



## **One Book Nova Scotia 2016: *The Deception of Livvy Higgs*,**

**by Donna Morrissey**

### **Read-Alikes**

#### **The Stone Angel by Margaret Laurence**

Livvy Higgs has much in common with Hagar Shipley, protagonist of *The Stone Angel*. Both are elderly women, reflecting on their lives as they near death, and both have their share of darkness in their respective pasts.

#### **Fall on Your Knees by Ann-Marie MacDonald**

Both of these novels are influenced by the locations in which they take place: small towns in Newfoundland and Cape Breton, both of which were ultimately traded for Halifax. Their lives are shaped by the secrets and dysfunction which hold them, at least metaphorically, rooted in place, even after their escape to the big city.

#### **The Lake House by Kate Morton**

*Livvy Higgs* takes place in both the present and the past, with Livvy's memories filling in the story. *The Lake House* also shifts time periods, though with the focus on several characters. Central to both stories is a family secret that has a hold on everyone.

#### **From a Good Home by Trudi Johnson**

Johnson's first novel is a Newfoundland-based story that spans several decades and includes family secrets suddenly coming to light.

#### **The Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards**

In this novel, as in Morrissey's, two families are bound to each other, unhappily so, after one fateful decision and a long history of ramifications.

#### **Natural Order by Brian Francis**

Morrissey's novel shares much in common with Torontonion author, Francis' award-winning novel. Both reflect on family, love and loss, relationships, secrets, and long lives lived.

#### **Glass Voices by Carol Bruneau**

Bruneau and Morrissey share a similar introspective writing style. *Glass Voices* is similar in tone to *Livvy Higgs*, and the novels share a Halifax setting, as well as an older protagonist, examining her life and the cast of characters who have moved through it.

### **These Four Walls by Susan Cameron**

Cameron's novel begins in Depression-era Halifax and travels through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its most striking similarity to *Livvy Higgs* is in the mother-daughter relationship that drives the storytelling, and the daughter's desire to better understand her mother's past and how it has affected their shared history.

### **Her Mother's Daughter by Lesley Crewe**

Taking Tolstoy's authorial advice about unhappy families to heart, Crewe and Morrissey both use their novels to explore the adage that "...each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." How do secrets and various tragedies –and, ultimately, unhappiness – affect their respective protagonists and their families?

### **A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman**

Though certainly lighter in tone than *Livvy Higgs*, both Ove and Livvy befriend the young family who move in next door, providing both protagonists with an opportunity to soften and find solace and comfort in a new, healthy friendship.