

For Immediate Release from the New Bedford Art Museum....

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NEW BEDFORD ART MUSEUM TO HOST AWARD-WINNING  
NOVELIST FROM WESTPORT, MA!

## DAWN TRIPP

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# GAME OF SECRETS

AHA NIGHT – THURSDAY AUGUST 11, 2011  
7:30 PM

The New Bedford Art Museum is pleased to be hosting author Dawn Tripp, author of the book *Game of Secrets* for a reading and book signing at the museum this Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Baker Books will be present with copies of *GAME OF SECRETS* for purchase.

Dawn Tripp's fiction has earned praise from critics for her "evocative and luminous" writing (*People Magazine*), her "marvelous characters" (*Orlando Sentinel*) and being "adept at illuminating how age shreds the fabric of both memory and consciousness" (*Boston Globe*). This luminosity, attention to character, and articulation of the effects of aging on memory all come together in her beautifully crafted third novel **GAME OF SECRETS** (Random House; on sale July 5, 2011).

**GAME OF SECRETS** weaves between multiple points of view, as a dark family mystery comes unraveled. In 1957, eleven-year-old Jane Weld's father disappeared. No one in her small New England town knew for sure what happened until, four years later, his skull rolled out of a gravel bank by the river, an unmistakable bullet hole in its temple. Rumor had it he was murdered by the husband of his mistress, Ada Varick.

Now, half a century later, Jane is still searching for the truth of her father's death, a mystery made more urgent by the unlikely romance that her daughter has struck up with one of Ada's sons. Jane and Ada come together for casual Friday board games that soon transform into a cat-and-mouse game of words long left unspoken. As the two women play out, across the board, the stories that bind their lives together, it becomes clear that—more than a reckoning with the past—it is the future of both families that is ultimately at stake. We look forward to your summer coverage of **GAME OF SECRETS**.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**DAWN TRIPP** graduated from Harvard with a B.A. in literature. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband and sons. She is the author of the novels *Moon Tide* and *The Season of Open Water*, which won the Massachusetts Book Award for Fiction.

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"Elizabeth Strout fans will find a lot to admire about Dawn Tripp's new novel, cleverly framed around the idea of revealing old family mysteries through a continuing series of Scrabble games between two aging matriarchs....[A] flair for drop-dead Yankee storytelling... as a grown daughter searches for clues to her long-lost father's ultimate fate in the arrangement of tiny wooden letters"

—**MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE SUMMER PREVIEW**

"Extraordinary...This is a truly important novel by one of our finest writers."

—**ROBERT OLEN BUTLER,**

**Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain***

"Dazzlingly written, Tripp's haunting new novel explores the secrets we keep even from ourselves, the imprint one life can have on another, and the shifting tide of overwhelming love and longing.

A hypnotic literary mystery, Tripp jigsaws the past and present together in a way that's deeply sympathetic, startlingly original and extraordinarily rich."

—**CAROLINE LEAVITT, author of *Pictures of You***

"***Game of Secrets* is a clever and mesmerizing novel** about infatuation, enduring secrets and our relentless quest to make amends. Dawn Tripp's seductive and exalting prose builds a story so luminous its scenes and images and daring ending will linger with you like half-remembered dreams."

—**Jim Lynch, author of *Border Songs***

"Dawn Tripp has me mesmerized. I dropped into a world of poetry in prose, became absorbed in the voices, the landscape, the elusive and yet thoroughly recognizable emotions of her characters. *Game of Secrets* is **the perfect balance of well crafted literature and gripping drama**. Tripp tells her story through fluidly layered lenses of time and point of view, building tension with each shift of focus until I ached to know the outcome but couldn't bear to see my time in her literary dream come to an end."

--**Carol Cassella, author of *Healer and Oxygen***

"In gorgeous, poetic language, Dawn Tripp narrates the lives of two families linked by scandal and tragedy and the ties that bind and divide them. Illuminated throughout by a Bergmanesque boardgame, the novel explores how the past affects the present, and how secrets can mask the path to love. **This is a striking novel of beauty and grace. I adored every page.**"

--**Mameve Medwed, author of *How Elizabeth Barrett Browning Saved My Life***

"Dawn Tripp's *Game of Secrets* is **a wonderfully evocative, gorgeously written novel about small-town secrets**, those dusty skeletons-in-the-closet that come back after years to haunt each of us. Told from several points of view, each voice is at once gritty and realistic yet also poetic and sightful. The novel taunts us with clue after clue until the characters' darkest secrets are revealed, especially to themselves. A wonderful read."

--**Michael White, author of *Soul Catcher and Beautiful Assassin***

"Exquisitely written, *Game of Secrets* is an intriguing drama about two families, the decades-old secret between them, and the revelations that emerge from a seemingly innocent game. Tripp has a true gift for creating characters who seem less invented for fictional purposes than actually alive in the world around us, struggling to come to peace with themselves and one another. **This is an absorbing, poignant, and powerful read.**"

-- **Jessica Treadway, author of *Please Come Back to Me***

"Lush, perfectly calibrated language that opens doors on every page through which the enchanted reader falls."

**-Jenny White, author of *The Winter Thief***

"A brilliant metaphor is at play in the center of *Game of Secrets*, Dawn Tripp's extraordinary new novel. In the ongoing play of a board game, in a surprising, hauntingly resonant plot, and in complex, compelling characters, she illuminates deep truths about the way we try to piece the world together into meaning, working with what we are given, struggling with family and fate and desire and with the restless yearning for an identity, for a self, for a place in the universe.

**This is a truly important novel by one of our finest writers."**

**--Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain***

**"Fair warning: Don't start *Game of Secrets* unless you're prepared to finish it in one sitting. Call in sick, get a sitter for the kids, phone out for pizza... because once these characters get into your head they don't let go.** Tripp proves once again that she has the ability to create a vivid cast of characters equally capable of love and violence. Powerful and eloquent, with a bracing realism and keenly poetic understatement, *Game of Secrets* captures the human heart caught between a desire to begin again and the tidal pull of the past."

**--Kim Wright, author of *Love in Mid-air***

"*Game of Secrets* is at once a beautiful, old-fashioned love story and a heart-stopping literary thriller, full to the brim with the most compelling characters you'll meet this side of Charles Dickens and Jane Austen. ***Game of Secrets* is Dawn Tripp's best novel to date, reminiscent of the fiction of Richard Russo and William Faulkner in the way it brings to life an entire community.** I came away from *Game of Secrets* amazed, delighted, and utterly persuaded that yes, you certainly can go home again, but you'd better do it with your eyes and heart open. Earthy, funny, moving, and constantly surprising, *Game of Secrets* will take you to a whole new universe, one where all you can be truly sure of is the everlasting power of love. It's **a masterwork.**"

**--Howard Frank Moshier, author of *Walking to Gatlinburg***