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**2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton Wins Indie Book Award for “Redefining Beauty,” a Poetry Journey through Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment and Recovery**

*Morton to Be Honored May 25, 2010 in New York City*

Denton, TX – May 19, 2010 – 2010 Texas Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton ([www.kkmorton.com](http://www.kkmorton.com)) has been selected as the Winner in the Women's Issues Category of the 2010 Next Generation Indie Book Awards for her poetry collection *Redefining Beauty*. Morton will be honored during a reception at the Plaza Hotel in New York City on Tuesday, May 25, 2010.

*Redefining Beauty* is a unique poetry collection written during Morton's journey through cancer diagnosis, treatment and recovery that provides strength, hope and unfiltered honesty.

The Next Generation Indie Book Awards are open to independent publishers and authors worldwide. The program was established by the Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group in order to recognize and honor the most exceptional independently published books of the year in 60 different categories. This year's winners and finalists will be highlighted in a special 2010 Next Generation Indie Book Awards catalog which will be distributed at Book Expo America ("BEA") in New York later this month to thousands of attendees, including book buyers, library representatives, media, industry professionals and more.

A lifelong poet, as well as a wife and mother of two, Morton was diagnosed with breast cancer in May, 2008. In search of information to help her fight the disease, Morton turned to books. She found facts, statistics and self-help books, but not the kind of book she was looking for.

“I needed more,” said Morton. “I needed some grit, a leather strap between my teeth. And when I couldn't find what I needed, I simply wrote my way through it.”

Morton, often dubbed the “Poet Warrior” by audiences she speaks to, wrote her way through the loss of her hair, bone-crushing pain, insensitive sentiments, bald fashion statements and a fierce determination to live.

Morton is frequently spotlighted in media interviews and, as 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate, she is traveling across Texas as part of the “Little Town, Texas Tour” she created to take poetry and the arts into high schools across the state. Along the way, she has spoken at cancer support groups and fundraising events, where shares her story and reads from *Redefining Beauty*.

To learn about upcoming events and venues where Karla K. Morton will perform, speak or sign books, please visit [www.kkmorton.com/events.html](http://www.kkmorton.com/events.html).

### **About Karla K. Morton**

Karla K. Morton, the **2010 Texas Poet Laureate**, is a celebrated poet, author and storyteller. She is the author of *Wee Cowrin' Timorous Beastie* (a North Texas Book Festival Awards Finalist), *Redefining Beauty*, *Stirring Goldfish*, *Becoming Superman* and several upcoming books, including *Names We've Never Known* (Texas Review Press), and a collection of her works as part of the *Poet Laureate* series by the Texas Christian University Press. Ms. Morton's poetry, which spans many subjects and forms, has also been published in a variety of literary journals, including *descant*, (Betsy Colquitt Award Winner), *AmarilloBay*, the *Concho River Review*, the *Southwestern American Literature*, *Oak Bend Review*, *Wichita Falls Literary and Art Review*, *Right Hand Pointing*, *The Langdon Review of the Arts in Texas*, the *Texas Poetry Calendar*, *Illya's Honey*, *Austin International Poetry Anthology*, *New Texas*, *Denton Writer's League Anthology*, and *ARDENT*. An avid photographer, Morton has also had several showings of her black and white artwork across the state, and loves to mix poetry and the arts. Additionally, she serves as a board member of the Greater Denton Arts Council, a founding member of the Denton Poets' Assembly (part of the Poetry Society of Texas) and as a member of the esteemed Western Writers of America, the Writer's League of Texas and the Academy of American Poets. She has been featured on Good Morning Texas, NPR and the Art of Living Gallery (national show on Veria TV). Morton loves to promote poetry, logging thousands of miles across Texas through her ***Little Town, Texas Tour***, reading her work at such venues as schools, universities, bookstores, VA centers, libraries, festivals, fundraising events, conferences, conventions and cancer support groups. Morton was born in Fort Worth, holds a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University and currently resides in Denton, Texas, with her two children and husband. For more information, please visit [www.kkmorton.com](http://www.kkmorton.com) or [www.facebook.com/karlakmorton](http://www.facebook.com/karlakmorton).

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Review copies, interviews and high-res images available

