



## Dance on the Earth: a Memoir

*Margaret Laurence*

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## **Dance on the Earth: a Memoir** Margaret Laurence

In this, her final work, Margaret Laurence tells the story of her life, the process of her writing, and the people and emotional journeys which accompanied it. She relates her experiences living in different cultures; the issues and causes she so passionately upheld; her personal battle against censorship. She also pays tribute to the three women from whom she drew important spiritual strength.

Including a selection of her articles, speeches, and letters – many never before published – and photographs selected by Margaret Laurence from her personal family albums, *Dance on the Earth* is a book in which Margaret Laurence speaks about her place in the world as a woman, a writer, and a concerned human being.

## **Dance on the Earth: a Memoir Details**

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Author : Margaret Laurence

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## **From Reader Review Dance on the Earth: a Memoir for online ebook**

### **Dsinglet says**

Margaret Laurence led a quite conventional life at least as depicted in her autobiography. She was raised by three mothers, one an aunt, one a grandmother and her own mother who died young. She lived through WW, depression and poverty as a child. Her spirit was always strong and independent. She knew early on that she would be a writer and followed her vision. She married in her twenties and spent years following her husband to various work locations, some in Africa. She talks about the creation of her novels and how Stone Angel was pivotal to her. She left her husband to concentrate more fully on writing after it's publication. She says her children always came first, then her writing. I enjoyed her descriptions of the various places they lived in and how dedicated she was to being a mother.

Apparently the local authority's felt that Stone Angel and later the Diviners contained pornographic material. She was very hurt by this and spent quite a bit of energy defending her novels. She also spent much time discussing "The Cold War" and nuclear proliferation. I found this part of the material dated and her stance over blown which is why I only gave this three stars. But a good and honest portrayal of a struggling writer.

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### **Elaine Cougler says**

Dance on the Earth: a Memoir by Margaret Laurence. Written as Laurence's last gift to a world she was soon to leave, this remembrance encapsulates the Laurence philosophy which so successfully permeated her books for so many years. The personal references are included to illumine her shining zeal for this good earth, and are never too personal or included at the expense of the privacy of her family or friends. The book ends with a treasury of poems and letters, personal yet of worldly significance, which further light the way to an understanding of this complex yet simple woman. I sincerely wish I had acted on my earlier impulses and written to tell her of my esteem for both her and her books. Now I am too late. Written in February, 1990.

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### **Vontel says**

I chose to reread this book after a mention of it at a celebration of life this summer. It is probably 20 years since I first read it. It is an excellent memoir written by an outstanding author who happened to be Canadian. She describes many of her influences, challenges and support through family and some friends; and her compulsion to be a writer, as well as a wife and mother, at a time when few women were able to contemplate doing both.

The stories of how her various books came to be are fascinating. I still remember Margaret Lawrence doing a reading/presentation in the late 70's when I was in Moose Jaw, when I had read many of her prairie books. I also remember her smoking on the stage during her presentation, something that would never happen now!

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### **Paula Dembeck says**

I really enjoyed this book.

Laurence approaches the task of telling us about her life through what she describes as the "gifts" of three women she loved dearly and were role models for her during her lifetime: her biological mother who died when she was four, her Aunt Margaret who eventually became her "other mother" when she married her widowed father and her mother-in-law.

This was the last book Laurence wrote and it was published posthumously. She died at the age of sixty with advanced stage four lung cancer. Several years later we learn that she had committed suicide, something that was kept from the public for many years. But it should be no surprise after reading about friends and family who had spent long difficult days at the bedside of their dying relatives and the human toll that took.

Margaret's voice fills this book. You can almost see and hear her sitting at the table with a cigarette and a glass of whiskey, telling you her tale. She shares not only the events of her life, her triumphs and failures, but she also speaks of her loneliness, the incredible joy her children brought her, and the evolution of her writing.

A wonderful book, greatly enhanced by the reader's knowledge of her writing.

The end of the book has some additional poems and prose pieces, some of which have never been published, which also adds to the volume.

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### **Tanya Presse says**

Interesting perspectives on being a female Canadian writer.

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### **Janet Aird says**

I love all Margaret Laurence's novels, so I was very excited to read her memoir. She gives a lot of insight into her life, her career and her thoughts about issues, which is interesting. The one thing I wish she'd gone into more is her emotional life. I think it's a funny relationship we have with writers who touch our inner lives - we almost feel that we have the right to be in touch with theirs.

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### **Josephine Ensign says**

Laurence's works and words on women's rights and environmental justice ring just as—if not more—true today than they did during her lifetime. This memoir of hers was balm to my bruised soul and I thank her and her children who made the publication of this memoir possible after her untimely death from cancer.

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### **Marilyn says**

This was a good book. It was very sad that she committed suicide though.

