

have travelled much in the world and in the imagination. Your novels and

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short stories, originating in Africa, where you touched the suffering and exhilaration of the struggle for self-determination, have now returned for their settings to your native land where your characters struggle for self-awareness and freedom. Your mythical town, Manawaka, Manitoba, as it appears in The Stone Angel, A Jest of God, and The Diviners, is as well known to your readers as their own back yards. For you have dealt with the place and the people with an emotion as genuine as your craft is honest.

As you yourself have written:

The whole process of fiction is a mysterious one, and a writer, however experienced, remains in some ways a perpetual amateur, or perhaps a perpetual traveller, an explorer of those inner territories, those strange lands of the heart and spirit.

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As fellow-travellers with you, we have shared these explorations into the very heart of the fear and the strangeness, the wonder and the longing of life. Simon Fraser University is honoured by adding to your many distinctions and is pleased to confer on you the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa.