

Illuminations

Portrait of a writer

(1 X 60:00)



Marie-Claire Blais has been a dominant figure in Canada's literary landscape for more than 35 years. The publication of her first novel *La Belle Bête* in 1959 caused a literary sensation in Québec, on the eve of the Quiet Revolution. Within a year it was translated into English as *Mad Shadows*. A restless experimenter with language and form, she continues to challenge her readers by drawing them into a universe of darkness and doubt that reflect the state of the world we live in.



This intimate yet discreet portrait of writer Marie-Claire Blais dwells in the heart of her work where she explores major themes of alienation, solitude, marginality and revolt. Important personalities from the literary world such as Antonine Maillet, Margaret Atwood, Nigel Spencer comment on the scope and the impact that Marie-Claire Blais has had on Canadian Literature while family members and close friends reflect on her personal side.



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World Sales:
HGagnon Distribution inc
Tel. Canada: 1 514 944 8038
henry@hgagnondistribution.com