to the Standing Rock protests and other Indigenous movements.



2021

The Children’s Blizzard

by Melanie Benjamin

On January 12, 1888, a mild day in Dakota Territory turned into a deadly blizzard. Because students had gone to school without their heavy coats, many young schoolteachers were faced with a life and death decision: allow the children to start for home and risk freezing to death, or keep them in the schoolhouse and risk being trapped without sufficient fuel?

Author Melanie Benjamin offers a fictionalized take on the notorious storm that swept through Dakota Territory. The novel, based on oral histories, is a gripping tale of survival amidst and after the storm.



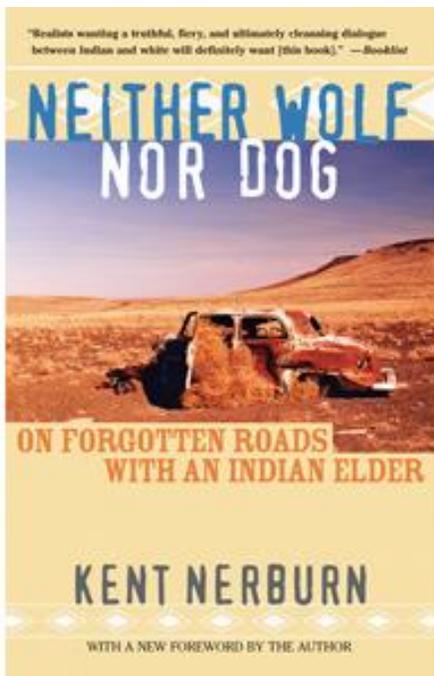
2020

Unfollow: A Memoir of Loving and Leaving the Westboro Baptist Church

by Megan Phelps-Roper

The granddaughter of infamous religious zealot and Westboro Baptist Church pastor Fred Phelps, Megan Phelps-Roper grew up protesting funerals with the extremist group before leaving the Westboro Baptist Church — and by extension, most of her family — behind in 2012 and eventually moving to Clark, SD.

"Unfollow" chronicles her life in Kansas from childhood through adulthood, her departure from the church during her mid-20s, and the unlikely series of events that led her to South Dakota.



2019

Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder

by Kent Nerburn

Perhaps Kent Nerburn's most well-known book, *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* won the Minnesota Book Award and was made into a feature film in 2016.

"I am humbled to have my unique literary child, 'Neither Wolf nor Dog,' chosen as the One Book South Dakota selection for 2019," Nerburn said. "A Native elder once counseled me: 'You should always teach by story, because stories lodge deep in the heart.'"



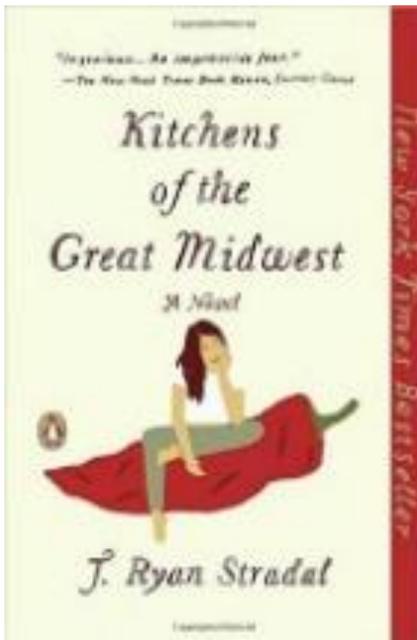
2018

Informing the News: The Need for Knowledge-Based Journalism

by Thomas E. Patterson

As the journalist Walter Lippmann noted nearly a century ago, democracy falters "if there is no steady supply of trustworthy and relevant news." Today's journalists are not providing it.

In "Informing the News," Patterson proposes "knowledge-based journalism" as a corrective. Unless journalists are more deeply informed about the subjects they cover, they will continue to misinterpret them and to be vulnerable to manipulation by their sources. Patterson calls for nothing less than a major overhaul of journalism practice and education.

