

Nikki Rajala

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New novel on Minnesota's fur trade

Minnesota author Nikki Rajala recently launched “Uncharted Waters” which is Book 3 in the Chronicles of an Unlikely Voyageur series,” and her third adventure novel about the fur trade era. On this voyage, her character André guides a single canoe — their mission is to deliver a small boy to his British father at a military fort on Lake Huron. André leads a mismatched crew paddling alone instead of in a brigade because it's late in the season and skilled paddlers have already left on other brigades.

She will be presenting at [location] on [date] to read from the book, talk about her research and answer questions. All three books in the series will be available.

About the book

Suitable for readers from upper elementary through adults, these books tell the story of André, a French-Canadian teen who yearns to experience the vast continent. Historically accurate, these novels follow the lives of voyageurs who traded for beaver and other furs around the Great Lakes in the early 1800s.

The first two books in the series, “Waters Like the Sky” and “Treacherous Waters,” both follow the adventures and mishaps of André in his treks across the river systems and Lakes Huron and Superior into what will become Minnesota and Wisconsin.

About the author

“The pandemic changed how I researched,” Nikki said. “Luckily I found webinars on how voyageur sashes were made, and studied the websites on Michilimackinac, Sault Ste. Marie and other forts on the Great Lakes, medicine of the early 1800s and much more. Eventually historical sites and museums carefully opened their doors so we could again visit.”

Though her last name doesn't indicate it, Nikki is descended from a host of voyageurs, both winterers and pork-eaters (those who returned to their French-Canadian homes in the same season). Her Pelletier great-great grandfather told of being hidden by Dakota in caves along the Minnesota River during Indian fighting.

She is also the author of “Some Like it Hot: The Sauna, Its Lore and Stories,” a nonfiction book that draws on traditions in her Finnish ancestry.

Nikki is available for interviews and presentations. She lives in Rockville, Minnesota, with her husband, Bill Vossler, also a writer. Readers can connect with her at <https://nikkirajala.com>.

Her last name is pronounced Rye-lah.

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