

Louise Erdrich: Metis Novelist.¹ (b. 1954)

Michif-Chippewa poet and novelist Louise Erdrich has roots at the Turtle Mountain Michif-Chippewa Reservation in North Dakota where she is a band member. She was born in Little Falls, Minnesota and grew up at Wahpeton, North Dakota where her parents both taught at the Wahpeton Indian School. She is the granddaughter of Patrick Gourneau former Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Tribal Council.²

New York Times bestselling author Louise Erdrich, was a Pulitzer-Prize finalist for *The Plague of Doves*. Louise is the author of numerous novels, including the National Book Critics Circle Award winning *Love Medicine*. This novel was the first of a series of novels in which Erdrich depicts contemporary Michif and Chippewa Indian American and Midwestern life. It is set in North Dakota in the vicinity of the Turtle Mountain Reservation. Along with her novels, *The Beet Queen*, *Tracks*, and *The Bingo Palace*, this series is known as the North Dakota Quartet. Sections of this novel had wide prior exposure in magazines such as *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Kenyon Review*, *Mississippi Valley Review* and *The North American Review*.



She has published poetry, children's books, and a memoir of early motherhood, *The Bluejay's Dance*. Her short fiction has won the National Magazine Award and is included in the O. Henry and Best America Collections. She lives in Minnesota with her children, who help her run and independent bookstore called the Birchbark. Her recent novel, *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* (New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001), continues the saga of the characters first introduced to the reader in the North Dakota Quartet. *The Last Report on the Miracles at*

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²Patrick Moses Gourneau was born in 1904, the son of Joseph Gourneau (Kishki-mun-eshiw) and Eliza McLeod. Joseph was a Band councilor in the 1880s. His grandfather, Joseph Gornan (married to Judith Delorme) signed the Old Crossing Treaty with the Pembina and Red Lake Bands of Chippewa Indians. Patrick was Tribal Chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band between 1954 and 1958, when he had to resign because of ill health. He is author of a book on the history of the Turtle Mountain Band.

Little No Horse was a finalist for the National Book Award. Most recently, *The Plague of Doves* won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

The Louise Erdrich reading list:

- *Love Medicine* (1984)
- *Jacklight* (1984)
- *The Beet Queen* (1986)
- *Tracks* (1988)
- *Baptism of Desire* (1989)
- *The Crown of Columbus* [with Michael Dorris] (1991)
- *The Bingo Palace* (1994)
- *The Blue Jay's Dance: A Birthyear* (1995)
- *Grandmother's Pigeon* (1996)
- *Tales of Burning Love* (1997)
- *The Antelope Wife* (1998)
- *The Birchbark House* (1999)
- *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse* (2001)
- *The Range Eternal* (2002)
- *Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country* (2003)
- *The Master Butchers Singing Club* (2003)
- *Original Fire: Selected and New Poems* (2003)
- *Four Souls* (2004)
- *The Painted Drum* (2005)
- *The Game of Silence* (2005)
- *The Porcupine Year* (2008)
- *The Plague of Doves* (2008)
- *The Red Convertible: Collected and New Stories 1978-2008* (2009)
- *Shadow Tag* (2010)



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