The Break Chosen as 2017 Forest of Reading® Evergreen Award™ Winner

Adult readers across Ontario vote for the best Canadian fiction and non-fiction

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (October 13, 2017) – After months of reading the best in Canadian fiction and non-fiction for adults, readers from over 100 Ontario libraries have chosen Katherena Vermette’s The Break as the 2017 Evergreen Award winner.

A powerful intergenerational family saga, The Break showcases Katherena Vermette’s abundant writing talent and positions her as an exciting new voice in Canadian literature.

“Books have been some of my best teachers and friends. And, if it weren’t for a library, I wouldn’t have even known most of them.” Vermette says. “Thank you, Ontario Library Association, for honouring my own book with this award. It means so much. Keep up the excellent work!”

Ontario readers participated in the Evergreen Award program through book clubs, their public libraries, and other community forums. The reading program is designed for adults and comprised of the best titles in Canadian fiction and non-fiction. It is one of eight programs that form the Forest of Reading, Canada’s largest recreational reading program of its kind.

“I’m honoured to welcome Katherena Vermette to the circle of Evergreen award winners. I was deeply moved by The Break, a powerful story about the complexity of families, strength and resilience while facing violence head on,” says Kathryn Lee, Chair, Evergreen Award Steering and Selection Committee. “It fills me with hope to see The Break and Katherena recognized by Evergreen readers.”

A committee of library professionals chooses the titles nominated for the Evergreen Award, which are announced every January. Votes are tallied for the award in the month of September and the award is being announced during the kick off to Ontario Public Library Week.

About The Break: When Stella, a young Métis mother, looks out her window one evening and spots someone in trouble on the Break — a barren field on an isolated strip of land outside her house — she calls the police to alert them to a possible crime. In a series of shifting narratives, people who are connected, both directly and indirectly, with the victim — police, family, and friends — tell their personal stories leading up to that fateful night. Lou, a social worker, grapples with the departure of her live-in boyfriend. Cheryl, an artist, mourns the premature death of her sister Rain. Paulina, a single mother, struggles to trust her new partner. Phoenix, a homeless teenager, is released from a youth detention centre. Officer Scott, a Métis policeman,
feels caught between two worlds as he patrols the city. Through their various perspectives a larger, more comprehensive story about lives of the residents in Winnipeg’s North End is exposed.

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**About the Ontario Library Association:** The Ontario Library Association (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. Follow us on Twitter @ONLibraryAssoc and like us on Facebook at Ontario Library Association.

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