

## Michigan Novels

***The Lake, The River and the Other Lake* by Steve Amick** - The lives, loves, fates, and fortunes of the colorful inhabitants of Weneshkeen, a resort town on the shore of Lake Michigan, both townies and ritzy summer visitors, intertwine over the course of a single tumultuous summer.

***The Dollmaker* by Henrietta Louisa Simpson Arnow** - Moving from Kentucky to Detroit, to help in the war effort, Gertie Nevels and her family have difficulty adjusting to the ugliness and despair of the city.

***A Woman's Place* by Lynn N. Austin** - The call for defense workers during World War II unites four women--Virginia, Helen, Rosa, and Jean--at Seneca Shipyards in Michigan, and as they encourage, shape, and influence one another, they learn valuable lessons about life, love, and faith.

***Please Don't Come Back from the Moon* by Dean Bakopoulos** - When his father disappears along with several other men from their blue-collar Detroit neighborhood, sixteen-year-old Michael Smolij witnesses the effects of large-scale abandonment on the community's wives and mothers.

***The Feast of Love* by Charles Baxter** - A collection of vignettes set in a coffee shop explores the subtle movements of love between ordinary people.

***Saul and Patsy* by Charles Baxter** - A seemingly happy domestic scene is turned upside down by the obsessive attentions of a troubled sixteen-year-old boy.

***Taking Care of Cleo* by Bill Broder** - Longing to escape the perpetual responsibility of caring for her autistic older sister, eighteen-year-old Rebecca, a member of her Prohibition-era Detroit lakeshore community's only Jewish family, discovers a bootleggers' yacht filled with illegal liquor that she attempts to sell to pay her way through college.

***American Salvage* by Bonnie Jo Campbell** - American Salvage is rich with local color and peopled with rural characters who love and hate extravagantly. They know how to fix cars and washing machines, how to shoot and clean game, and how to cook up methamphetamine, but they have not figured out how to prosper in the twenty-first century. Through the complex inner lives of working-class characters, Bonnie Jo Campbell illustrates the desperation of post-industrial America, where wildlife, jobs, and whole ways of life go extinct and the people have no choice but to live off what is left behind.

***Q Road* by Bonnie Jo Campbell** - The unlikely residents of northern Greenland Township, including a sixth-generation farmer, evangelical bartender, and tabloid-reading agoraphobe, are challenged to put aside their differences when something unexpected occurs in October of 1999.

***I Wish I Had a Red Dress* by Pearl Cleage** - Joyce Mitchell is a young widow with a life filled with work, family, and friends, but as the all-girl group she founded runs into problems, she feels an increasing desire to treat herself to something, or someone, special.

***Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides** - Calliope's friendship with a classmate and her sense of identity are compromised by the adolescent discovery that she is a hermaphrodite, a situation with roots in her grandparent's desperate struggle for survival in the 1920s in Greece and Detroit.

***The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides** - The narrator and his friends piece together the events that led up to ***suicides*** of the Lisbon girls, brainy Therese, fastidious Mary, ascetic Bonnie, libertine Lux, and saintly Cecilia in 1970's Grosse Pointe Michigan.

***Company Man* by Joseph Finder** - Despised after a massive layoff at his ***company***, corporate CEO Nick Conover protects his two children from local hostilities but finds things spinning out of control when a stalker threatens his family and Nick is blamed for a murder.

***Good Family* by Terry Gamble** - Returning to her family summer home near Lake Michigan after an eleven-year absence, Maddie Addison struggles to reconnect with people she has long avoided, including a mother whose life was compromised by her husband's rigid mores.

***The Tarnished Eye* by Judith Guest** - When a murderer ends the lives of Edward and Paige Norbois and their four children, sheriff Hugh DeWitt, still grieving over the tragic death of his infant son, investigates the husband's extramarital affair, a thieving business partner, and the killer's possible motives.

***Color of Justice* by Gary Hardwick** - While under investigation for excessive use of force, Detroit cop Danny Cavanaugh is assigned to a case involving the murder of a wealthy black couple, but the crime is not what it seems when another prominent black woman is murdered.

***The Summer He Didn't Die* by Jim Harrison** - A collection of novellas offers an insightful take on life in America, from the Michigan Indian who struggles to raise a family with limited resources to the satirical "Republican Wives."

***True North* by Jim Harrison** - The son of a wealthy family of timber barons struggles to reconcile himself with the damage his family has done to Michigan's Upper Peninsula--a scarring that cuts deeply into the fabric of his own family.

***The Narrows* by Alexander Irvine** - Working in Henry Ford's top-secret plant, Jared's assigned task is to build golems for the war effort, only to find himself caught up in a sinister plot that could change the course of history.

***Mr. Paradise* by Elmore Leonard** - When party games involving a beautiful escort, her model roommate, lawyer Tony Paradiso, and his aide Montez Taylor go murderously wrong, Detroit detective Frank Delsa finds himself with a double homicide on his hands.

***Fire Point* by John Smolens** - Returning to where he spent his childhood vacations, Martin Reed falls in love with a woman who shares his dream of restoring an old house, but her ex-boyfriend will do anything to destroy their happiness.

