She was born in Neepawa, Manitoba, went to the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, married an engineer named Jack Laurence, and went with him to England, Somaliland and Ghana.

Her novels examine life and life's questions in infinite detail. Her latest is specifically about the life of a woman novelist of 47, called Morag Gunn. As Ms. Laurence says, when a writer fashions characters "they are aspects of yourself." She writes of basic relationships, between men and women, between children and adults, between young and old. Here is a passage from *The Diviners* in which Morag recreates her past:

"Nobody much teases Eva Winkler, any more, either, because Morag gives them the bejesus if they do. Eva is her friend, her one true friend. She loves Eva. She looks down on Eva, too, a bit, because Eva is gutless as a cleaned white fish. It must be awful to be gutless. Gus Winkler still beats his kids, even Eva. He doesn't have to be drunk. In fact he hardly ever drinks and then only beer. He just likes beating his kids, that's all. You couldn't imagine Eva, so pale haired and always saying Oh sorry I didn't mean to even when she'd done nothing, you couldn't imagine her deserving it. Maybe Gus beats her because she's gutless like Mrs. Winkler, like all the kids there. In some awful spooky way Morag can understand this. If you ask for it, you sure as hell get it. But she sticks up for Eva, because Eva is her friend. She doesn't stick up for Eva with Gus though. She never goes over there. She and Christie sit on the front porch and hear it happening. When it does, they never look at each other."

Ms. Laurence lives at Lakefield, Ontario, and has recently been a writer in residence at the University of Western Ontario and Trent University.

Colette Whiten's sculpture was a Canadian entry at the Paris Biennale de Jeunesse. Ms. Whiten, as seen, binds her models into position, then casts them in plaster. The resulting sculpture is supplemented with videotape, film and photographs which document the casting procedures and the great physical demands made on the models.