

## **For Immediate Release**

Loft Literary Center instructor Mary Carroll Moore's new novel, *Qualities of Light*, to be released October 1, has been nominated by publisher Bella Books for the prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award. Around 300 titles are nominated each year; past award-winners have included John Updike and Annie Dillard.

Moore teaches creative writing for the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis; the Connecticut Association of American Penwomen; and the Hudson Valley Writers' Center in Westchester, NY. *Qualities of Light* is Moore's twelfth book, her first novel. Moore is a former nationally syndicated food columnist whose columns appeared weekly in the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*; her writing has won multiple awards, including the coveted Julia Child/IACP Award for best food writing.

*Qualities of Light* is called "a tender and lively coming-of-age tale told with delicate insight" by award-winning author Ann Bannon whose own book, *The Chronicles of Beebo Brinker*, was co-produced off-Broadway last year by actor/comedian Lily Tomlin.

The story explores the budding of forbidden romance in the face of family tragedy, the forging of a new relationship between a daughter and her gifted, difficult parents, and an adolescent girl's confrontation with her own qualities of light and darkness.

"Sensitive exploration of the cruelty and kindness—the intricate balancing act—that is family love. I couldn't recommend it more highly," says Minnesota Book Award winner Ellen Hart.

Moore worked for eighteen years as an editor for various publishing houses and now divides her time between her writing, teaching writing classes, and painting. *Qualities of Light's* main character, Molly Fisher, is a painter studying under her famous artist father's tutelage before crisis hits their family. Moore says, "I drew from my own painting background to make Molly's struggle with light and dark--both literally and figuratively--as realistic as possible." Moore exhibits throughout the U.S. and her Impressionist landscape paintings, many painted outdoors in Minnesota, will be part of a group show at Pacific Street Gallery in New London, CT, through September.

*Qualities of Light* can be ordered through local bookstores; it is also available on amazon.com or from the publisher [www.bellabooks.com](http://www.bellabooks.com).