

BATCHELDER AWARDS 2011

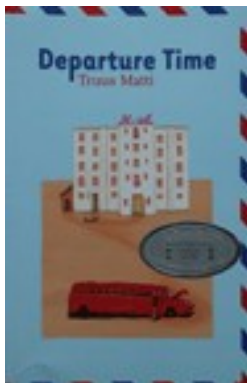
A Time of Miracles



by Anne-Laure Bondoux, translated by Y. Maudet. Originally published in French in 2009 as “Le Temps des Miracles,” the book was written by Anne-Laure Bondoux and translated by Y. Maudet. This sweeping novel tells about a young refugee as he searches for identity, safe haven and truth, from the war-torn Caucasus to the freedom of France, over five arduous years.

Both people and places are rendered fully with telling detail. Love and hope run deep through this layered examination of the human spirit. “The committee was moved by this sweeping saga about a boy’s determined quest, and inspired by his capacity to turn despair toward new horizons,” said Batchelder Award Committee Chair Susan W. Faust.

Departure Time



by Truus Matti, translated by Nancy Forest-Flier. Originally published in Dutch in 2009 as “Vertrektijd,” “Departure Time” was written by Truus Matti and translated by Nancy Forest-Flier. An eleven-year-old mourns the death of her father in chapters set alternately in the real world and a dreamlike hotel staffed by odd crea-

tures. She struggles to escape the snares of grief and regret, growing toward wholeness and acceptance.

“It is impressive how rich symbols, including Bach’s music, help move a grieving girl through a psychological journey from anger to forgiveness,” said Faust.

Nothing



by Janne Teller, translated by Martin Aitken. Originally published in Danish in 2000 as “Intet,” “Nothing,” was written by Janne Teller and translated by Martin Aitken. Fourteen-year-old Pierre Anthon declares that “Nothing matters....so nothing’s worth doing.” He thereby incites an intense philosophical struggle among his classmates that moves from

innocent to insidious. As they force each other to prove and provide meaning, the consequences are deep, dark and disastrous.

“In its raw examination of human nature, this taut novel builds to an agonizing crescendo that left us pondering weighty existential questions,” said Faust.