

Mazo de la Roche

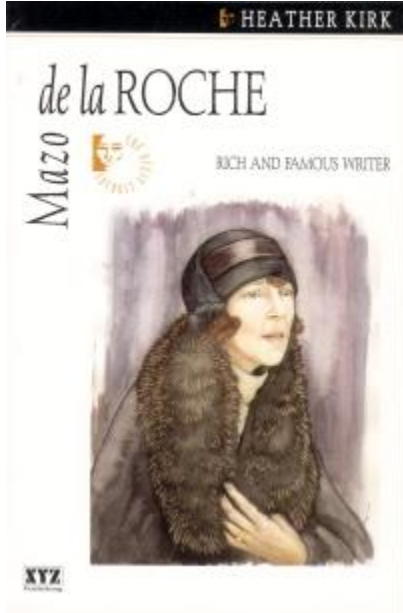


Photo courtesy of [CM Magazine](#)

Although she was "almost unknown in the UK," [Christopher Fowler](#) featured this Canadian writer in his Forgotten authors series in *The Independent*.

Mazo de la Roche was born in 1879 in Ontario, and published her novel *Jalna* at the age of 48. She had two books out already, but it was *Jalna*, winner of the *Atlantic Monthly* literary prize, that made her famous. One of the bestsellers of its time, this novel and its fifteen sequels formed the [Whiteoak Chronicles](#), a saga that spanned a whole century of the life of one family.

Although these books are considered romantic, not the usual boys' fare, I remember my brother enjoying several of them and talking about their characters. In particular, he used to talk about Renny, who fights in World War I and eventually becomes master of the family home of *Jalna*.

For some reason, I never got round to reading this forgotten author; now I want to add her to my staggeringly long reading list.

Whatever [Christopher Fowler](#) says, Mazo de la Roche is not entirely forgotten. She has a public [school](#) named after her in her hometown of Newmarket, Ontario.