

Maureen Gibbon

THIEF

A Novel

HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO UNDERSTAND?

Suzanne believes she knows who she is: a former wild child, neither virgin nor virginal as a teen; someone who pulls for the wayward girls and troubled boys she now teaches in Minnesota. She has learned to survive good love and bad love and people who don't care at all. At her rented cabin, she gathers strength, like a storm forming over the lake.

While looking for a spark in her life, a random coincidence leads Suzanne to try to unlock a harrowing event from her past. She is drawn into an unusual relationship with Alpha Breville, a convicted criminal with a disturbing history; simultaneously, she begins seeing an unpredictable, dark-haired drifter—a cowboy who's part angel, part howling dog. Though the cowboy matches Suzanne in intensity and desire, he's less faithful than the captive Breville.

Which man can offer Suzanne the knowledge she seeks? Which man can truly touch her? How can she find her unique peace?

In writing that has been likened to Kate Chopin's, Maureen Gibbon constructs a taut story of desire at the other end of the Mississippi, in the north woods of Minnesota. Against deep lakes, casinos, and a bar named the Royal, Gibbon's unconventional characters show us how to play the hands we're dealt and own the choices we make, in a tough and tender book about hard-won redemption from one of America's most original writers.



MAUREEN GIBBON is the author of *Swimming Sweet Arrow*, a novel, and *Magdalena*, a collection of prose poems. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, she has received fellowships from the Bush Foundation and Loft McKnight.

MARKETING

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