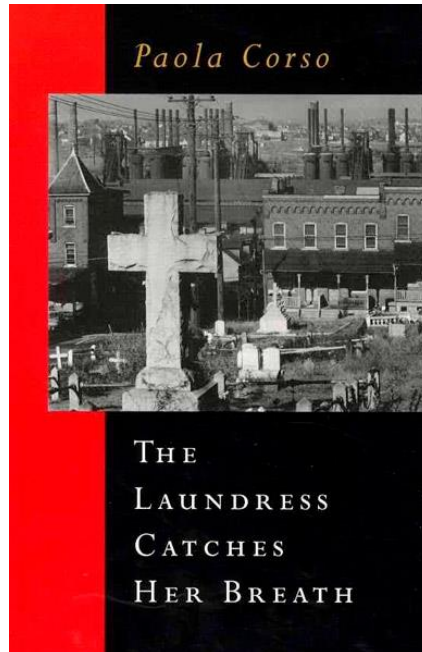


Congratulations to Paola Corso!
**Winner of the Tillie Olsen Award for Creative Writing
for *The Laundress Catches Her Breath***



Judge's comment:

This book is a precisely visionary evocation of working-class Pittsburgh and the struggles of working women. Paola Corso's laundress is a vivid, richly detailed character, hard-working, chain-smoking, grouchy and smart, memorably imperfect and entirely winning. The book is stylistically varied and ingenious. "Hold for Ten Seconds" is a sort of magical realist sequence that involves washing clothes—maybe the first since *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. And the long, astonishing "Heiress to Air" is brilliant, a moving tour de force that William Carlos Williams would have loved.

Jeff Gundy, Bluffton University, for the Working Class Studies Association