

"Ricci belongs on the shelf reserved for writers such as Chatwin, Ondaatje and Flannery O'Connor."

— TIMOTHY FINDLEY

Nino Ricci's first novel was the internationally acclaimed *Lives of the Saints*. It spent 75 weeks on the *Globe and Mail*'s bestseller list and was the winner in Canada of the F.G. Bressani Prize, the *Books in Canada* First Novel Award, and the Governor General's Award for Fiction, and in England of the Betty Trask Award and Winifred Holtby Prize. In the U.S., it was shortlisted for the *Los Angeles Times* Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction and was a *New York Times* Notable Book, and in France it was an *Oeil de la lettre* Selection of the National Libraries Association.

Published in seventeen countries, *Lives of the Saints* was the first volume of a trilogy that continued with *In a Glass House*, hailed as a "genuine achievement" by *The New York Times*, and *Where She Has Gone*, shortlisted for the Giller Prize and longlisted for the *Guardian* Fiction Award. The *Lives of the Saints* trilogy was adapted for a television miniseries starring Sophia Loren and Kris Kristofferson.

Books in Canada commented that Ricci's trilogy "so amply demonstrates the author's tremendous talents that we would be foolish as readers not to follow him down whatever road he next chooses to follow." That road led him to *Testament*, a fictional retelling of the life of Jesus. Hailed as a "masterpiece" by *Saturday Night*, *Testament* was a *Booklist* Choice for the Top Ten Historical Novels of the Year and a *Times Literary Supplement* Book of the Year. It was shortlisted for a Commonwealth Prize and for the Roger's Writers' Trust Award for Fiction and was a winner of the Trillium Award.

Testament was followed by the national bestseller *The Origin of Species*, which earned Ricci the Canadian Authors Fiction Award as well as his second Governor General's Award for Fiction. Set in Montreal in 1980s, the novel casts a Darwinian eye on the life of Alex Fratarcangeli, who is torn between his baser impulses and his pursuit of the Good. "This novel does so well, on so many levels," wrote the *Toronto Star*, "that it's hard to know where to begin tallying up the riches."

Ricci is also the author of *Pierre Elliott Trudeau*, a short biography that forms part of Penguin's *Extraordinary Canadians* series, edited by John Ralston Saul. Ricci's biography, according to *HistoryWire*, "provides the best, and best written, perspective on Trudeau there is."

His most recent novel is *Sleep*. A national bestseller, it was a *Globe and Mail*, *National Post* and *Toronto Star* Best Book and won Ricci his second Canadian Author's Award for Fiction. *Quill & Quire* hailed it as "Ricci's darkest and most thematically daring work to date. . . . A frightening and essential addition to the oeuvre of one of this country's best and most important writers."

Nino Ricci was born in Leamington, Ontario, to parents from the Molise region of Italy, and completed university studies in Toronto, Montreal, and Florence, Italy. He has served as a writer-in-residence for the Toronto and Kitchener public library systems and for the University of Windsor and the University of Toronto Scarborough, and has held the Mariano Elia Chair at York University, the Chair in Religion and the Arts at Assumption University, the G. M. Hopkins Chair in Literary Studies at John Carroll University, the Killam Visiting Professorship in Canadian Studies at Bridgewater University, the Albert H. Daehler Visiting Professorship in Creative Writing at Colorado College and the Pathy Visiting Professorship in Canadian Studies at Princeton. His most recent appointment is as the inaugural Alice Munro Chair in Creativity at Western University. He is also a past president of PEN Canada, a writers' human rights organization that works for freedom of expression.

Ricci has been a recipient of the Alistair MacLeod Award for Literary Achievement, of York University's Pinnacle Achievement Award, of the Engel/Findley Award for a Writer in Mid-Career, and of an honorary doctorate from the University of Windsor. He was appointed a member of the Order of Canada in 2011 and recently held the inaugural Alice Munro Chair in Creativity at the University of Western Ontario. He lives in Toronto with his wife, writer Erika de Vasconcelos.

Find more information as well as press kit materials including downloadable high-resolution publicity photos at www.ninoricci.com.