

A woman in a white headscarf and a yellow dress is shown in profile, looking down at a lit candle she is holding in her hands. The scene is dimly lit, with the warm glow of the candle illuminating her face and dress. The background is dark and textured.

A Measure of Light

A NOVEL

BETH POWNING

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE HATBOX LETTERS* AND *THE SEA CAPTAIN'S WIFE*

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A MEASURE OF LIGHT

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In what is Powning's most dramatic and ambitious novel yet, she reimagines the life of Mary Dyer, a Quaker who defied death to champion religious freedom during America's earliest years.

Set in 1600s New England, *A MEASURE OF LIGHT* tells the story of Mary Dyer, a Puritan who flees persecution in Jacobean England only to find the Puritan establishment in Massachusetts every bit as vicious as the one she has left behind.

One of America's first Quakers, and among the last to face the gallows for her convictions, Mary Dyer receives here in fiction the full-blooded treatment too long denied a figure of her stature: a woman caught between faith, family and the driving sense that she alone will put right a deep and cruel wrong in the world.

This is gripping historical fiction about a courageous woman who chafed at the power of theocracies and the boundaries of her era, struggling against a backdrop of imminent apocalypse for women's rights, liberty of conscience, intellectual freedom and justice.

BETH POWNING's previous books include *Seeds of Another Summer: Finding the Spirit of Home in Nature*, a collection of lyrical prose and photographs that celebrates the natural beauty of her New Brunswick home. *Shadow Child*, shortlisted for the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction, is a memoir of coming to terms with the stillbirth of her first son. *Edge Seasons*, a *Globe and Mail* Best Book, is a personal memoir about transformation--about seasonal change within the natural world around her and in her life. Her previous novels are the bestsellers *The Hatbox Letters* and *The Sea Captain's Wife*. In 2010, Beth was awarded New Brunswick's Lieutenant-Governor's Award for High Achievement in English-Language Literary Arts. She lives on a 300-acre farm near Sussex, New Brunswick, with her husband, the sculptor Peter Powning.

Beth will be on tour this spring and is available for interview.

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