



***This Hidden Thing* Wins
McNally Robinson Book of the Year
at 2010 Manitoba Book Awards**

CMU Press is pleased that Dora Dueck's novel **This Hidden Thing** has been named the McNally Robinson Book of the Year, as announced at the Manitoba Book Awards, held Sunday April 17, 2011 at the Franco-Manitoban Cultural Centre in St. Boniface.

"If you are surprised, so am I," said Dueck in her acceptance speech. "I'm happy to be in the company of these wonderful writers." Dueck, who lives in Winnipeg, also paid tribute to local booksellers McNally Robinson for their dynamic support of Winnipeg's literary community.

This Hidden Thing is a "humane and fully satisfying depiction of times, places [and] communities," according to jurors Joan Barfoot, Trevor Cole and Richard Lebrun. Elsewhere, the jury for the Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction, for which **This Hidden Thing** was shortlisted, describes Dueck's novel as "a testament to the pleasure of pure storytelling."

Dueck's novel follows almost the entirety of the life of Maria Klassen, a young Mennonite woman who immigrates to Manitoba in the 1920s. Maria works for a prosperous family while navigating the intricate experience of life in a new country. The story examines the powerful themes of silence and hiddenness within the Mennonite community, as well as offering realistic portrayals of passion, poverty, war and family-- the everyday experiences of an ordinary yet remarkable woman.

The Manitoba Book Awards are organized annually by the Manitoba Writers' Guild (MWG) and the Association of Manitoba Book Publishers (AMBP). **This Hidden Thing** was nominated for the Book of the Year Award alongside *Curiosity* by Joan Thomas, *A Cycle of the Moon* by Uma Parameswaran, *Out of Grief Singing: A Memoir of Motherhood and Loss* by Charlene Diehl, and *Walking to Mojácar* by Di Brandt. The award is sponsored by McNally Robinson Booksellers. It is awarded each year to the author of the English-language book by a Manitoba author that is judged the best-written by a jury comprised of writers, scholars, publishers and/or journalists. The prize carries with it a cash value of \$5000.

This Hidden Thing is the first novel published by CMU Press, the academic publishing initiative of Canadian Mennonite University. To order, visit or contact any of the following:

- **CMU Bookstore** (telephone 204-487-3300 or toll-free 1-877-231-4570; email cmubookstore@cmu.ca or visit <http://www.cmu.ca/cmupress> for more information, including book club questions)
- **Mennonite Publishing Network** (www.mpn.net)
- **McNally Robinson Booksellers** (1120 Grant Avenue, Winnipeg, tel. (204) 475-0483)

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