

## First Runner-Up

What Survives, Phyllis M. Skoy, IP Books - An intriguing tale of a Turkish woman's experiences at the turn of the 21st century, this novel catches the attention in subtle and delightful ways. What is offered is a glimpse of the customs, everyday life, and traditions of the people of Turkey through the eyes of the young, resigned Adalet. Opening with her practical banishment to a small community far from all that's familiar to her, Adalet slowly gains confidence as she establishes new relationships. With one opportunity, suddenly her world is set right again, and she starts to see the potential in moving back to her former home. Just as Adalet seems to finally recover all she has lost, she faces perhaps her largest obstacle yet. Parallel to Adalet's growth is the maturing of Turkey as a country yielding to modern influence while still holding to dear and precious practices of old. The beauty shown is that, though the customs be strange, life is not so different no matter the country.