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**AUTHOR ELEANOR MORSE
IN CONVERSATION WITH ST. MARTIN’S PRESS EDITOR**

The public is warmly invited to a virtual conversation on Tuesday, August 24 at 6 pm, when Eleanor Morse, author of the newly released novel *Margreete’s Harbor*, discusses the creative process with George Witte, senior vice-president and editor-in-chief at St. Martin’s Publishing Group. The free event is being co-hosted by Left Bank Books in Belfast and *The Bangor Daily News*.

A literary novel set on the coast of Maine during the 1960s, *Margreete’s Harbor* was included in *O Magazine’s* “27 of 2021’s Most Anticipated Historical Fiction Novels That Will Sweep You Away!” The story begins when a fiercely independent elderly woman living on her own forgets a hot pan on the stove and nearly burns her home down. Margreete’s daughter Liddie, her husband, and their two children make the difficult decision to uproot themselves from their home in Michigan and move into Margreete’s isolated house in Maine to begin a new life.

Margreete’s Harbor tells the story of a family ten years during the late 1950s through the turbulent 1960s. Liddie, a professional cellist, struggles to find space for her music in a marriage that increasingly confines her; her husband’s critical approach to the growing war in Vietnam endangers his new position as a high school history teacher; their children grapples with finding their own identities as young adults; and Margreete slowly descends into a private world of memories.

Morse's novel has received widespread acclaim since its publication in April. A starred BookPage review called the book "a big-hearted, multi-generational saga with a simmering social conscience." *The Christian Science Monitor* wrote: "Set largely in the 1960s, the cultural upheavals of that tumultuous decade provide a striking backdrop for an intimate story about what it means to be a family." And Howard Norman, author of *The Bird Artist*, wrote that Morse's book is "an exquisite family epic of many moods. . . [and] Liddie is magnificently compelling."

Margreete's Harbor is Morse's fourth novel. Her 2013 book, *White Dog Fell from the Sky*, was a *Publishers Weekly* Pick of the Week. In 2008, she won the Independent Book Publisher's Award for best regional fiction for *An Unexpected Forest*. Morse has taught in adult education programs, in prisons, and in university systems, both in Maine and in southern Africa. She is on the fiction faculty of Spalding University's School of Creative and Professional Writing, and lives year-round on Peaks Island near Portland, Maine.

George Witte is senior vice-president and editor-in-chief of the St. Martin's Publishing Group (SMPG). In his almost forty-year career he was founding editor of Picador USA, and acquiring editor of many *New York Times* bestselling and award-winning books. Witte has edited and published such books as *The Threat* by Andrew McCabe; *Shantaram* by Gregory David Roberts; and SMPG's first Oprah Book Club selection, *The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton. An accomplished poet, Witte has published three books of poems.

Copies of *Margreete's Harbor* (\$27.99) are available at Left Bank Books. Shipping and curbside service are available if you can't make it into the shop in downtown Belfast. For more information, call or email the shop: 207-338-9009; info@leftbankbookshop.com.