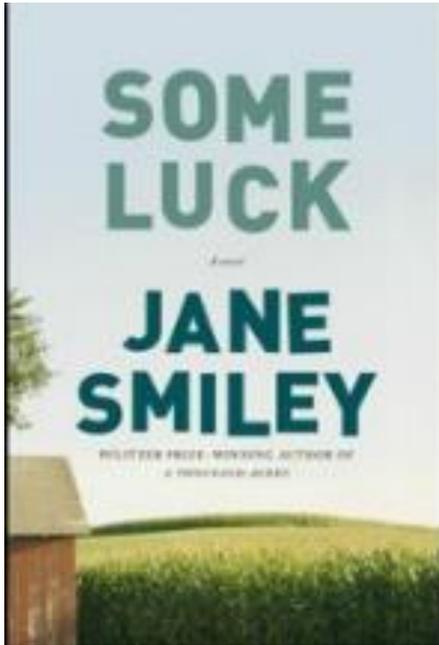


2017

Kitchens of the Great Midwest

By J. Ryan Stradal

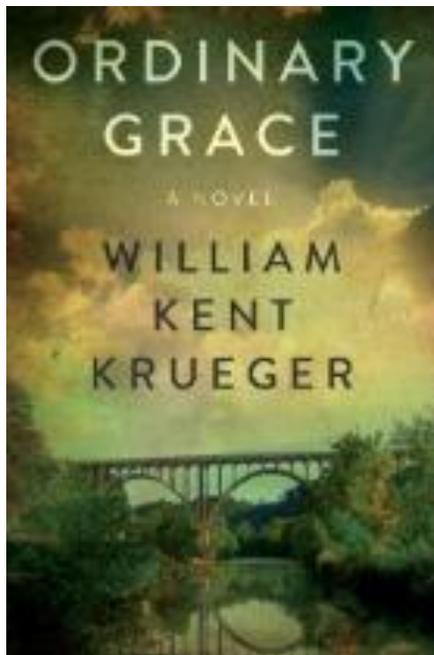
Born into a food-obsessed family, Eva Thorvald finds her solace and salvation in the flavors of her native Minnesota. From Scandinavian lutefisk to hydroponic habaneros, each ingredient represents one step in Eva's journey as she becomes the chef behind a legendary pop-up supper club, culminating in an opulent feast that's a testament to her spirit and resilience.

**2016****Some Luck**

By Jane Smiley

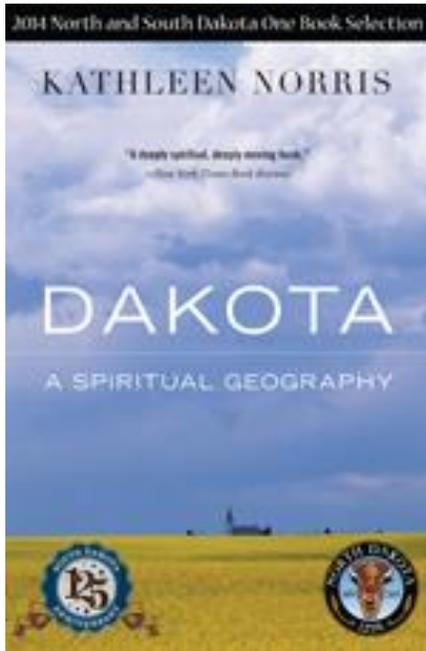
On their farm in Denby, Iowa, Rosanna and Walter Langdon abide by time-honored values that they pass on to their five remarkable children: Frank, the brilliant, stubborn first-born; Joe, whose love of animals makes him the natural heir to his family's land; Lillian, an angelic child who enters a fairy-tale marriage; Henry, the bookworm who's not afraid to be different; and Claire, who earns the highest place in her father's heart.

Moving from post-World War I America through the early 1950s, "Some Luck" gives us an intimate look at this family's triumphs and tragedies, zooming in on the realities of farm life, while keeping a panoramic eye on the monumental changes that marked the first half of the twentieth century.

