



**Finalist Speech for *Guardian of the Dead*
Karen Healey**

I began my debut year with a resolution to remember how amazing an event publication was, and that I was grateful to everyone who assisted me on the journey. I didn't then realize how grateful I would be to so many people *after* publication: booksellers, reviewers, fans, and especially, and appropriately, librarians.

I am deeply conscious of the honour of being a Morris finalist; that my Antipodean story could resonate with an American audience as discerning as the Morris Award committee makes me incredibly happy. There are many people responsible for bringing *Guardian of the Dead* into the world and onto American library shelves. I would like to thank my agent, Barry Goldblatt, my editor, Alvina Ling, my publicist Ames O'Neill, the fabulous Victoria Stapleton, and everyone else at Little, Brown.

One final note: *Guardian of the Dead* is partly a story about the power of stories, a power librarians taught me to value and respect. Thank you, so much, for everything you do.