



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Sandra Gioia Treadway
Librarian of Virginia

Lee Smith to Receive 2010 Literary Lifetime Achievement Award

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For Immediate Release

Grundy native Lee Smith is adding another honor to her long list of well-deserved accolades. On October 16, 2010, the Library of Virginia will present her with its 2010 Literary Lifetime Achievement Award at the 13th Annual Literary Awards Celebration.

Smith attended St. Catherine's girl's school in Richmond, Virginia, and graduated from Hollins College where Louis Rubin Jr., the Library of Virginia's 2003 Literary Lifetime Achievement Award Winner and founder of the creative writing program at Hollins, encouraged her to write. Her first novel, *The Last Day the Dogbushes Bloomed*, was developed from her senior thesis at Hollins College and was published by Harper and Row in 1968.

She is the author of 12 novels including *Fair and Tender Ladies*, *Oral History*, *Saving Grace*, *The Last Girls*, *On Agate Hill*, and *Mrs. Darcy Meets the Blue-Eyed Stranger*.

A retired North Carolina State University English professor, Smith has received numerous honors including:

- North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, 2009
- Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award for *On Agate Hill*, 2007
- Southern Book Critics Circle Award for *The Last Girls*, 2002
- Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1999
- Lila Wallace / Reader's Digest Award, 1995–1997
- Robert Penn Warren Prize for Fiction, 1991
- Weatherford Award for Appalachian Literature, 1989
- O. Henry Awards, 1979 and 1981

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Noted for her generosity, sense of humor, multifaceted characters, and historical accuracy, Lee Smith ranks among the South's most gifted writers. In 1991 she was elected as a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Fellowship members are drawn from among writers of fiction, poetry, drama, criticism, and history. To be considered for membership a writer must have been born and raised in the South, resided there for a significant part of his or her life, or have written works that in character and spirit embody aspects of southern experience.

Each autumn, the Library of Virginia hosts the Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration. This gala event, sponsored by Dominion, attracts authors, publishers, and those who enjoy the written word.

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About the Library of Virginia

The Library of Virginia (www.lva.virginia.gov), located in historic downtown Richmond, holds the world's most extensive collection of material about the Old Dominion and has been a steward of the commonwealth's documentary and printed heritage since 1823. The story of Virginia and Virginians has been told in many ways since 1607. At the Library of Virginia it is told through more than 110 million manuscripts and more than 1.9 million books, serials, bound periodicals, microfilm reels, newspapers and state and federal documents, each an individual tile in the vast and colorful mosaic of Virginia's experience.