**Cynthia Frank-Stupnik**, an award-winning poet, essayist, and novelist, is closely associated with the town of **Clearwater, Minnesota**, where her writing journey began over **sixty years ago**. She identifies with author **Hamlin Garland**. Garland’s Pulitzer Prize-winning story, **“A Daughter of the Middle Border,”** which vividly portrays the diverse Midwest landscapes where his and her pioneering families lived and worked.

Stupnik’s literary contributions celebrate the spirit of Clearwater and its remarkable women. Her three novels, each part of the Minnesota Main Street Women series, delve into the lives of the women in this town’s history:

1. **“Where Two Rivers Meet”** (Published in **2023**): $28.00
	* The story revolves around **Abigail Perkins Robinson Camp Porter**, who becomes the first white woman in the area.
	* Amidst hundreds of men starting anew in a recently opened land west of the Mississippi, Abigail faces challenges that help her develop the skills to become independent.
2. **“Pins & Needles”** (Published in **2018**): $28.95
	* Set in the **Mississippi River town of Clearwater**, this sequel to **“Scruples & Drams”** follows the life of **Maude Porter**.
	* Maude, an educated and strong-minded woman, owns a millinery store.
	* She grapples with concerns about women’s health, equal rights, and the impact of alcohol on families and communities.
3. **“Scruples & Drams”** (Published in 2016). $14.00
	* Readers encounter the complexities of women’s lives during a transformative era, especially the life of Jennie Phillips, the village druggist
	* Through her story, women navigate societal expectations, health issues, and the impact of alcohol on families and communities.
	* Through their stories, the novel sheds light on the challenges faced by women striving for independence and equal rights.

Cynthia Frank-Stupnik’s novels offer glimpses into the lives of these remarkable women, their struggles, and their determination to shape their destinies in a changing world.

In addition, her diverse body of work reflects her passion for storytelling and her connection to the Midwest. Her other notable works include:

1. **“Around Clearwater”: Images of America: Minnesota**: $21.95
	* This pictorial delves into the historical and personal aspects of Clearwater, Minnesota. [It captures the essence of the town, its people, and the landscapes that have shaped Cynthia’s own journey](https://books.google.com/books/about/Around_Clearwater.html?id=MzaPDAAAQBAJ)[1](https://books.google.com/books/about/Around_Clearwater.html?id=MzaPDAAAQBAJ).
	* The work celebrates the history and heritage of Minnesota. [It features a collection of photographs and captions that highlight various aspects of the state’s past, including towns, landmarks, and people](https://www.thriftbooks.com/a/cynthia-frank-stupnik/2892400/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).
	* The book provides glimpses into the lives of real pioneers, offering a unique perspective on their experiences and challenges.
2. **“Postcards from the Old Man and Other Correspondence from Clearwater, Minnesota”**: $18.00
	* Stupnik’s collection of correspondence, a project started and developed during graduate school, sheds light on the rich history and character of Clearwater. Through letters, postcards, and other forms of communication, readers gain insights into the town’s past and its vibrant community nuzzled up to the “Old Man,” the mighty Mississippi River .
	* The book weaves together personal narratives developed through historical context and emphasizing a sense of place.
3. **“Steppes to Neu Odessa: Germans from Russia Who Settled in Odessa Township, Dakota Territory, 1872-1876”**:
	* In this historical biography, Cynthia explores the lives of German-Russian immigrants who settled in Odessa Township during the late 1800s. Their journey, struggles, and contributions to the community come to life through her meticulous research and storytelling.
	* The book provides a window into the challenges faced by these pioneers as they adapted to a new land and culture.

Cynthia Frank-Stupnik’s writing resonates with themes of faith, family, and women’s rights. Her commitment to preserving local history and sharing untold stories makes her work both engaging and impactful.