**2015****Ordinary Grace**

By William Kent Krueger

In the novel, set in southern Minnesota, Krueger explores the issue of spirituality and his own childhood, writing about issues that he's grappled with since a young age. The book is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.



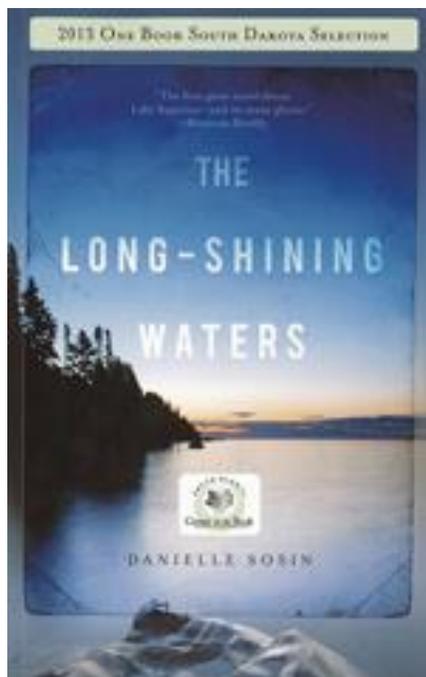
2014

Dakota

by Kathleen Norris

Kathleen Norris’s first nonfiction book, *Dakota*, published in 1993, was praised by critics, writers, and readers alike. The New York Times Book Review named it a Notable Book of the year, and Norris also received the New Visions Award from the Quality Paperback Book Club and the Society of Midland Authors Award for 1993.

Norris, with her husband, fellow poet David Dwyer, moved from New York City to her late grandmother’s home in Lemmon, SD. Norris lovingly describes the vast and starkly beautiful landscape, experiences with extremes of weather, and the townspeople. She touts the rewards of monastic life, which leads her to a deeper understanding of herself.

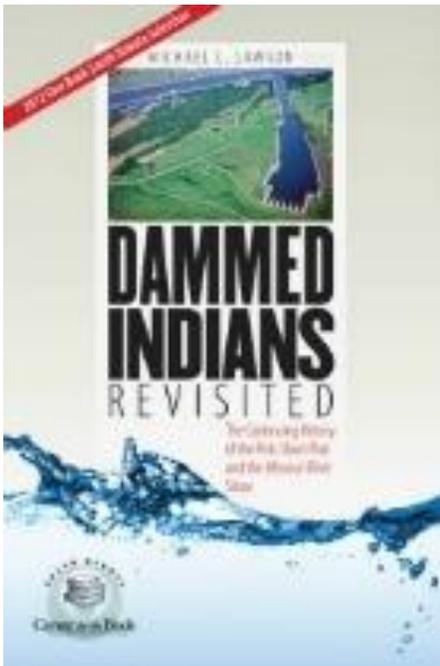


2013

The Long-Shining Waters

by Danielle Sosin

Lake Superior, the north country, the great fresh-water expanse. Frigid. Lethal. Wildly beautiful. *The Long-Shining Waters* gives us three stories whose characters are separated by centuries and circumstances, yet are connected across time by the place they inhabit. This book was the winner of the Milkweed National Fiction Prize, and a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award and The Midwest Independent Bookseller’s Choice Award.



