



## Bonds of Love and Blood: Short Stories

### Marylee MacDonald

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Marylee MacDonald's wide-ranging short-story collection finds its settings in foreign lands and distant places around the world, from a beggar's apartment building in a maze-like neighborhood on the outskirts of Prague, where a distraught mother is seeking her runaway son; to a murky hotel pool in Vera Cruz, Mexico, where an abusive father and husband inflicts his tyranny on his wife and daughter; to the wintry, wind-scoured plains of Maine, where a farm woman and her hired man learn the limits of their independence and the comfort of their need for each other. But the physical distances, though masterfully handled by the award-winning and much-published former carpenter and building writer and editor, take a back seat to her exploration of the even more difficult terrain that is the distance between human hearts. Exploring topics of personal authenticity, the need for solitude in which to grow, and the painful and confusing clash between diverse personalities and cultures, MacDonald applies insight, power, and delicacy to create characters between whom the psychic space virtually sizzles.

KRISTINE MORRIS (Winter 2016)

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