Strange Birds In The Tree Of Heaven: A Novel

Karen Salyer McElmurray

Strange Birds In The Tree Of Heaven by Karen Salyer McElmurray is a book about desire: desire for God, desire for love, desire for the past, and desire for redemption. Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven was winner of the Thomas and Lillian D. Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing. Her novels include Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven (1999) and The Motel of the Stars (2008). Her debut novel, Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven, won the Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. McElmurray's writing has been featured in The New Yorker, The Paris Review, and The Paris Review Daily. She has taught writing at Emory & Henry College and is a member of the Appalachian Writers Alliance. Her work is known for its exploration of the boundaries between beliefs, desires, obsessions, and madness. McElmurray's story is set in Kentucky's coal-mining region, Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven (1999).