

## **OSAKA HEAT WINS AWARDS AS eBook**

*Osaka Heat* by Mary Claire Mahaney  
takes Gold and Silver Medals  
in Independent Publisher's 2011 eLit Awards

McLean, VA, April 29, 2012 – Independent Publisher this week announced its annual eLit Awards, honoring Mary Claire Mahaney's novel *Osaka Heat* with the Gold Medal in the Romance category and the Silver Medal in the Multicultural Fiction category.

The eLit Awards are committed to illuminating and honoring the very best of English-language digital works, globally. The industry-wide, unaffiliated awards program is open to all members of the electronic publishing industry and celebrates the ever-growing market of electronic publishing in a wide variety of reader formats. Digital publishing represents the fastest-growing segment of the book publishing industry, with its market share of U.S. trade books more than doubling in 2011 from 2010, according to the Association of American Publishers.

*Osaka Heat* follows the story of an American widow who travels to Japan and becomes involved in a forbidden romance with a Japanese man. The multicultural aspects of *Osaka Heat* are brought out in the literature, music, and Japanese cuisine woven through the book, along with the personal, religious, and cultural challenges faced by the protagonist during her travels in Japan. Ms. Mahaney was inspired to write *Osaka Heat* when she traveled to Japan as the chaperone for her son's high school student exchange. She saw the cultural setting of a Japanese school as the perfect setting for a novel.

"I'm thrilled to have won in two categories, and a Gold Medal was beyond my dreams," said Ms. Mahaney. "I'm pleased the eBook format expands opportunities for people who love to read. One of the best things about having written *Osaka Heat* is that the book has been enjoyed by so many readers."

Ms. Mahaney, a retired lawyer, lives in Fairfax County, Virginia, where she has served on numerous education and community boards. In 1997, she was awarded the McLean Youth, Inc., Citizen of the Year Award for her community work. She has made appearances at conferences, libraries, and bookstores, and has spoken to many groups about the inspiration for her book, the twists and turns the story took as she wrote it and revised it, and her experiences publishing the book. For more information about Ms. Mahaney and *Osaka Heat*, visit [www.maryclairemahaney.com](http://www.maryclairemahaney.com).

*Osaka Heat* (ISBN: 978-1425990824) is available through [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#) and from the publisher, [AuthorHouse](#). Click the link for the [2011 eLit Awards](#).

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