

***A Town Called Solace* Voted as the 2022 Forest of Reading[®]
Evergreen Award[™] Winner**

Readers across Ontario vote for the best Canadian fiction and non-fiction

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (October 20, 2022) – After months of reading the best in Canadian fiction and non-fiction for adults, readers from over 65 Ontario libraries have chosen Mary Lawson's *A Town Called Solace* (Knopf Canada) as this year's Evergreen Award[™] winner.

"Mary Lawson is a masterful writer, and we are delighted that our Evergreen readers have chosen her title as this year's winner. *A Town Called Solace* spoke to us because it was so beautifully crafted – heartbreaking, yes, but also hopeful and affirming. At a time when the whole world was sideways, we felt the pull of the novel taking us to another time and place. The writing is – simultaneously – sparse yet rich. Every word and image are carefully chosen to maintain the atmosphere. *A Town Called Solace* helps us to know how to know ourselves and our place in the world. We couldn't help but be touched by her exploration of family (both the ones we are born into and the ones we create for ourselves), and the formative experiences that define us... along with the often-invisible bonds that tether us."

– ***Enid Wray & Julie Wendland, Co-Chairs, Evergreen Award Committee***

The Evergreen Award[™] is designed for adults of any age and the lists are comprised of Canadian fiction and non-fiction titles. Adult library patrons have the opportunity to explore these books by themselves, through their public library or just in a book club format. A group of experienced library staff have come together to share their favourite reading with adult readers.

Thank you to everyone who voted, and congratulations to Mary Lawson!

About *A Town Called Solace*: *A Town Called Solace*, the brilliant and emotionally radiant new novel from Mary Lawson, her first in nearly a decade, opens on a family in crisis. Sixteen-year-old Rose is missing. Angry and rebellious, she had a row with her mother, stormed out of the house and simply disappeared. Left behind is seven-year-old Clara, Rose's adoring little sister. Isolated by her parents' efforts to protect her from the truth, Clara is bewildered and distraught. Her sole comfort is Moses, the cat next door, whom she is looking after for his elderly owner, Mrs. Orchard, who went into hospital weeks ago and has still not returned.

Enter Liam Kane, mid-thirties, newly divorced, newly unemployed, newly arrived in this small northern town, who moves into Mrs. Orchard's house—where, in Clara's view, he emphatically does not belong. Within a matter of hours, he receives a visit from the police. It seems he is suspected of a crime.

At the end of her life, Elizabeth Orchard is also thinking about a crime, one committed thirty years previously that had tragic consequences for two families, and in particular for one small child. She desperately wants to make amends before she dies.

Told through three distinct, compelling points of view, the novel cuts back and forth among these unforgettable characters to uncover the layers of grief, remorse, and love that connect them. *A Town Called Solace* is a masterful, suspenseful, darkly funny and deeply humane novel by one of our great storytellers.

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The Forest of Reading program is a national program and was created in 1995 as a project of the [Ontario Library Association \(OLA\)](#). The OLA is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with 5,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program.

[Tinlids Inc.](#) is the official wholesaler for the 2023 Forest of Reading program.

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