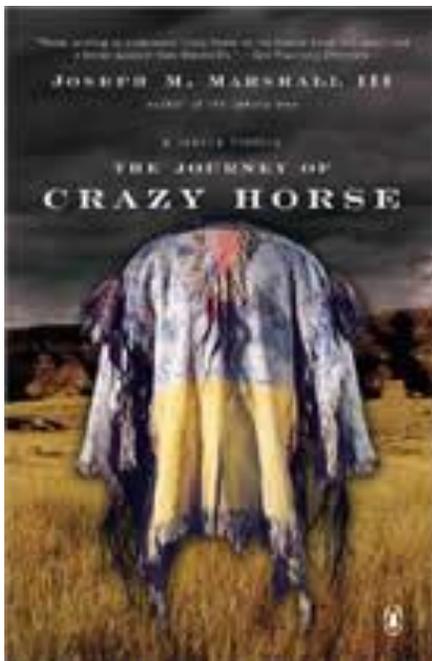
2012

Dammed Indians Revisited

by Michael Lawson

Lawson's classic work, *Dammed Indians: The Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux, 1944-1980*, provided the factual basis for Congressional legislation establishing tribal recovery trust funds for five Sioux tribes in compensation for reservation infrastructure lost to Federal dam projects.

What began as a purely academic exercise for Lawson in the 1970s eventually found a real-world application between 1996 and 2002 that has significantly benefited the Sioux people. Lawson has since updated his original work with six new chapters, including two that describe the process by which the tribes were able to gain recovery trust funds from Congress.



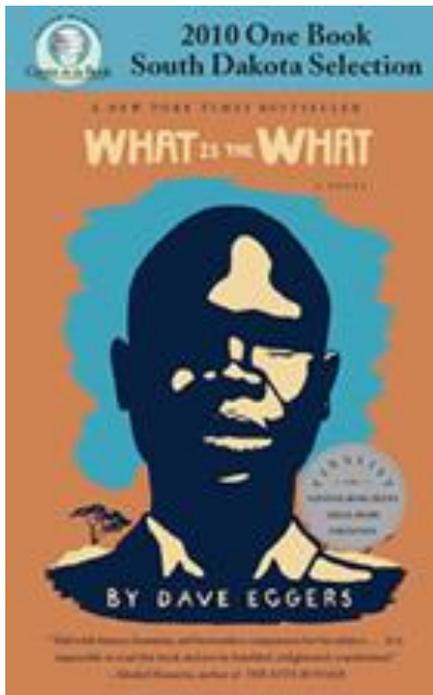
2011

The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History

by Joseph Marshall III

The history of our state abounds with stories of struggles and perseverance, stories of impassioned individuals facing treacherous winters and impossible odds. Perhaps no person better epitomizes the struggles faced by so many in the early years of our territory than Oglala Lakota leader Crazy Horse.

This iconic hero is best known for his prowess on the battlefield, yet a closer look at his life reveals a complex figure made up of much more than the war stories and heroic legends. It captures the life and times of one of our state's most revered men, providing insight into the historical contexts that formed his character, beliefs, and later shaped him into a leader.



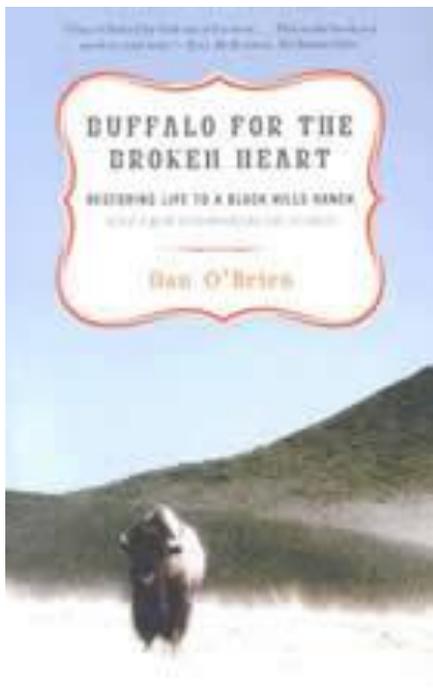
2010

What is the What: The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng

by Dave Eggers

What Is the What is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children—the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges.

Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, this book is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.



