

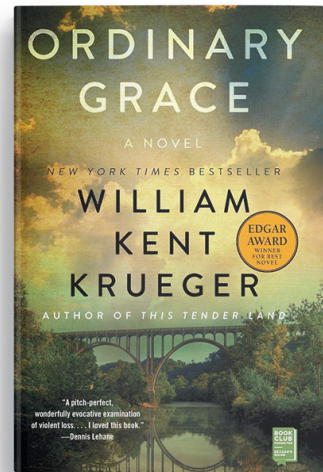
William Kent Krueger	
(AUTHOR)	
Ordinary Grace	
(BOOK TITLE)	
DATE	TIME
11 AUG 2020	8:00PM EDT

HOLLY FURTICK

*Book Club!*

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Book Club!



### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Krueger writes a mystery series set in the north woods of Minnesota. His protagonist is Cork O'Connor, the former sheriff of Tamarack County and a man of mixed heritage—part Irish and part Ojibwe. His work has received a number of awards, including the Minnesota Book Award, the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award, the Anthony Award, the Barry Award, the Dilys Award, and the Friends of American Writers Prize.

Ordinary Grace, his stand-alone novel published in 2013, received the Edgar Award, given by the Mystery Writers of America in recognition for the best novel published in that year. The companion novel, This Tender Land, was published in September 2019. His last 9 novels were all New York Times bestsellers.

### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

This book is about Frankie Dunn, a teenage boy in a small town in Minnesota. It recounts the events of one fateful summer.

**SETTING:** New Bremen, Minnesota

### **THEMES**

- Grief
- Family
- Faith
- Prejudice

## MAIN CHARACTERS

- Frankie
- Jake
- Nathan, Dad
- Ruth, Mom
- Ariel, Sister
- Gus
- Karl
- Emil
- Lise
- Warren Redstone

## MEMORABLE SCENES

- Nathan crying in the church and Gus comforting him
- Jake's ordinary grace at Ariel's funeral lunch
- Nathan's sermon the day after Ariel's death  
"God never promised us an easy life. He never promised that we wouldn't suffer, that we wouldn't feel despair and loneliness and confusion and desperation. What he did promise was that in our suffering we would never be alone. And though we may sometimes make ourselves blind and deaf to his presence he is beside us and around us and within us always. We are never separated from his love. And he promised us something else, the most important promise of all. That there would be surcease. That there would be an end to our pain and our suffering and our loneliness, that we would be with him and know him, and this would be heaven."
- Boys eavesdropping as their father counsels individuals (the married couple and especially Karl)

## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- Who was your favorite character?
- Which character did you feel the most empathy for?
- Were you surprised by the revealing of Ariel's pregnancy and who the father was?
- Did you like the ending? Did you agree with Jake's decision to once again be quiet?

## QUOTES

- "The dead are never far from us. They're in our hearts and on our minds and in the end all that separates us from them is a single breath, one final puff of air."
- Loss..."Loss, once it's become a certainty, is like a rock you hold in your hand. It has weight and dimension and texture. It's solid and can be assessed and dealt with. You can use it to beat yourself or you can throw it away."

- Ordinary miracles... “And whether you believe in miracles or not, I can guarantee that you will experience one. It may not be the miracle you’ve prayed for. God probably won’t undo what’s been done. The miracle is this: that you will rise in the morning and be able to see again the startling beauty of the day.”
- Ordinary grace... “That was it. That was all of it. A grace so ordinary there was no reason at all to remember it. Yet I have never across the forty years since it was spoken forgotten a single word.”
- Awful grace... “He who learns must suffer. And even in our sleep pain, which cannot forget, falls drop by drop upon the heart, until in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful graces of God.”