## **Mystery**

***The Burning of Rachel Hayes* by Douglas Allyn** - Veterinarian David Westbrook is trying for a new start in northern Michigan after a disastrous stint in jail, but the discovery of what may be the remains of a woman missing since an 1871 fire leads to violence.

***The Devil's Own Rag Doll* by Mitchell Bartoy** – The murder of a popular white heiress in the black part of town threatens to engulf Detroit in a wave of mob violence, and Pete Caudill, a new detective, is charged with uncovering the truth in the interest of preserving civic peace.

***Death Goes Dutch* by Albert A. Bell** - Sarah DeGraaf, a Korean American adoptee, works for a company that finds birth parents for adopted children. Josh Adams, apparently the birth child of the now-deceased Margaret Dykstra, an extremely wealthy and influential woman in Grand Rapids, MI, presents a number of problems for Sarah. First, there is the \$6 million trust fund Dykstra left to her son if he comes forward before his 30th birthday; second, Sarah has not followed company procedure in examining his case; and, finally, there is the resentment of the other heirs to the Dykstra fortune.

***The Chocolate Series* by JoAnna Carl** – (first book in series) After accepting a job supplying chocolate from her aunt's luxury chocolate business to a party for unpopular defense attorney Clemantine Ripley, Lee McKinney takes on a new job as detective when someone adds cyanide to a chocolate confection eaten by the hostess.

***Detroit Noir*** - Presents short stories about Detroit with noir and crime fiction by writers such as Joyce Carol Oates, Joe Boland, Peter Markus, and Lolita Hernandez. **(Mystery Detroit)**

***Bad Things Happen* by Harry Dolan** - The man who calls himself David Loogan is leading a quiet, anonymous life in the college town of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He's hoping to escape a violent past he would rather forget. But his solitude is broken when he finds himself drawn into a friendship with Tom Kristoll, publisher of the mystery magazine *Gray Streets*--and into an affair with Laura, Tom's sleek blond wife. When Tom offers him a job as an editor, Loogan sees no harm in accepting. What he doesn't realize is that the stories in *Gray Streets* tend to follow a simple formula: Plans go wrong. ***Bad things happen***. People die.

***Amos Walker Series* by Lauren D. Estleman** – (first book in series) Hired by a semi-retired gangster to find his enticing young ward, a promising porno-film star, Amos Walker journeys through the seamy underside of Detroit and unwittingly solves the murder of a popular black labor leader.

***Starvation Lake* by Bryan Gruley** - In the dead of a Michigan winter, pieces of a snowmobile wash up near the crumbling, small town of Starvation Lake -- the same snowmobile that went down with Starvation's legendary hockey coach years earlier. But everybody knows Coach Blackburn's accident happened five miles away on a different lake. As rumors buzz about mysterious underground tunnels, the evidence from the snowmobile says one thing: murder. Gus Carpenter, editor of the local newspaper, has recently returned to Starvation after a failed attempt to make it big at the *Detroit Times*. In his youth, Gus was the goalie who let a state championship get away, crushing Coach's dreams

and earning the town's enmity. Now he's investigating the murder of his former coach. But even more unsettling to Gus are the holes in the town's past and the gnawing suspicion that those holes may conceal some dark and disturbing secrets that some of the people closest to him may have killed to keep.

***Alex McKnight Series by Steve Hamilton*** – (First book in series) Fourteen years after being shot by a psychopath named Rose, former police detective Alex McKnight learns that she has been released from prison.

***Woods Cop Series by Joseph Heywood*** - (First book in series) While serving the land in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Conservation Officer Grady Service, an ex-Marine and expert tracker, stumbles upon a conspiracy of greed going beyond the usual poacher, into the world of politics and big business.

***Witch Cradle by Kathleen Hills*** - One icy January day on Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Constable John McIntire, ever reluctant to police his neighbors in tiny St. Adele, is presented evidence that two of them, Rose and Teddy Falk, had not emigrated to Soviet Karelia in 1934 along with other patriotic Finns recruited by the Communists. Digging up an abandoned cistern on the Falk farm is a chore, but in the end two skeletons emerge. And one is not Teddy Falk... FBI agent Fratelli, hanging around the county hoping to dig dirt on local Communists-it is 1951, the time of Senator McCarthy's Red Scare-informs McIntire that Teddy has returned from Russia and is working in Detroit County sheriff Pete Koski takes a hand. Is there a connection to the family of Eban Vogel, a German much persecuted during WWI whose daughter Mia was McIntire's first flame? And what is the relevance of the disastrous flood in a nearby mine the night the Falks disappeared?

***Detective Sergeant Mulheisen series by Jon A. Jackson*** - (First book in series) Mulheisen investigates when a beautiful young heiress turns up dead in Indian Village, an exclusive enclave in Detroit, and discovers that her husband is the only executive of Fidelity Trust Insurance to escape blame for a multimillion-dollar embezzlement scheme.

***Catch and Keep by Ronald Weber*** - When much-hated Link Pickett, owner of a camping/fishing establishment on Michigan's Borchard River, is found dead in a canoe, rabid environmentalist Vernon Kelso is immediately suspected, but his son, Kit, and ex-wife, Mercy, are determined to prove his innocence.