

# THE BOOK CLUB HUB

Thunder Bay Public Library's newsletter for book clubs.

August 2023

@TbayPL



Welcome to the Book Club Hub, a newsletter for book clubs designed to give you ideas for your club and offer suggestions to expand your personal reading. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, let us know at [bookclub@tbpl.ca](mailto:bookclub@tbpl.ca)

## Book Club in a Bag - New Releases

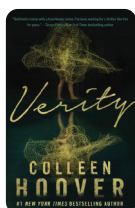
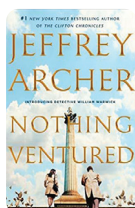
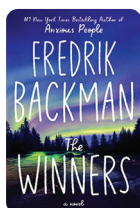
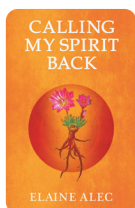
**Calling My Spirit Back** by Elaine Alec

**The Winners** by Fredrik Backman

**Nothing Ventured** by Jeffrey Archer

**Verity** by Colleen Hoover

**Demon Copperhead** by Barbara Kingsolver



Thank you to these book clubs for donations of book club bags: The Maplecrest Book Club, The Book Club Babes, and The Happy Bookers Book Club.

## Book Review

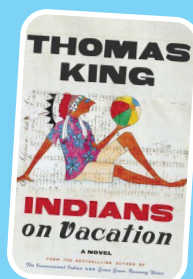
**Indians on Vacation** by Thomas King



The novel introduces us to Bird and Mimi, who are inspired by a bundle of old postcards sent by Uncle Leroy nearly a hundred years earlier. They attempt to trace the fate of Mimi's long-lost uncle and the family medicine bundle he took with him to Europe. Leroy's story of being compelled to join a travelling circus in Europe and his adventures is the foundation of the tale.

Blackbird Mavrias, known to all as Bird, is a writer who is currently blocked in his art. Ageing and suffering from a number of physical and emotional issues that Mimi has dubbed as his "demons", Bird is not a happy traveler. Ranging from depression and distress to diabetes and psychosomatic illness, Bird sees the trip as proof that no matter where he goes, his "demons" will go with him. To prove that opposites attract, Mimi on the other hand is a free-spirited artist, who embraces life and is willing to put up with Bird's curmudgeonly nature.

The novel has a bit of a travelogue element and King delights in highlighting joys of travel but it doesn't shy away from showing that problems exist the world over, so the couple encounters protests, petty thievery, refugees, and racism. Told both in the present day and in flashbacks, the story fleshes out Bird's background and your impressions of him will stay with you long after the book is over.



## Transparent Language

Looking to learn a new language, but not sure where to start? Let TBPL help with Transparent Language!

Go to [www.tbpl.ca/learnalanguage](http://www.tbpl.ca/learnalanguage)

and sign up/log in with your library card number and pin to get started!

Transparent Language offers lessons in over 100 different languages that you can learn at your own pace.

There are even ESL lessons for those looking to improve their English skills.



## Book Club Notices

Looking for more members? The library frequently has inquiries from patrons looking to join a book club. Let us know if you'd like to meet a fellow book lover and we will put you in touch.

Are you interested in all things Book Club? Subscribe to our Book Club Hub newsletter at [bookclub@tbpl.ca](mailto:bookclub@tbpl.ca)

| Phone (807) 345-8275

| Email [comments@tbpl.ca](mailto:comments@tbpl.ca)

| Online [www.tbpl.ca](http://www.tbpl.ca)



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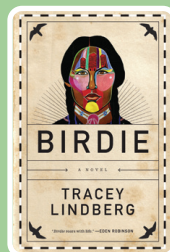
***"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet." - Jhumpa Lahiri***

## Party Pairings - The Perfect Book/Recipe/Beverage

### THE BOOK

**Birdie** by Tracie Lindberg

Bernice Meetoos, aka Birdie, a Cree woman, leaves her home in Northern Alberta following a tragedy and goes on a quest to meet Pat Johns, who played Jesse on the Beachcombers. The novel is darkly comic, filled with quirky characters, and uniquely Canadian. The trip gives her strength to face her past and strive for a future she never thought was possible.

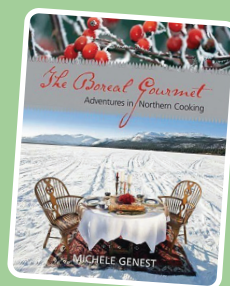


### THE RECIPE

#### Spruce Tip Shortbread

Recipe taken from: **The Boreal Gourmet: Adventures in Northern Cooking** by Michele Genest

½ cup plus 1 tablespoon (140 ml) of granulated sugar  
2 tablespoon (30 ml) chopped spruce tips  
1 cup (250 ml) unsalted butter, at room temperature  
2 ¼ cups (530 ml) all-purpose flour  
¼ teaspoon (1 ml) salt



- 1) Combine sugar with chopped spruce tips and set aside 1 tablespoon of the mixture for garnish. Cream the butter until light and fluffy, adding remaining sugar/spruce tip mix and cream together. Add the remaining dry ingredients and mix well.
- 2) Gather dough into a ball and press into an 8 inch (20 cm) shortbread mold or pat into an 8 inch circle and place on a baking sheet. Cut into 8-16 sections.
- 3) Bake at 325F (160C) for 30 to 35 minutes, or until the edges begin to brown.

Note\*- The shortbread will be soft and crumbly if eaten right away but, if stored in a lined cookie tin, will dry till rich, hard and crisp. The taste of the spruce tips will remain strong. The best spruce tips are picked in spring.

### THE BEVERAGE

#### Winter / Summer Solstice Cocktail

2 oz (30 ml) Gin  
2 oz (30 ml) late harvest Sauvignon Blanc  
2 oz (30 ml) Rhubarb juice  
2 crushed sage leaves

Measure chilled ingredients into a martini shaker loaded with ice, shake and pour into short cocktail glasses with sage leaves at the bottom. Rhubarb juice – thaw frozen rhubarb into a juicer, you should get 2/3 cup juice from 2 cups of rhubarb. If using a blender, remember to strain the juice in cheese-cloth. For a virgin version, use non-alcoholic white wine and replace the gin with ginger ale.

## A Question for You

Every issue will include a fun poll to help the library discover more about our users, tailor future purchases and help book clubs get to know each other. Send your answers to [bookclub@tbpl.ca](mailto:bookclub@tbpl.ca)

### This month's poll:

Does your book club actively choose diverse materials?



1. Never
2. Sometimes
3. Frequently
4. Always

### Answer to last issue's poll:

Most book clubs choose several books at a time for their meetings.

## Indigenous Knowledge Centre



Did you know that each of our TBPL branches has an Indigenous Knowledge Centre (IKC)? All four branches house this collection, which contains materials written by and about the Indigenous community, for both children and adults. You'll find great authors such as Thomas King, Tanya Talaga, Cherie Dimaline, and more. There are also plenty of texts on various topics, including Language Learning, Treaties, Poetry, First Peoples, Legends, and Food Sovereignty. Visit any of our branches to explore this fantastic collection!



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