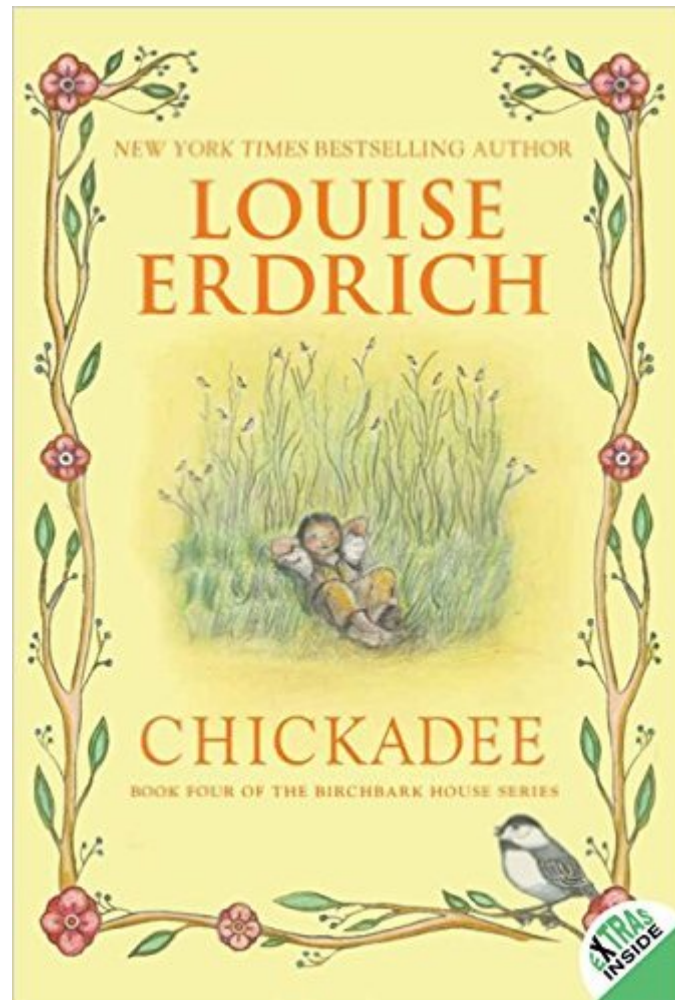


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# Chickadee (Birchbark House)



## Synopsis

Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, *Chickadee* is the first novel of a new arc in the critically acclaimed Birchbark House series by New York Times bestselling author Louise Erdrich. Twin brothers Chickadee and Makoons have done everything together since they were born—until the unthinkable happens and the brothers are separated. Desperate to reunite, both Chickadee and his family must travel across new territories, forge unlikely friendships, and experience both unexpected moments of unbearable heartache as well as pure happiness. And through it all, Chickadee has the strength of his namesake, the chickadee, to carry him on. *Chickadee* continues the story of one Ojibwe family's journey through one hundred years in America. School Library Journal, in a starred review, proclaimed, "Readers will be more than happy to welcome little Chickadee into their hearts." The paperback edition includes additional material, such as an interview with the author and activities.

## Book Information

Series: Birchbark House (Book 4)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (August 27, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060577924

ISBN-13: 978-0060577926

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #92,844 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Native North & South Americans](#) #122 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #284

in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

At the end of *THE PORCUPINE YEAR*, the last installment of Louise Erdrich's novels that began with *THE BIRCHBARK HOUSE*, Omakayas was on the verge of becoming a woman, a full member of her Ojibwe tribe. Four years after publication of that volume, Erdrich returns with *CHICKADEE*, a

sequel of sorts that finds Omakayas as a wife and mother, with two young boys of her own. The Birchbark House novels take place in the mid-19th century in Wisconsin and Minnesota; they've been positioned as alternatives to Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House series, but with a Native American focus. In CHICKADEE, just like the Ingalls family, Omakayas' family is on the move again, from the Lake of the Woods to the unfamiliar landscape of the Great Plains. Chickadee is taking a journey separate from his family, and through no desire of his own. After the mischievous boy and his twin, Makoons, pay a trick on a mean old man, the man's sons take revenge by kidnapping Chickadee and turning him into their servant. The boy must take care of the boorish brothers' horses and also cook for them, a disgusting stew made partly of dead mice --- and of their droppings. But the brothers don't bargain for Chickadee's family's persistence in finding him --- or in Chickadee's own desire for survival and freedom. After Chickadee escapes from the brothers, his adventures and dangers are hardly over, but he is guided by the spirit --- and even the voice --- of his namesake bird, the tiny bird that everyone underestimates. The migratory nature of Erdrich's novel underscores one of the main cultural and historical differences between her characters and the white settlers they counterbalance.

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