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Otessa Moshfegh Wins \$25,000 PEN/Hemingway Award *The PEN/Hemingway's 40th Anniversary*

BOSTON, MA – PEN New England today announced that **Otessa Moshfegh** has won the 2016 PEN/Hemingway Award, honoring a distinguished first full-length book of fiction, for her novel *Eileen* (Penguin). **Patrick Hemingway**, the son of Ernest Hemingway, will present the prestigious literary award to Ms. Moshfegh on Sunday, April 10, at a ceremony in Boston.

This year, PEN New England also celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the PEN/Hemingway Award, founded in 1976 by Mary Hemingway, the wife of Ernest Hemingway, to honor her late husband and draw attention to first books of fiction. 2016 winner Otessa Moshfegh joins other notable PEN/Hemingway winners and honorees including Marilynne Robinson, Edward P. Jones, Jhumpa Lahiri, Colson Whitehead, Lily King, Jennifer Haigh, ZZ Packer, George Saunders, Ha Jin, Sherman Alexie, Junot Díaz, Yiyun Li, Ben Fountain, Joshua Ferris, and Teju Cole—a forty-year lineage of literary excellence. (See the complete list at www.pen-ne.org/hemingway.)

In selecting Ms. Moshfegh, this year's judges—authors **Alexandra Marshall**, **Jay Parini**, and former PEN/Hemingway winner **Joshua Ferris**—praised Ms. Moshfegh for her “prowess and her promise.”

Ms. Moshfegh will receive a \$25,000 prize from the Hemingway Family and the Hemingway Society; a residency from The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series at the University of Idaho's MFA Creative Writing Program; and a month-long Residency Fellowship at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming, a retreat for artists and writers.

Otessa Moshfegh's stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Vice*, and *The Paris Review*. She was awarded the Plimpton Prize from *The Paris Review*, as well as *The Believer* Book Award, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her novella, *McGlue*, won the Fence Modern Prize in Prose.

The two PEN/Hemingway finalists are **S. M. Hulse** for *Black River* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) and **Margaret Malone** for *People Like You* (Atelier26).

S. M. Hulse received her MFA from the University of Oregon and was a fiction fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her stories have appeared in *Willow Springs*, *Witness*, and *Salamander*. A horsewoman and fiddler, she was recently appointed Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at University of Nevada, Reno.

Margaret Malone's writing has appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *Oregon Humanities*, *Propeller Quarterly*, and *Coal City Review*. She is the recipient of an Oregon Arts Commission Artist Fellowship, two Regional Arts & Culture Council Grants, and an Oregon Literary Fellowship. She lives with her husband and two children in Portland, Oregon.

Two writers will receive Honorable Mention: **Karim Dimechkie** for *Lifted by the Great Nothing* (Bloomsbury) and **Chigozie Obioma** for *The Fishermen* (Little, Brown). Competition finalists and honorable mentions each receive a Residency Fellowship at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming.

The awards ceremony will take place on **Sunday, April 10**, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. Writer and critic **James Wood** will be the keynote speaker.

James Wood has been a staff writer and book critic at *The New Yorker* since 2007. His critical essays are collected in *The Broken Estate: Essays on Literature and Belief*; *The Irresponsible Self: On Laughter and the Novel*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *The Fun Stuff: And Other Essays*. He is the author of a novel, *The Book Against God*, and a study of technique in the novel, *How Fiction Works*. His most recent book is *The Nearest Thing To Life*.

The ceremony includes the presentation of the **2016 PEN New England Awards**. Novelist and award administrator Jennifer Haigh—herself a PEN New England Award winner as well as a winner of the PEN Hemingway for her first novel—will present the awards, which honor best works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction by New England authors. This year’s judges were **Dana Spiotta**, **Mark Doty**, and **Anthony Swofford**. The honorees are **Jim Shepard** for *The Book of Aron* (Knopf); **Reginald Dwayne Betts** for *Bastards of the Reagan Era* (Four Way Books); and **Rinker Buck** for *The Oregon Trail* (Simon & Schuster).

Attendees will also be treated to a preview of **Hemingway: Between Two Wars**, an exhibition showcasing rarely displayed manuscripts and artifacts highlighting this creative period of Hemingway’s life. The exhibition is drawn primarily from the Kennedy Library’s Ernest Hemingway Collection, and organized in partnership with The Morgan Library.

The PEN New England Literary Awards ceremony is supported by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, the Hemingway Family, the Friends of the Ernest Hemingway Collection, and Cerulli Associates.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is administered by the National Archives and Records Administration and is supported, in part, by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

PEN New England is a chapter of PEN American Center and part of International PEN, the oldest international literary and human rights organization. We are a worldwide association of writers celebrating literature and defending free expression. For more information visit www.pen-ne.org.

The ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 10, from 2 to 3pm and is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending should call the Kennedy Library at (617) 514-1643 or register on-line at www.jfklibrary.org to reserve a seat.

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