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'Firekeeper's Daughter' by Angeline Boulley, chosen as 2023-24 Great Michigan Read

Lansing, Mich.—Soon to be adapted for Netflix by President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground, and New York Times Number One Bestseller, *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley has been selected as Michigan Humanities' 2023-24 Great Michigan Read. After an exhaustive process, seven statewide regional selection committees made up of teachers, librarians, community leaders, and book lovers chose the title from hundreds of potential works.

"The Great Michigan Read focuses on books based in Michigan, and we cannot be more pleased to share *Firekeeper's Daughter* with the entire state in the upcoming year. The book focuses on fictional main character, Daunis, but brings to light so many themes and topics that Native American groups face in Michigan and throughout the country today," shared Jennifer Rupp, President and CEO of Michigan Humanities. "We are certain that *Firekeeper's Daughter* will be used as a tool to engage in conversations, learn more about Michigan's many tribal groups, as well as be an enjoyable read for any fiction fan."

Author, Angeline Boulley, is a Michigan native and enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. She previously served as a Director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Boulley will tour around Michigan in both the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024 discussing the book, its themes, as well as her forthcoming book *Warrior Girl Unearthed* (May 2023) during her tour. Dates for the author tour are forthcoming.

The Great Michigan Read is a biennial program that aims to connect Michigan residents by deepening readers' understanding of our state, our society, and our humanity. Organizations and groups can register online now to receive free materials including copies of the book, large print copies, reader's guides, teacher's guides, bookmarks, and promotional materials. Audiobook and E-book versions will be available for free download on the ReadMichigan.org website for anyone with a Michigan IP address in the fall of 2023 and spring of 2024, actual dates to be announced.

Schools, libraries, colleges, arts and cultural institutions, books clubs, and more are encouraged to register. Materials will be shipped starting in September 2023. Programs will occur between October 2023 through September 2024. Starting in July 2023, non-profits registered in the Great Michigan Read program are eligible for up to \$750 in grant funding to support programming efforts with *Firekeeper's Daughter*.

To register to become a partner and receive free materials or to learn more about the Great Michigan Read, visit www.michiganhumanities.org/great-michigan-read.

The 2023-24 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Meijer Foundation, and the Library of Michigan.

About the Book

Firekeeper's Daughter focuses on eighteen-year-old Daunis Fontaine who has never quite fit in, both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. Daunis dreams of a fresh start at college, but when family tragedy strikes, Daunis puts her future on hold to look after her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother Levi's hockey team.

Yet even as Daunis falls for Jamie, she senses the dashing hockey star is hiding something. Everything comes to light when Daunis witnesses a shocking murder, thrusting her into an FBI investigation of a lethal new drug.

Reluctantly, Daunis agrees to go undercover, drawing on her knowledge of chemistry and Ojibwe traditional medicine to track down the source. But the search for truth is more complicated than Daunis imagined, exposing secrets and old scars. At the same time, she grows concerned with an investigation that seems more focused on punishing the offenders than protecting the victims.

Now, as the deceptions—and deaths—keep growing, Daunis must learn what it means to be a strong Anishinaabe kwe (Ojibwe woman) and how far she'll go for her community, even if it tears apart the only world she's ever known.

About Michigan Humanities

Michigan Humanities inspires Michigan residents to come together in creative and freely expressed ways to deepen our understanding of ourselves and enrich our communities. In carrying out this mission, Michigan Humanities builds awareness and excitement for humanities in everyday life, achieves best practices and sustainability for all humanities programs and services in Michigan, and upholds the following key values: inclusion, diversity, and equity; discovery and understanding; authentic conversation; respectful collaboration; and meaningful experiences. Michigan Humanities' vision is for all people of Michigan to experience and understand the importance of humanities to enrich lives.

Michigan Humanities' headquarters lay on land that occupied the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg-Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.

About the Great Michigan Read

The Great Michigan Read kicked off in 2007-08 with "The Nick Adams Stories" by Ernest Hemingway. The Great Michigan Read reaches all of Michigan's 83 counties, has around 300 participating organizations, and serves close to 30,000 Michigan residents.

Previous Great Michigan Read books include *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen (2009-10); *Arc of Justice* by Kevin Boyle (2011-12); *Annie's Ghosts* by Steve Luxenberg (2013-2014); *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel (2015-16); *X: A Novel* by Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon (2017-18); *What the Eyes Don't See* by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha (2019-20); and *The Women of the Copper Country* by Mary Doria Russell (2021-22).

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