



The Small Things That End the World

Jeanette Lynes

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It's 1954, and Sadie Wilder is focused on just one thing: the shot she has to prove herself as the rootinest, tootinest, gosh darn best babysitter – or at least better than Wanda Keller, babysitter-extraordinaire for the wealthy, posh Bannister family. When Wanda is unable to fulfill her duties, it is Sadie who leaps at the chance to babysit the Bannister children, Bobby and Faith. Sadie is certain she can deal with any obstacle that might come up, until it starts to rain... and doesn't stop.

What later is discovered by Sadie to be Hurricane Hazel wreaks havoc on the Bannister house, and in the end Sadie manages to save herself and the baby, Faith, from the destruction of the neighbourhood, and goes into hiding, fearing her loss of Bobby will be discovered and she will be punished. Alternating between Faith, Sadie, and Faith's daughter, Amber, Lynes has crafted a beautiful story of three women on the margins as they try and get by on their own. The novel culminates in New Orleans in 2005, as a second hurricane sets the stage for a reunion and redemption.

Jeanette Lynes is the author of seven collections of poetry. Her most recent book of poetry, *Bedlam Cowslip: The John Clare Poems* (Wolsak and Wynn, Buckrider Books, 2015), received the 2016 Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award. Jeanette's novel, *The Factory Voice*, also published by Coteau Books, was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Currently, Jeanette is Coordinator of the new MFA in Writing at the University of Saskatchewan. In 2017 she will be a Visiting Fellow at Bard Graduate Centre in New York City, and in 2018 she will be a Visiting Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.

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