

# Préface

When my daughter, Louise, came to me three years ago with the idea that her friend Claire might be interested in writing a story about my mother, I felt strange and frightened. Everything in my early family life had been a secret for so long that I felt that it was more than I could handle to accept to do the project. But the story of what my mother had gone through, and everything she did to survive should be told.

In doing her research and interviewing me, Claire was so patient and understanding. Now that the book is finished, I feel relieved: after all these years, the things that were bottled up are now out in the open. It has taken a load off my mind, and I feel a sense of release. So much has gone on with the Catholic Church that has disturbed people's lives... it is time to come out in the open. Talking about my story will maybe bring the same sense of relief to other people who are in the same boat.

J'espère que tous ceux qui liront cette histoire comprendront à quel point ma mère a été une femme extraordinaire. Avec très peu de moyens, elle a tout fait pour assurer la survie et le bonheur de ses enfants. J'apprécie ses efforts et je l'aime encore beaucoup.

En écrivant ce livre, Claire Trépanier m'a aidée à mieux comprendre mon passé. Je me sens extrêmement soulagée, et je lui dois plus que je ne saurais le dire.

Gertrude Mantha  
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