

## Pamela Porter

Pamela Porter was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and lived in New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Washington and Montana before immigrating to Canada with her husband, the fourth generation of a Saskatchewan farm family. Porter graduated from the creative writing programs at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and the University of Montana.

She lives near Sidney, BC with her husband, children and a plethora of rescued animals. Pamela Porter spends most of her year here on the Island, but summers are spent where the skies are big and blue, and the farm fields are measured in sections, not acres. There on the unrumpled prairie, Porter, an outsider granted entry by virtue of her marriage to a Saskatchewan native, found herself an audience of one for everyday tales told in Weyburn farm kitchens and coffee shops.

"In small towns, you can sit and listen to what is going on in other people's lives, and it's quite profound," Porter says. "I would sit there among all these people Rob (Porter's husband) had grown up with. They would sit and talk about what the town used to look like, who they knew, what they're doing now. I wouldn't have a whole lot to contribute, so I would sit and listen."

Recently, stories that sprung from those small-town tales have brought her national acclaim.

She wrote for 30 years before her first work, *Sky*, was published, but it was *The Crazy Man*, her second piece of juvenile fiction, a work inspired in those prairie summers, that heated up Porter's profile. Among the awards she earned were the 2005 Governor General's Award for Children Literature (English), the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award and the 2006 Canadian Library Association Book of the Year.

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<http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story.html?id=b5e2ad14-742b-45e2-a8d1-08e5ca2a8d6e&k=68448> AND The Writers' Union of Canada

[http://www.writersunion.ca/ww\\_profile.asp?mem=1505&L=](http://www.writersunion.ca/ww_profile.asp?mem=1505&L=)

Her novel in narrative poems, *The Crazy Man* (2005), won the Governor General's Award, the Texas Institute of Letters Friends of the Austin Public Library Young Adult Book Award, was named the Canadian Library Association Children's Book of the Year, and a Jane Addams Peace Association (New York) Honour Book. Her first novel for young readers, *Sky* (2004), was selected Best of the List by the Children's Cooperative Book Center at the University of Wisconsin, and recommended by Teaching Tolerance magazine from the Southern Poverty Law Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, was five times a "Discovery"/The Nation semi-finalist, twice a Canadian Literary Awards finalist, and was included in the Atlanta Review 10th anniversary anthology. Her second manuscript of poetry has been a finalist for the National Poetry Series competition in the U.S. She was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico and has taught in colleges and universities in New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Montana before immigrating to Canada with her family.

(Courtesy of <http://finearts.uvic.ca/writing/faculty/porter.html>)

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A CM article based on an interview conducted in Winnipeg on October 20, 2007, and revised August, 2008 is available at:

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/cm/profiles/porter.html>

*Yellow moon, apple moon /* by Pamela Porter, Matt James.  
Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2008  
Education Library PZ7 P8127 YI 2008

*Stones call out*  
Regina, SK: Coteau Books, 2006.  
Koerner Library PS8581 O7573 S76 2006

*The crazy man*  
Toronto: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2005  
Education Library PS8581 O7573 C73 2005

*Sky /* by Pamela Porter; illustrated by Mary Jane Gerber.  
Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2004.  
Education Library PZ7 P8127 Sk 2004

*Poems for the luminous world*  
Victoria, B.C.: Frog Hollow Press, 2002  
Koerner Library PS8581 O7573 P54 2002