



Letters to Omar

Rachel Wyatt

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Three women with time on their hands tackle a charitable cause in this novel about the pleasures of worshipping someone from afar, and the difficulties involved in trying to make the world a better place.

Dorothy Graham writes unsent letters to people she admires, and to a few she despises. As well, in her retirement she has time to pursue her other hobby -- interfering in the lives of others. With no children of her own, she 'helps' the offspring of her friend and her cousin. But this still isn't enough.

Seeing the mess that the world is in, she and her cohorts Kate and Elsie decide to put together a fund-raising effort for a charity organization. It soon becomes clear to them that putting the universe to rights, in ways large or small, is not an easy task.

The theme of love lost and found also runs through the novel, affecting the old as well as the young. Entangled in family problems -- a stray daughter, an absconded husband, a home threatened with demolition -- the three friends' adventures lead them to understand that while charity doesn't have to begin at home, it might be a good idea to look there first.

Rachel Wyatt is a prolific and award-winning author of novels, short fiction, stage and radio plays and non-fiction works. Her six novels include *The Rosedale Hoax*, *Foreign Bodies*, and *Time's Reach*. A half-dozen professional productions have been mounted of her full-length stage plays, including *Crackpot* and *For Love or Money*. She has also had over 100 plays produced by CBC and BBC radio, and monologues and scenes from her works have been included in many anthologies, most recently in the *Oxford Book of Stories by Canadian Women*.

Rachel Wyatt emigrated to Canada with her family in 1957. She was Director of the Writing Program at the Banff Centre for the Arts during the 1990s and has appeared at writer's conferences across Canada and internationally. She has won the CBC Literary Competition Drama Award and was Awarded the Order of Canada in 2002 and the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2003.

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