

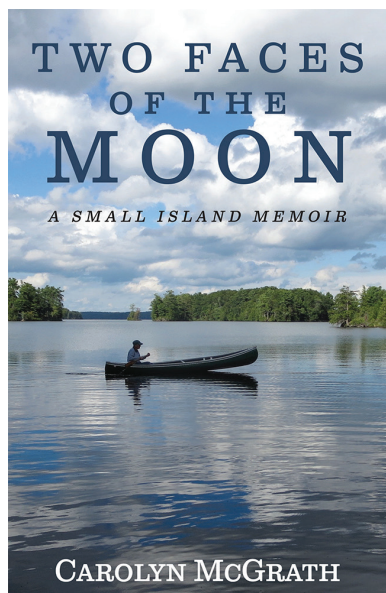


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TWO FACES OF THE MOON

A SMALL ISLAND MEMOIR

Carolyn McGrath



Each summer Carolyn McGrath leaves her home and husband to live alone in her log cabin on a small island on a lake in Ontario. Her only companions are two dogs, abundant wildlife, and the ghost of her father, who died and left the island to her when she was seventeen. During the summer of 2001, she challenges her husband's claim that her need for isolation renders her strange by recounting stories of many women who have sought solitude in order to explore the world for themselves. After visiting her dying mother in a nursing home, she finds consolation in returning to the wild beauty of nature. While she'd always adored her father, taking from him her love for the lake and for the people who've made their lives there, she struggles to reconcile her feelings for him with the way he'd come to this pristine northern lake to kill the wild creatures with whom she now peacefully shares a home. This leads her to a humbling discovery.

About the Author



Carolyn McGrath has a degree in classics from the University of Iowa and an M.A. in creative writing from Stony Brook University in N.Y. where she taught for years in the Department of English and directed the Stony Brook \$1000 Short Fiction Prize. She now lives in Charlottesville, Virginia, where, before the pandemic, she taught poetry and developmental English and formed a book club in a high security prison for women. In 2020 Canada closed the U.S./Canadian border, causing her to break her record of spending every summer of her life on her island on Bobs Lake.

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