



THE WRITERS'
UNION OF CANADA

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For Immediate Release

SHORT LIST ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2010 DANUTA GLEED LITERARY AWARD

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce the short list of nominees for the fourteenth annual DANUTA GLEED LITERARY AWARD. The Award recognizes the best first English-language collection of short fiction by a Canadian author published in 2010. The Award consists of cash prizes for the three best first collections, with a first prize of \$10,000 and two additional prizes of \$500.

Judges **Douglas Glover**, **J. Jill Robinson**, and **Claire Holden Rothman** shortlisted the following nominees:

Darcie Friesen Hossack, *Mennonites Don't Dance* (Thistledown Press)

R.W. Gray, *Crisp* (NeWest Press)

Billie Livingston, *Greedy Little Eyes* (Vintage Canada)

Alexander MacLeod, *Light Lifting* (Biblioasis)

Teri Vlassopoulos, *Bats or Swallows* (Invisible Publishing)

The winners will be announced in Toronto on Saturday, May 28, 2011 at a banquet during the OnWords Conference and Annual General Meeting of The Writers' Union of Canada. A press release will be posted that day on the Union's website, www.writersunion.ca.

The Award was created as a celebration of the life of Danuta Gleed, a writer whose short fiction won several awards before her death in December 1996. Danuta Gleed's first collection of short fiction, *One of the Chosen*, was posthumously published by BuschekBooks. The Award is made possible through a generous donation from **John Gleed**, in memory of his late wife, and is administered by The Writers' Union of Canada.

The Writers' Union of Canada is our country's national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well-being of all writers.

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For additional information
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Jury Comments on the Finalists for the 2010 DANUTA GLEED LITERARY AWARD

Darcie Friesen Hossack, *Mennonites Don't Dance* (ThistleDown Press)

Readers easily and gladly enter the world Darcie Friesen Hossack has created in *Mennonites Don't Dance*. That world, a primarily Mennonite world, is peopled with an array of characters both fair and foul, kind and cruel, characters all engaged to greater or lesser degrees in what Faulkner has called the "struggles of the human heart." These fine stories are written with great care, unfolding naturally and skilfully.

R.W. Gray, *Crisp* (NeWest Press)

The characters of R. W. Gray's *Crisp* are all melancholy contortionists, adroit and dexterous lovers of the impossible and the lost. Bridging precise, realistic emotional analysis and explosive, post-modern hyperbole, these beautifully written stories are poignant homages to the fatal trajectories of the human heart.

Billie Livingston, *Greedy Little Eyes* (Vintage Canada)

Billie Livingston's writing has energy, spunk and daring. In this collection the writer's eyes are wide open, taking in the world and then reflecting it in all its strangeness and beauty. She pushes edges, teeters on brinks, creating the exhilaration that comes only with taking risks. Her characters are real people in a real world who achieve break-out velocity and recreate themselves by signal acts of courage and self-definition. Frequently, her plots hinge on a demand for justice in a world clouded with calculation and evasion, resulting in a collection as strong in content as it is in style.

Alexander MacLeod, *Light Lifting* (Biblioasis)

The stories in Alexander MacLeod's *Light Lifting* are dense with the tragic poetry of the everyday. His narrators speak in a deceptively relaxed vernacular that reflects a fierce emotional intensity just beneath the surface of the words, the stoic heroism of the common man and woman, and MacLeod's commitment to realistic story-telling.

Teri Vlassopoulos, *Bats or Swallows* (Invisible Publishing)

A mother recounts the story of her adult son, who makes his living as a stripper. A young woman grapples with her father's death by drowning in the Aegean Sea by plunging into a swimming pool in Montreal. The stories in Teri Vlassopoulos's *Bats or Swallows* are told with grace, wit and a bold and original eye for detail. A debut collection full of delights.