

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	7
Preface	9
1. Introduction	11
1.1. The State of Research	16
1.2. Questions of Approach, Method and Structure	20
1.3. Brief Summary of the Novels	29
<i>Tracks</i>	30
<i>The Beet Queen</i>	33
<i>Love Medicine</i>	36
<i>The Bingo Palace</i>	39
<i>Tales of Burning Love</i>	42
1.4. The Pillagers in Erdrich's Fictional Universe	42
2. The Trickster Naanabozho	51
2.1. Selected Aspects of Ojibwa Spirituality	51
2.2. The Trickster Naanabozho	58
2.2.1 Key Similarities and Differences between Naanabozho and Jesus Christ	65
2.3 The Function of Trickster Tales in Ojibwa Society	69
3. Nanapush	79
3.1. The Gambler	80
3.2. The Promiscuous Trickster	81
3.3. The Protector	86
3.4. The Teacher	96
3.5. The Fool	112
3.6. Concluding Remarks	115
4. Fleur Pillager	119
4.1. The Gambler	122
4.2. The Promiscuous Trickster	123
4.3. The Protector	129
4.4. The Teacher	151
4.5. The Fool	152
4.6. Concluding Remarks	155

5. Lulu Pillager	159
5.1. The Gambler	161
5.2. The Promiscuous Trickster	162
5.3. The Protector	175
5.4. The Teacher	185
5.5. The Fool	186
5.6. Concluding Remarks	192
6. Gerry Nanapush: A Contemporary Trickster	195
6.1. The Gambler	196
6.2. The Promiscuous Trickster	198
6.3. The Avenger	201
6.4. The Teacher	214
6.5. The Fool	216
6.6. Concluding Remarks	217
7. Lipsha: The Nascent Shaman	221
7.1. Lipsha: A Contemporary Trickster	223
7.1.1. The Gambler	224
7.1.2. The Promiscuous Trickster	225
7.1.3. The Protector	226
7.1.4. The Fool	229
7.2. The Nascent Shaman	232
7.2.1. Rejecting the Myth of Rational Beliefs	233
7.2.2. Rejecting the Myth of the Warrior	235
7.2.3. Rejecting the Myth of Material Wealth	244
7.3. Lipsha's Religious Quest and Establishment of His Identity	259
7.4. The Close of <i>The Bingo Palace</i>	276
7.5. Concluding Remarks	280
8. Conclusion	283
Bibliography	293