

JOCELYNE SAUCIER



Born in New Brunswick, Jocelyne Saucier resides in Abitibi, Quebec. The novelist is recipient of the "Ordre des arts et des lettres du Québec", has studied political science and journalism and published five books, all with "Éditions XYZ".

Saucier's first novel, *House of Sighs*, surfaced in 1996. Focusing on the history of a dysfunctional family, it is a "subtle thriller that compares favourably with Poe and Hitchcock at their best" (Eryn LeMesurier, *Woman's Post*). A finalist for the Governor General's Prize that year, this novel reveals Jocelyne Saucier's remarkable writing talent.

Four years later, at the turn of the millennium, *House of Sighs* (finalist of the "France-Québec" prize) appeared in bookstores. The family saga, with mythological dimensions impregnated with a mining universe, has been welcomed by enthusiastic critics. The call has most certainly been heard around the world since eight foreign-translated editions have appeared in subsequent years, most notably in Ukrainian, Catalan, German and Italian.

Expectations were therefore elevated when *Jeanne's Road* emerged in 2006. This story highlights, through the journey of Jeanne Corbin, events of the Marxist past of Rouyn in the early 1930s. We discover the passions and tensions that shook the Abitibian Klondike, an area of unique ideological circumstances, while the novelist draws us to her heroine through strong descriptions, too little known, of our collective history. The book was a finalist in the selection for the "Prix des libraires du Québec" as well as being a finalist for the "Prix Ringuet" and the Governor General's Award.



Next came Saucier's highly acclaimed *And the Birds Rained Down*, an ode to freedom, that appeared in 2011. Receiving numerous honours and awards, more than 250,000 copies have been sold around the world in some 18 languages. This powerful novel depicts hermits who have chosen the freedom offered by an anonymous life in the heart of the forests of the North, and has been the laureate, among others, of the Prix littéraire des collégiens du Québec as well as its Prix de la décennie, the Prix des lecteurs de Radio-Canada, the France-Quebec Literary Prize, the Prix des lecteurs La Presse / Salon du livre de Montréal, the Prix Ringuet, and the Francophonie's Five Continents prize.

In 2019, this inspirational tale was transformed by Louise Archambault into a magnificent film adaptation which has received numerous accolades. ("Prix Iris" of the Public Prize, Dragon of the best International Film of the Gothenburg Film Festival, Public Prize of the Hudson Film Festival, Grand Jury Prize from the Dieppe Canadian Film Festival) starring Andrée Lachapelle ("Prix Iris" for Best Actress), Gilbert Sicotte ("Prix Iris" for Best Actor and the Award from the Dieppe Canadian Film Festival for Best Actor), Rémy Girard (Canadian Screens Awards for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role) and Eve Landry.

In 2020, the anticipated wait for Jocelyne Saucier's next masterpiece was once again rewarded with the publication of *À train perdu* (And Miles To Go Before I Sleep). This novel takes us, along with its anonymous narrator, on a journey with Gladys Comeau, an elderly woman who sets off in pursuit of happiness while traveling via train. Her story intertwines the mining communities of the North with the urban centres of the South. "Between the railway history of the country and Gladys' quest, it is a deeply moving novel in which Saucier explores the search for meaning.", noted Nathalie Collard in the pages of "La Presse". From the school train that hosted the protagonist's childhood, to a transcontinental journey many years later, the narrator inspires us to understand, through Gladys' story, the former glory and eventual decline of the lifestyles and human connections that once existed on the great railway lines.



Keeper of memories, Jocelyne Saucier tells us about the world with disconcerting humanity. In 2021, the Quebec Order of Arts and Letters highlighted her contribution to our literary heritage by mentioning that “If Jocelyne Saucier always knew she wanted to write, we can only hope that she wants to continue to write for a long time.”

RECOGNITION OF THE ENTIRE BODY OF WORK

- Recipient of The Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of Quebec 2021

PRIZES AND HONORS RECEIVED BY NOVELS

And Miles To Go Before I Sleep, novel, XYZ Publisher, Romanichels collection, Montreal, 2020, 264 p.

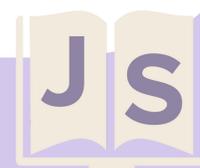
- Mention of Excellence at the 2021 Prix littéraire des écrivains francophones d'Amérique

And the Birds Rained Down, novel, XYZ Publisher, Romanichels collection, Montreal, 2011, 179 p. ; Denoel, Paris, 2013, 203 p. ; Folio, Paris, 2014

- Winner of the Francophonie’s Five Continents prize 2011
- Winner of the 2012 Prix des collégiens
- Winner of the 2012 Prix littéraire des collégiens du Québec en Suède
- Winner of the 2012 Prix des lecteurs de Radio-Canada
- Winner of the 2012 Prix les irrésistibles
- Winner of the 2012 Prix Ringuet of the Académie des lettres du Québec
- Winner of the 2012 Prix des lecteurs La Presse / Salon du livre de Montréal
- Winner of the 2012 France-Québec Prize
- Winner of the 2013 Prix des collégiens de Suède
- Winner of the 2013 Prix de la décennie des collégiens

Jeanne's Road, novel, XYZ Publisher, Romanichels collection, Montreal, 2006, 143 p. ; Quebec Library, Montreal, 2018, 160 p.

- Finalist for the 2006 Governor General’s literary awards of the Canada Council for the Arts
- Selection of the Prix des libraires du Québec 2007



Twenty-One Cardinals, Novel, XYZ Publisher, Romanichels collection, Montréal, 2000, 197 p. ; Quebec Library, Montreal, 2013, 211 p.

- Winner of the 2015 Prix France-Canada

House of Sighs, novel, XYZ Publisher, Romanichels collection, Montréal, 1996, 104 p. ; Quebec Library, Montreal, 2014, 112 p.

- Finalist for the 1996 Governor General's literary awards of the Canada Council for the Arts

