



Celia's Song **A Novel by Lee Maracle**

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Finalist, 2020 Neustadt International Prize for Literature
Longlisted, 2015 CBC Canada Reads
Shortlisted, 2015 ReLit Award
Commended, 2014 CTV Ottawa Best Reads of the Season

Mink is a witness, a shape shifter, compelled to follow the story that has ensnared Celia and her village, on the West coast of Vancouver Island in Nuu'Chahlnuth territory. Celia is a seer who – despite being convinced she's a little “off” – must heal her village with the assistance of her sister, her mother and father, and her nephews. While mink is visiting, a double-headed sea serpent falls off the house front during a fierce storm. The old snake, ostracized from the village decades earlier, has left his terrible influence on Amos, a residential school survivor. The occurrence signals the unfolding of an ordeal that pulls Celia out of her reveries and into the tragedy of her cousin's granddaughter. Each one of Celia's family becomes involved in creating a greater solution than merely attending to her cousin's granddaughter. *Celia's Song* relates one Nuu'Chahlnuth family's harrowing experiences over several generations, after the brutality, interference, and neglect resulting from contact with Europeans.

Reviews

“Maracle does not shy away from the worst social ills pulling the community apart – suicide, alcoholism, and sexual abuse among them – but she denies the fatalistic view, offering room for hope instead.” – *The Globe and Mail*

The Author

Lee Maracle was a member of the Sto:Lo nation. She was born in Vancouver and grew up on the North Shore. She wrote the critically acclaimed novels *Ravensong* and *Daughters Are Forever*, as well as a young adult novel, poetry, and creative non-fiction. Her work has been published in anthologies and scholarly journals worldwide. The mother of four and grandmother of seven, Maracle was also an instructor at the University of Toronto, the Traditional Teacher for First Nation's House, Centre for Indigenous Theatre, and the S.A.G.E. (Support for Aboriginal Graduate Education). In 2019, Maracle was shortlisted for the Neustadt Prize, widely regarded as the 'American Nobel.' Maracle recently received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work promoting writing among Aboriginal Youth. Maracle also served as Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, and the University of Western Washington.



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