

Susan Musgrave: Notes for Hosts of Literary Readings

In the April 2003 edition of PLAYBOY, Susan Musgrave is referred to as "one of the most beautiful and interesting women on the planet."

Susan comments: "Before you jump to conclusions about PLAYBOY having matured in their depiction of ideal beauty, the article in which this quotation appeared, "The Last Heist", was written by my husband, Stephen Reid, who is serving an eighteen year sentence for his last bank heist. He doesn't meet many women of any description where he is locked up, on the Devil's Island of the Canadian penitentiary system, William Head (a.k.a Club Fed).

Her most recent novel is *Cargo of Orchids*, latest poetry collection *What the Small Day Cannot Hold: Collected Poems 1970-1985* (Beach Holme). *You're in Canada Now...A Memoir of Sorts* was published in the fall of 2005.

She has published 25 books: she is a poet, novelist, children's writer, essayist, columnist and frequent guest on the C.B.C. She has been described as everything from a standup comedian to an eco-feminist. She lives on Vancouver Island and on the Queen Charlottes/Haida Gwaii.

She has been nominated, and has received awards, in six different categories of writing: poetry, fiction, non-fiction, personal essay, children's writing and for her work as an editor.

She wrote the lyrics to a song, "Missing," dedicated to sixty-two of the missing women on Vancouver's downtown eastside, which has recently been released on a CD. Proceeds from sales go to Haven Society, who provide a transition house for women and children who have suffered abuse, as well as a Victim Services/Women's Assault Programme on Vancouver Island.

ABOUT HER PUBLIC PERFORMANCES:

.....a fearless woman on the page and on the stage, quite probably Canada's greatest living poet....." Roselawn Centre, Port Colborne, Ontario

“It didn't matter if you hadn't heard of Susan Musgrave. Or if you hadn't read her books. By the end of the evening everyone knew everything about her and were moved by the poignancy of her words.”

-Toronto Star review of Harbourfront performance

“Susan Musgrave has made me hate poetry a little less.”

- Spectrum High School student, Victoria, B.C

COMMENTS ON HER POETRY:

“I've discovered the ultimate combination of books for Anarchist Grade Nine (to 12) girls: Story of O and Things That Keep and Do Not Change by Musgrave. If someone offered those two books as a package deal to angry young femmes I think Susan would become rich off poetry royalties.”

Bookseller at Coles, Toronto