

***The Last Neanderthal* Chosen as 2018 Forest of Reading®
Evergreen Award™ Winner**

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

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (October 12, 2018) – After months of reading the best in Canadian fiction and non-fiction for adults, readers from over 100 Ontario libraries have chosen Claire Cameron’s *The Last Neanderthal* (Doubleday Canada) as the 2018 Evergreen Award winner.

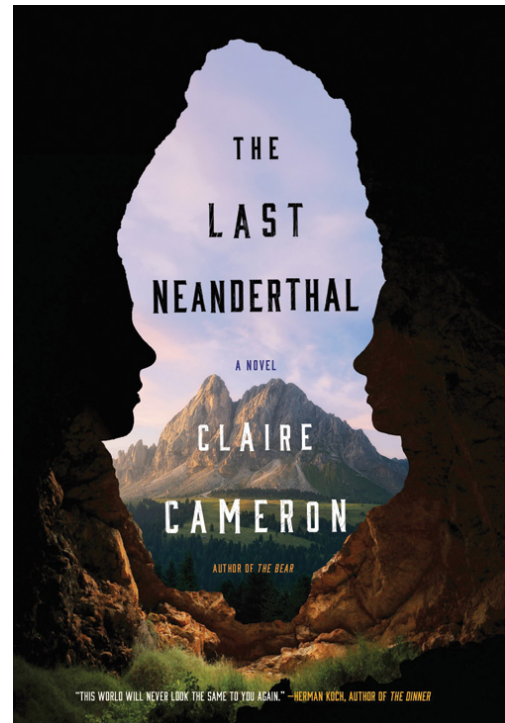
The Last Neanderthal is the enthralling story of two women separated by millennia, but linked by an epic journey that will transform them both.

“It is uplifting to know that *The Last Neanderthal* was chosen as this year’s Evergreen winner. Cameron has written a story that makes you reflect on and appreciate female strength, and it is heartening to see it connect with Evergreen readers,” says Kathryn Lee, Chair, Evergreen Award Steering and Selection Committee. “I am glad to welcome Cameron to the circle of Evergreen award winners.”

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 seven programs that form the Forest of Reading, Canada’s largest recreational reading program of its kind.

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 announced during the kick off event to Ontario Public Library Week.

About *The Last Neanderthal*: Forty thousand years in the past, the last family of Neanderthals roams the earth. After a crushingly hard winter, their numbers are low, but Girl, the oldest daughter, is just coming of age and her family is determined to travel to the annual meeting place and find her a mate. But the unforgiving landscape takes its toll, and Girl is left alone to care for Runt, a foundling of unknown origin. As Girl and Runt face the coming winter storms, Girl realizes she has one final chance to save her people, even if it means sacrificing part of herself. In the modern day, archaeologist Rosamund Gale works well into her pregnancy, racing to excavate newly found Neanderthal artifacts before her baby comes. Linked across the ages by the shared experience of early motherhood, both stories examine the often-taboo corners of women’s lives. Haunting, suspenseful, and profoundly moving, *The Last Neanderthal* asks us to reconsider all we think we know about what it means to be human.



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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