

## ABOUT CAROL DUNBAR

**CAROL DUNBAR** is a former actor, playwright, and coloratura soprano who left her life in the city to move off the grid. Her writing has been published in numerous literary journals and venues including *The New York Times*, *The South Carolina Review*, and *Midwestern Gothic*. She is the recipient of the Hal Prize for fiction and her essays are featured on Wisconsin Public Radio and television. She works from a solar-powered office in a water tower in the woods of northern Wisconsin where she lives with her husband, two kids, and a giant Alaskan Malamute. *The Net Beneath Us* is her debut novel.



### INTERVIEWS:

#### **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 TELEVISION: 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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*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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