

## The Tin Flute (New Canadian Library)

By Gabrielle Roy




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*The Tin Flute*, Gabrielle Roy's first novel, is a classic of Canadian fiction. Imbued with Roy's unique brand of compassion and compelling understanding, this moving story focuses on a family in the Saint-Henri slums of Montreal, its struggles to overcome poverty and ignorance, and its search for love.

An affecting story of familial tenderness, sacrifice, and survival during the Second World War, *The Tin Flute* won both the Governor General's Award and the Prix Fémina of France. The novel was made into a critically acclaimed motion picture in 1983.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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## The Tin Flute (New Canadian Library) By Gabrielle Roy Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

Review

#### Praise for Gabrielle Roy:

“A consummate artist ... Roy communicates masterfully, with a beauty that is quite indescribable.”

— *Toronto Star*

“Only a few modern writers ... could match [Roy's] gift of portraying warmth without sentimentality, joy without delusion. Even when her work described alienation and loneliness, it also reached out in hope.”

— *Maclean's*

*From the Hardcover edition.*

From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

**Gabrielle Roy** was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, in 1909. Her parents were part of the large Quebec emigration to western Canada in the late nineteenth century. The youngest of eight children, she studied in a convent school for twelve years, then taught school herself, first in isolated Manitoba villages and later in St. Boniface.

In 1937 Roy travelled to Europe to study drama, and during two years spent in London and Paris she began her writing career. The approaching war forced her to return to Canada, and she settled in Montreal.

Roy's first novel, *The Tin Flute*, ushered in a new era of realism in Quebec fiction with its compassionate depiction of a working-class family in Montreal's Saint-Henri district. Her later fiction often turned for its inspiration to the Manitoba of her childhood and her teaching career.

In 1947 Roy married Dr. Marcel Carbotte, and after a few years in France, they settled in Quebec City, which was to remain their home. Roy complemented her fiction with essays, reflective recollections, and three children's books. Her many honours include three Governor General's Awards, France's Prix Fémina, and Quebec's Prix David.

Gabrielle Roy died in Quebec City, Quebec, in 1983.

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### **Jacki Peters:**

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