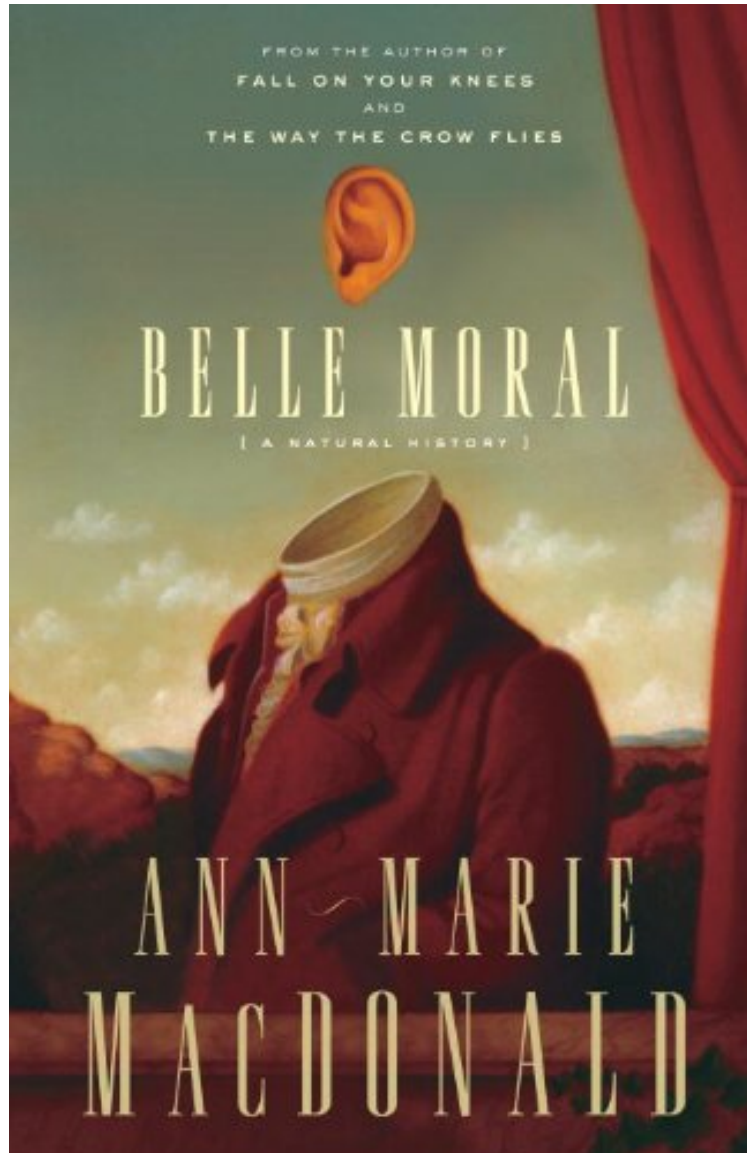


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Belle Moral: A Natural History

Ann-Marie Macdonald

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Ann-Marie Macdonald : Belle Moral: A Natural History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Belle Moral: A Natural History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Gigi GorenIt was not to my liking.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but it wasn't my favorite. It didn't keep me turning the pageBy Mary DooleyI am a fan, but it wasn't my favorite. It didn't keep me turning the page.I like her novels much more.7 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Loved itBy GordonI saw the original production and was blown away. I've read the play several times and still love it. Thank you Shaw festival.

In *Belle Moral: A Natural History*, we are steeped in a world on the cusp between magic and art, and science and madness. Set in 1899 just outside Edinburgh, the play unfolds in the venerable estate known as Belle Moral, home to Pearl MacIsaac, an avid amateur paleontologist and proud "new woman"; her maiden Aunt Flora, a sweetly maternal figure who nonetheless keeps an iron-grip on her set of keys; and a staff of quirky household retainers who seem to know more than they are willing say. As Pearl steels herself for the reading of her late father's will and the inevitable arrival of her wayward younger brother, Victor, she also does her best to dismiss the sinister signs that her home may house another occupant; one whose existence her aunt and the good Doctor Reid seem determined to keep secret. This dark yet redemptive gothic comedy is a story both of family secrets that come to life, and the birth pangs of the modern era—but above all, it is truly a play of morals. Reaching out in two directions to reconcile the extremes of rationalism and romanticism, *Belle Moral* embraces a complex range of thought with Ann-Marie MacDonald's incisive insight and trademark wit. * * * * * Copyright copy; 2005 A. M. MacDonald Holdings Inc. CAUTION: Professionals and amateurs are hereby warned that BELLE MORAL is subject to a royalty. It is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and all British Commonwealth countries, and of all countries covered by the International Copyright Union, the Pan-American Copyright Convention, and the Universal Copyright Convention. All performance rights, including professional, amateur, motion picture, recitation, public reading, radio broadcasting, television, video or sound taping, all other forms of mechanical or electronic reproduction, such as information storage and retrieval systems and photocopying, and rights of translation into foreign languages, are strictly reserved. Inquiries concerning the performance rights should be directed as follows: Lorraine Wells and Company Talent Management Inc., 10 St. Mary Street, Suite 320, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1P9, (416) 413-1676 / fax (416) 413-1680. From the Trade Paperback edition.

"The most significant aspect of *Belle Moral* is the profound contribution of women to society, even if their place is constantly circumscribed and compromised." —Canadian Literature "Bright and satiric. . . . Few other writers are so good at telling a story while arguing an intellectual point." —NOW (Toronto) From the Trade Paperback edition. About the Author ANN-MARIE MACDONALD is an author, actor, playwright and broadcaster. She trained as an actor at the National Theatre School of Canada and has appeared in numerous independent Canadian films. She earned a Genie nomination for her role in *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*, and won a Gemini Award for *Where the Spirit Lives*. She has performed in theatres across Canada, appearing in the Mirvish Production of *Top Girls*. Her first solo-authored play, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* won the Chalmers Award, the Governor General's Award, and the Canadian Authors' Association Award. Her other works for the stage include the libretto for the chamber opera *Nigredo Hotel*, book and lyrics for the musical *Anything that Moves* (which garnered several Dora Awards, including Outstanding New Musical), and *Belle Moral: A Natural History*. Ann-Marie's first novel, *Fall on Your Knees*, was a critically acclaimed international bestseller. It won the Commonwealth Prize, was a finalist for the Giller Prize, and won the People's Choice Award and the Canadian Booksellers Association Libris Award for Fiction Book of the Year. In 2002 it became an Oprah's Book Club selection. It has been translated into 19 languages. Her second novel, *The Way the Crow Flies*, was an international bestseller, a finalist for the Giller Prize, and a Good Morning America Book Club pick. It has been translated into 13 languages. She lives in Toronto with her partner and their two children.