



# MEET THE AUTHOR SERIES

Tara McGuire

author of *Holden After & Before*

Thursday November 24, 2022

Live in person at 7:30pm • \$25 plus GST

*Holden After and Before* is a moving meditation on grief: a stunning book that traces Tara McGuire's excavation and documentation of the life path of her son Holden, a graffiti artist who died of an accidental opioid overdose at the age of twenty-one. Beginning with Holden's death and leaping through time and space, McGuire employs fact, investigation, memory, fantasy, and even fabrication in her search for understanding not only of her son's tragic death, but also of his beautiful life. She navigates and writes across the many blank spaces to form a story of discovery and humanity, examining themes of grief, pain, mental illness, trauma, creative expression, identity, and deep, unending love inside just one of the thousands of deaths that have occurred as a result of the opioid crisis.

With poignant honesty and a heart laid bare, *Holden After and Before* is a beautiful and moving elegy to a son lost to overdose.

Tara McGuire is a writer, voice-over actor, and former broadcaster. She is a graduate of The Writer's Studio at Simon Fraser University and holds an MFA from The School of Creative Writing at The University of British Columbia. She also holds an Honours Diploma in Radio Journalism from the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Tara's first volume-length work: *Holden After and Before*, is a hybrid work in memoir and fiction exploring grief and the opioid crisis in the aftermath of the death of her son, Holden.

*Holden After and Before* is a brave, honest, unspeakably painful but simultaneously beautiful attempt by a 'mother who was a light bulb striking pavement' to come to terms with her young son's life and death. Once I began reading, I could not tear myself from this account, which offers a rich tapestry of memoir and fiction - basically, anything Tara McGuire could recall, discover or imagine - about her son Holden...Tara McGuire enveloped me with her empathy, her desperate hunger to make sense of the senseless, and her humanity. She inspired me with her courageous and unflinching journey - in the wake of any parent's worst nightmare - to become a writer as a means of honouring her lost son.

— Lawrence Hill, author of *The Book of Negroes*

To register, please send us an email at [lyceum@christiannehayward.com](mailto:lyceum@christiannehayward.com) or visit [christiannesdayceum.com/meet-the-author](http://christiannesdayceum.com/meet-the-author).



Copies of *Holden After & Before* are available for sale at the Lyceum.

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