

Junior Division, Prose (16-20 years)

Tara Thistle, CBS

Free (an excerpt)

It's a log cabin, stained dark red on the outside but left natural on the inside, with a vaulted ceiling, cathedral windows that look out at the lake², and a loft that you can only stand up straight in the very middle of.

² It's actually a pond but the only time I had to pretend I knew the difference was the geography class I took in the 10th grade instead of history because I wanted to take art and I couldn't take both art and history because it didn't fit into my schedule. It was taught by one of my schools three gym teachers who once told us the United States was the second biggest country and the class was full of mostly slacker boys who often skipped class and got suspended and failed tests that I got hundreds on without studying. It was horrible experience and to make matters worse, I didn't even like the art class.