

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION

THE WINNER of The 2004 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction is ISABEL HUGGAN (France) for her book, *BELONGING: HOME AWAY FROM HOME*, published by Alfred A. Knopf Canada. The prize of \$25,000 was awarded at a luncheon at the Windsor Arms Hotel in Toronto.

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION was founded to commemorate the life and work of the late Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community.

BELONGING: HOME AWAY FROM HOME traces one woman's progress in understanding the mysterious ways in which chance and choice shape our lives. At the core of the book is an old stone house set among vineyards in the foothills of the Cévennes mountains in the south of France. As certain patterns emerge – heartache, happiness, friendship, place – we see how all of us construct our lives through remembrance and storytelling.

Of the book, the jury said: "Isabel Huggan's *BELONGING: HOME AWAY FROM HOME* is at once travelogue and memoir. She moves with her husband to postings in places as different as Kenya and the Philippines, until the couple settle in an old farmhouse in the south of France. Her openness to people and new experiences is revealed through her elegant narrative and illuminated by her intimate prose and sharp insights."

ISABEL HUGGAN grew up in Elmira Ontario, an experience that shaped her prize-winning first book, *THE ELIZABETH STORIES*, which established her as an original, talented writer. In 1987 her husband's work took the family to Kenya and she has found herself living abroad ever since – a situation reflected in her next book, *YOU NEVER KNOW*. Her work has been published in the United States, Great Britain, France, Spain, Holland and Italy. She still returns yearly to Canada from her current home in France.

THE JURORS for The 2004 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are Wayson Choy (Toronto), Robert Kroetsch (Winnipeg), and Eva-Marie Kroller (Vancouver). They selected *BELONGING: HOME AWAY FROM HOME* from among 182 books submitted by 38 publishers from all across Canada. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction, published between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2003, were eligible if authored by a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and widely available in Canada.

IN A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT at the conclusion of today's proceedings, Noreen Taylor, Chairman of the Charles Taylor Foundation Board of Trustees, stated that the Prize will be awarded annually. "The field of literary non-fiction has grown significantly in the last few years. The Trustees have watched this development with attention and we have responded. It is now my privilege to announce that from today The Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction will be an annual event," said Mrs. Taylor.



THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Robert Bringhurst (Vancouver), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WINNER OF
THE 2004 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION:

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