



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

Jan Karon to Receive 2015 Literary Lifetime Achievement Award

Contact: Janice M. Hathcock
804-692-3592

For Immediate Release

This year the Library of Virginia will honor Jan Karon with the 2015 Literary Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the Library's annual gala celebration on October 17, 2015. Past recipients of this prestigious award include Charles Wright, Lee Smith, William Styron, Earl Hamner, Rita Dove, Louis Rubin Jr., Tom Wolfe, and Edgar Allan Poe.

Jan Karon was born in Lenoir, North Carolina, in 1937. She wrote her first novel when she was 10 years old, the same year she won a short-story contest organized by the local high school. At age 50, she left a career in advertising to be a writer. Her first series of books began as a weekly installment in her local newspaper.

She is the author of the best-selling series of ten Mitford novels featuring Father Timothy Kavanagh, an Episcopal priest, and the fictional village of Mitford, the most recent of which, *Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good*, has spent two months on the *New York Times* best-seller list. She is also the author of 13 other books, including two Father Tim novels, a cookbook, and several books for children. She lives near Charlottesville, Virginia.

At Home in Mitford has been reprinted more than 80 times and nominated three times for an ABBY (American Booksellers Book of the Year Award), which honors titles that bookstore owners most enjoy recommending to customers. *A New Song* won the Christy and Gold Medallion awards for outstanding contemporary fiction in 2000. *A Common Life*, *In This Mountain*, and *Shepherd's Abiding* have also won Gold Medallion awards. *In the Company of Others* was the winner of the Library of Virginia's 2011 People's Choice Award for Fiction.

###

June 4, 2015

800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.lva.virginia.gov

804.692.3500 *phone*
804.692.3976 *ty*