

Newfoundland and Labrador Books: Recommended Reading

Galore by Michael Crummey. An intimate saga of biblical proportions. Judah, a man without speech, emerges from the belly of a beached whale in a coastal village, and the story of the families there are forever changed.

Random Passage by Bernice Morgan. Epic tale of a family forced to leave England and start life in a harsh new world. A wonderfully drawn cast of characters, and a Newfoundland and Labrador classic.

Minister without Portfolio by Michael Winter. A man whose girlfriend leaves him goes to Afghanistan, where a tragic incident changes his life and causes him to search for greater meaning.

An Audience of Chairs by Joan Clark. The story of a woman living in Cape Breton, Canada, struggling with bipolar disorder and grief.

Annabel by Kathleen Winter. The haunting, compassionate story of an intersex child born in rural Labrador in the 1960s.

A Woman's Way Through Unknown Labrador by Mina Hubbard, Roberta Buchanan, Anne Hart and Bryan Greene. (2005 edition.) In 1905, Mina Benson Hubbard was the first white woman to cross Labrador, which she undertook two years following the starvation of her husband two years prior, on a similar journey.

February by Lisa Moore. The fictional story of a woman whose husband died in the Ocean Ranger disaster. Lisa Moore at her best.

Navigator of New York by Wayne Johnston. An historical novel weaving fact and fiction, set in a backdrop of the race for the North Pole.

See also:

As Near to Heaven By Sea: a History of Newfoundland and Labrador by Kevin Major. Nominated for the 2001 Pearson Writers' Trust non-fiction prize.

Come, Thou Tortoise by Jessica Grant. A quirky story told by a thoroughly unique voice.

Sweetland by Michael Crummey. One man refuses the government-sponsored resettlement payment to abandon his remote island community. Faking his own death, he struggles for survival with dwindling supplies in the company of island ghosts.

Caught by Lisa Moore. A young man in the late 1970s schemes for success in the drug business.

Where I Belong by Alan Doyle. A memoir of growing up in Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, and his musical career with the band Great Big Sea, and beyond.

Blood Red Ochre by Kevin Major. A novel for young adults about the Beothuk people, Indigenous to Newfoundland, but now extinct.

Saltwater Mittens from the Island of Newfoundland: More than 20 Heritage Designs to Knit by Christine LeGrow and Shirley A. Scott. Wonderful photographs and cultural notes accompanying heritage knitting patterns by resident experts.

Below the Bridge: Memories of the South Side of St. John's by Helen Fogwill Porter. A memoir and coming of age story.

The Big Why by Michael Winter. A fictionalized account of a year in the life of American artist Rockwell Kent, who lived in Brigus, Newfoundland from 1914-1915.

The Colony of Unrequited Dreams by Wayne Johnston. A fictionalized account of the life of Joseph Smallwood, who brought Newfoundland and Labrador into confederation with Canada in 1949.

The Shipping News by Annie Proulx. Winner of the American Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1994. The hero returns to his Newfoundland ancestral home.

The Boat Who Wouldn't Float by Farley Mowat. The story of the author's journey on a troublesome boat, and his encounters with Newfoundlanders on his journey.