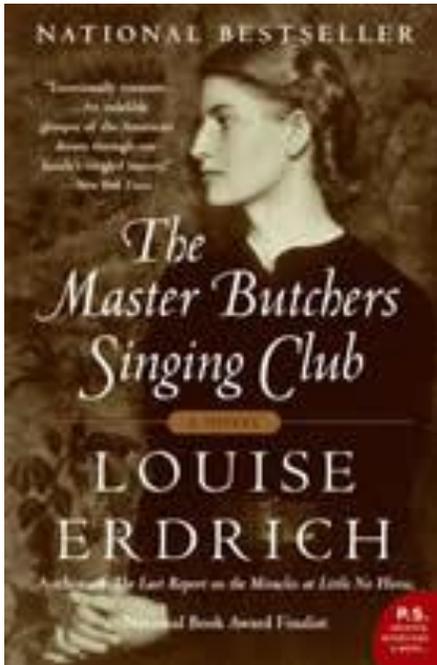
2009

Buffalo for the Broken Heart

by Dan O'Brien

For twenty years Dan O'Brien struggled to make ends meet on his cattle ranch in South Dakota. But when a neighbor invited him to lend a hand at the annual buffalo roundup, O'Brien was inspired to convert his own ranch, the Broken Heart, to buffalo.

Starting with 13 calves, "short-necked, golden balls of wool," O'Brien embarked on a journey that returned buffalo to his land for the first time in more than a century and a half. Buffalo for the Broken Heart is at once a tender account of the buffaloes' first seasons on the ranch and an engaging lesson in wildlife ecology.



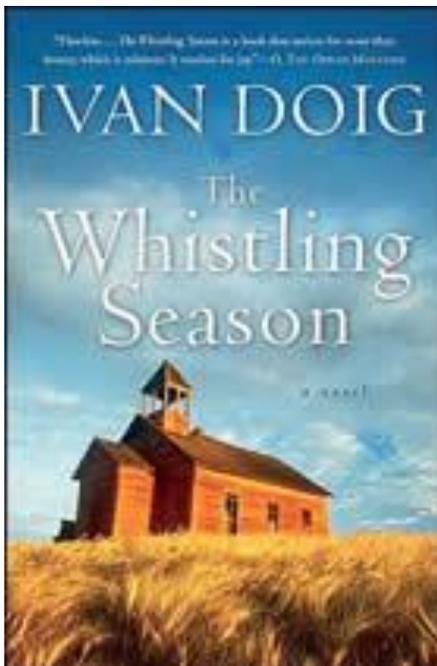
2008

The Master Butchers Singing Club

by Louise Erdrich

Having survived World War I, Fidelis Wadvogel returns to his quiet German village and marries the pregnant widow of his best friend, killed in action. With a suitcase full of sausages and a master butcher’s precious knife set, Fidelis sets out for America.

In Argus, North Dakota, he builds a business, a home for his family—which includes Eva and four sons—and a singing club consisting of the best voices in town. When the old world meets the New—in the person of Delphine Watzka—the great adventure of Fidelis’s life begins.

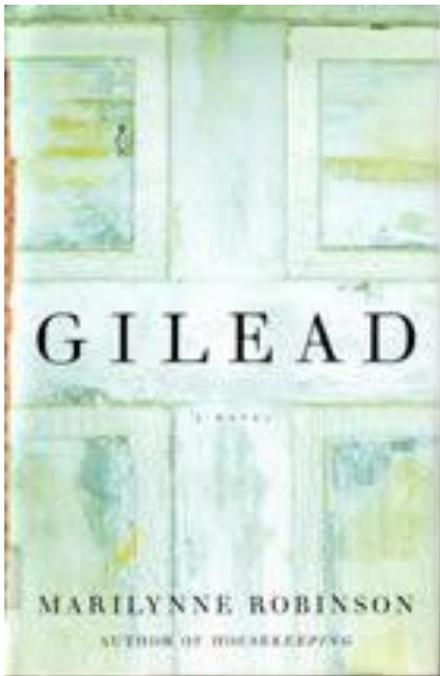


2007

The Whistling Season

by Ivan Doig

In the unforgettable fall of 1909, Rose Llewellyn and her brother, Morris Morgan, bring west with them “several kinds of education”—none of them of the textbook variety—and life is never again the same in Marias Coulee, Montana.

