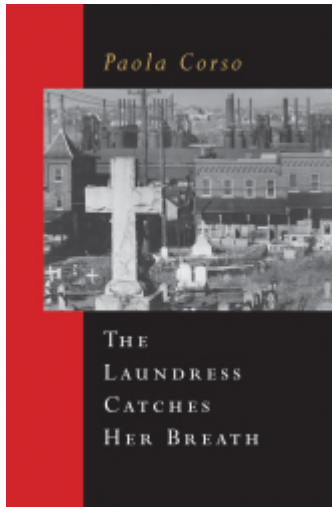


“The Laundress Catches Her Breath” wins Tillie Olsen Award for Creative Writing from the Working Class Studies Association

Posted on [May 7, 2013](#) by [CavanKerry Press](#)

Congratulations to **Paola Corso!**
Winner of the Tillie Olsen Award for Creative Writing
for *The Laundress Catches Her Breath*



Judge's comment:

This book is a precisely visionary evocation of working-class Pittsburgh and the struggles of working women, in particular. Paola Corso's laundress is a vivid, richly detailed character, hard-working, chain-smoking, grouchy and smart, memorably imperfect and entirely winning. The book is stylistically varied and ingenious as well. "Hold for Ten Seconds" is a sort of magical realist sequence that involves washing clothes—maybe the first since 100 Years of Solitude. And the long, astonishing "Heiress to Air" is brilliant, a moving tour de force that William Carlos Williams would certainly have loved.

Jeff Gundy, Bluffton University