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Award-winning poems are “riveting and utterly original”

PITTSBURGH—Laura Read’s debut prize-winning collection *Instructions for My Mother’s Funeral* has just been published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. *Instructions . . .* earned Read the 2011 Donald Hall Prize in Poetry from the Association of Writers & Writing Programs.

The 42-year-old explained that her book examines how the loss of a parent at a young age can color the way that child looks at the world, even after the child becomes an adult.

“*Instructions for My Mother’s Funeral* uncovers the mysteries of girlhood in haunting tableaux and encounters with the past, and then gradually moves us into the domestic present,” said Dorianne Laux, the 2011 judge. “The death of a father and remarriage of a mother, a complicated relationship with a brother, seen through a child’s eyes; a house stoppered like a bottle where she sits alone in the quiet aftermath . . . a mature lyrical voice translating memory’s turbulent, wordless world.”

“Read’s poems are like magnifying glasses,” stated Kathleen Flenniken. “Looking through them, we see moments both hyperreal and distorted, beautiful and awful. They offer up truth. They start fires. Her story of early grief and growing up is riveting and utterly original told through these extraordinary close-ups.”

Read teaches composition, literature, and creative writing at Spokane Falls Community College. She has been published in a variety of journals, most recently *Rattle*, *Mississippi Review*, *Third Wednesday*, and *Bellingham Review*. Her chapbook, *The Chewbacca on Hollywood Boulevard Reminds Me of You*, was the 2010 winner of the Floating Bridge Chapbook Award. She resides in Spokane, Washington, with her husband and her two sons.

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