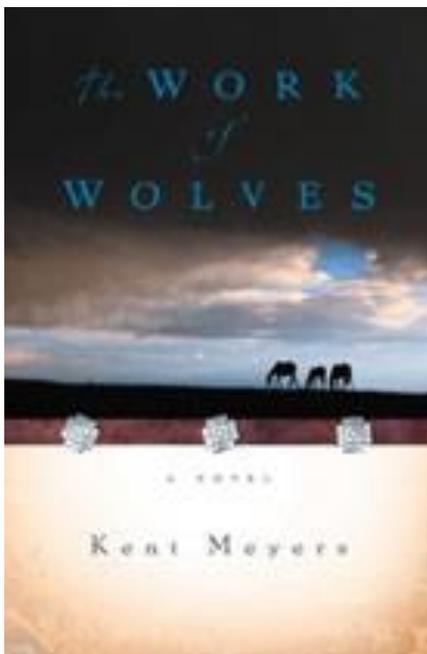


2006

Gilead

by Marilynne Robinson

Twenty-four years after her first novel, *Housekeeping*, Marilynne Robinson returns with a story about fathers and sons and the spiritual battles that still rage in America's heart. In the luminous and unforgettable voice of Congregationalist minister John Ames, *Gilead* reveals the human condition and manages to convey the miracle of existence itself.



2005

The Work of Wolves

by Kent Meyers

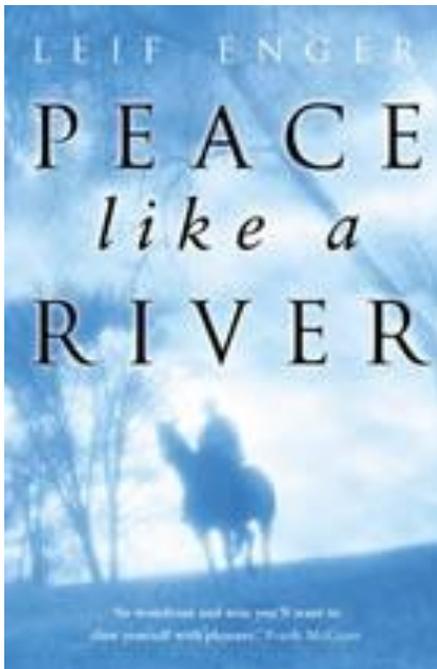
When fourteen-year-old Carson Fielding buys his first horse—a run-down, wild-eyed roan—from the wealthiest rancher in his South Dakota border town, he learns a hard lesson about dealing with powerful men. Years later, Carson grudgingly agrees to work for the rancher, training his horses and teaching the rancher's wife, Rebecca, to ride.

Carson and Rebecca fall in love, angering her vengeful husband, who sets off a cruel chain of events that shocks even the most hardened residents of the town. With the help from friends at the nearby Lakota Indian reservation, Carson challenges the ranchers' rule, fiercely determined to protect what he holds most dear.

**2004*****The Art of Mending***

by Elizabeth Berg

It begins with the sudden revelation of astonishing secrets—secrets that have shaped the personalities and fates of three siblings, and now threaten to tear them apart. In renowned author Elizabeth Berg’s moving new novel, unearthed truths force one seemingly ordinary family to reexamine their disparate lives and to ask themselves: Is it too late to mend the hurts of the past?

**2003*****Peace Like a River***

by Leif Enger

Leif Enger’s best-selling debut is at once a heroic quest, a tragedy, and a love story, in which “what could be unbelievable becomes extraordinary.” Enger brings us eleven-year-old Reuben Land, an asthmatic boy in the Midwest who has a reason to believe in miracles. Along with his sister and father, Reuben finds himself on a cross-country search for his outlaw older brother who has been controversially charged with murder.

Their journey unfolds like a revelation, and its conclusion shows how family, love, and faith can stand up to the most terrifying of enemies, the most tragic of fates.