

## About the Author



### **Kathleen Norris (1947- )**

Born in Washington, D.C., on July 27, 1947, Kathleen Norris grew up in Virginia, Hawaii, and Illinois. She spent many of her summers at her grandparent's place in Lemmon, South Dakota. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Bennington College in Vermont in 1969, she worked in New York City until 1974, when she and her husband, poet David Dwyer, moved to the ancestral family farm in South Dakota after her grandmother's death. While continuing to write, she served as assistant librarian of the local library and was a poet in residence for the North Dakota Arts Council. In 1986, she became an oblate of the Benedictine Assumption Abbey. She also spent two nine-months' residencies at the Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research in Collegeville, Minnesota. She received grants from the Bush and Guggenheim Foundations to pursue her writing. Her books include: *The Middle of the World* (1981), *Dakota: A Spiritual Geography* (1993), *Little Girls in Church* (1995), *The Cloister Walk* (1996), *Amazing Grace* (1998), and a memoir of her time in college and early years working in New York City, *The Virgin of Bennington* (2001).

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**<http://library.sd.gov/PROG/sdbookbag/index.aspx>**