

Local author finalist for CBC award

J.M. Frey's *Triptych* is one of the nominees for this year's CBC Bookie Awards.

Billed as the "people's choice" of Canadian literary awards, the Bookies are in their second year, and include nominees in 10 categories - literary fiction and non-fiction, poetry, mystery or crime, young adult, graphic novel, short story collection, international fiction, international non-fiction and the science fiction, fantasy or speculative fiction category that *Triptych* is nominated in.

Other nominees in the category are *In Other Worlds* by Margaret Atwood, *Wonder* by Robert J. Sawyer, *The Fecund's Melancholy Daughter* by Brent Hayward, and *The Pattern Scars* by Caitlin Sweet.

Frey, who grew up in Fergus and now lives in Toronto, spent three years writing and marketing *Triptych* to publishers before Dragon Moon Press picked it up and published it in spring 2011.

"I am in incredible company on this ballot. I cannot believe that my first novel

is up there beside Margaret Atwood and Robert J. Sawyer," Frey says. "This is a Reader's Choice award, so it means a lot of people had to have told the CBC about *Triptych*. I cannot express how touched that makes me, and how pleased I am that people considered my novel worth nominating."

"I think it's absolutely brilliant that a small press from Alberta has a book on a major Canada-wide award poll," she says.

Frey describes the book as

SEE **AWARD** PAGE 24

Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

a "novel about intergalactic culture shock, accidental time travel, and choosing to love in the face of intolerance."

It's already received a starred review from *Publisher's Weekly*, and was later picked by the publication as one of the top five books of 2011 in

its genre.

Addressing such social issues a gender performance and family dynamics, culture clashes and culture shock, prejudice, violence, and the death of children, *TripTych* is the modern answer to Arthur C. Clarke and Isaac Asimov, an updated social commentary in vein of Heinlein, and a compelling, crafted fiction about what it means

to fight for what you love against intolerance, prejudice, and mob mentality, genre review editor Rose Fox wrote on her blog *Genreville*.

VOTE

Readers have until March 31 to vote for their favourite books in each category through the website at www.cbc.ca/books. Winners will be revealed during the #CanLit twitter chat on

April 5.

The five finalists in each category were chosen by CBC's book-loving producers at CBC Books, Canada Reads, Writers & Company, The Next Chapter and more, with consideration given to your recommendations online, and represent favourite Canadian reads - except for the two international categories - published during 2011.