

## ABOUT CAROL DUNBAR

**CAROL DUNBAR** is the author of the critically acclaimed novel, *The Net Beneath Us*, and a former actor, playwright, and coloratura soprano who left her life in the city to move off the grid. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Midwestern Gothic*, and on Wisconsin Public Radio. She writes from a solar-powered office on the second floor of a water tower in northern Wisconsin, where she lives in a house in the woods with her husband, two kids, and a giant Alaskan malamute.



### INTERVIEWS:

#### THE LIFT WDJIO: LIFT READING LIST: CAROL DUNBAR'S "THE NET BENEATH US"

"It's about marriage, parenthood, loss, and self reliance."

#### MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS *THE NET BENEATH US* PRESENTATION

##### DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE: "ROCK, PAPER, WATER"

"The reason I didn't give up on my novel is because it taught me what to think about this place. My novel's fiction, but it's very much telling emotional truths."

##### MIDWESTERN GOTHIC:

##### "CONTRIBUTOR SPOTLIGHT: CAROL DUNBAR"

"Like the weather, I also find that my creative life has cycles, and I really appreciate the reminder that it's all a process with dormant times, stormy times, and other times when you're full to bursting."

##### HAL PRIZE Q&A: 2018 HAL PRIZE FICTION WINNER

"I have found that entering contests makes you a better writer. It forces you to get your work into better shape than you would have had you not entered, so even if you don't win — and most of the time, you don't win — you still get the prize of improving your work and your abilities."

### PUBLICATIONS:

##### THE NEW YORK TIMES: "MODERN LOVE: LOVING HIM MORE WHEN HE WALKS OUT THE DOOR"

"From the moment my husband and I first kissed, I had the feeling that he and I had been trying to reach each other for centuries. That we had lived past lives with arms outstretched, always yearning for the other, but for reasons tragic and outside of our control — war, famine, feuds — we were never able to be together."

##### WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO: NEW MOMS — ONE HUMAN, ONE BEAR — HAVE AN ENCOUNTER IN THE WOODS

"It was like finding a stranger across a room who shared your experience and your reaction, so the connection was instant. She wasn't just a bear, she was a mother who knew I had my young with me, just as I knew about hers, and she didn't like the situation one bit more than I did."

##### GREAT LAKES REVIEW: "THE FACE OF SURRENDER"

"Helgi snapped and growled. The porcupine dodged sideways and Helgi darted after him. I threw myself between them, standing in too-small shoes on a steep grade littered with woodland debris, wearing a stupid nightgown. I knocked into logs and branches, screaming like a crazy person."

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## A harrowing and emotional novel set in rural Wisconsin

*A Winter's Rime* explores the impact of generational trauma, and one woman's journey to find peace and healing from the violence of her past.

Mallory Moe is a twenty-five-year-old veteran Army mechanic, living with her girlfriend, Andrea, and working overnights at a gas station store while figuring out what's next. Andrea's off-grid cabin provides a perfect sanctuary for Mallory, a synesthete with a hypersensitivity to sound that can trigger flashbacks from her childhood.

The getaway that's largely abandoned during the off season starts out idyllic, until Andrea's once-loving behavior turns controlling and abusive, and Mallory once again finds herself not wanting to go home. After a particularly disturbing altercation, Mallory escapes into the subzero night and stumbles into Shay, a teenage girl, injured and asking for help. But it isn't long before she realizes that Shay isn't the only one who needs saving.

"Haunting, hypnotic, and deeply affecting, *A Winter's Rime* shimmers with hard-won wisdom. Carol Dunbar's second novel is a story of quiet heroism and empathy that illustrates a universal truth: when asked for help, extend a hand; the life you save may be your own."

— JILLIAN MEDOFF,

bestselling author of *When We Were Bright and Beautiful*

A WINTER'S RIME  
CAROL DUNBAR  
HARDCOVER 9781250826886 • \$27.99/\$36.99 CAN  
EBOOK 9781250826893 • \$14.99 /\$16.99 CAN

ON SALE 9.12.2023





*He promised her he would never let go.  
She's willing to risk everything to hold on.*

In the aftermath of her husband's logging accident, Elsa has more questions than answers about how to carry on while caring for their two small children in the unfinished house he was building for them in the woods of rural Wisconsin. To cope with the challenges of winter and the near-daily miscommunications from her in-laws, she forges her own relationship with the land, learning from and taking comfort in the trees her husband had so loved. If she wants to stay in their home, she must discover her own capabilities and accept help from the people and places she least expects.

Carol Dunbar, drawing from her own lived experiences, vividly describes the wonder and harshness of life off the grid. Told over the course of a year, *The Net Beneath Us* is a lyrical exploration of loss, marriage, parenthood, and self-reliance; a tale of how the natural world—without and within us—offers us healing, if we can learn where to look.

*"Dunbar delivers both a tumble through the shifting light of grief, and a forgiving forest floor on which to land."*

—LEIF ENGER,

*New York Times* bestselling author of *Peace Like a River* and *Virgil Wander*

*"There are novels that we enjoy, but the most memorable ones, and *The Net Beneath Us* is one of these, leave readers with a sense that our lives have been enriched. An astonishing debut."*

—RON RASH,

*New York Times* bestselling author of *Serena* and *Above the Waterfall*

*"Containing wisdom as deeply rooted as a Wisconsin forest, *The Net Beneath Us* is an evocative and beautifully written meditation on grief and the lasting power of friendship. A story that reminds us that in difficult times, showing vulnerability can be the ultimate act of strength."*

—LUCY TAN,

author of *What We Were Promised*

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