



PEN HEMINGWAY AWARD

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HEMENWAY WINS HEMINGWAY:

Arna Bontemps Hemenway Receives 2015 PEN/ Hemingway Award for Debut Fiction

BOSTON, MA – PEN New England today announced that **Arna Bontemps Hemenway** has won the 2015 PEN/ Hemingway Award for a distinguished first book of fiction for his critically acclaimed *Elegy for Kinderklavier* (Sarabande). **Patrick Hemingway**, the son of Nobel Prize–winning writer Ernest Hemingway, will present the prestigious literary award to Mr. Hemenway on Sunday, April 19, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

Mr. Hemenway will receive a \$20,000 prize from the Hemingway Family, The Ernest Hemingway Society/ Foundation and PEN New England, as well as a residency in The Distinguished Visiting Writers Series at the University of Idaho’s MFA Program in Creative Writing which comes with a \$5,000 honorarium, and a Ucross Residency Fellowship for a full month at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming, a retreat for artists and writers.

Arna Bontemps Hemenway’s fiction has appeared in *A Public Space*, *Ecotone*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Seattle Review*, and *Meridian Literary Review*, among others, and has been named a Notable/Distinguished Story of the Year in both the *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Nonrequired Reading* Anthologies. He has been the recipient of scholarships or fellowships in fiction writing from the Truman Capote Literary Trust, the Iowa Writer’s Workshop, the Taos Writers’ Conference, the Sewanee Writers’ Conference, and the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. He received a BA from the University of Iowa, and an MFA from the Iowa Writer’s Workshop. He is an Assistant Professor of English in Creative Writing at Baylor University.

The two PEN/Hemingway Award finalists are **Kim Fu** for *For Today I Am a Boy* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) and **Atticus Lish** for *Preparation for the Next Life* (Tyrant Books). Thus two of the three top honorees for this year’s award were published by small presses.

Kim Fu is the author of the novel *For Today I Am a Boy*, a New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice and Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, short-listed for the Lambda Literary Awards and the Canadian Authors Association Emerging Writer Award, and long-listed for the Flaherty-Dunnann First Novel Prize and Canada Reads 2015. She lives in Seattle.

Atticus Lish is the author of *Preparation for a New Life*, finalist for the 2015 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. He also received a 2015 Plimpton Prize for Fiction from *The Paris Review*. He is the illustrator and writer of *Life Is with People* also from Tyrant Books. He lives in New York City.

Two writers will receive honorable mention: **Mark Chiusana** for *Marine Park* (Penguin); and **Diane Cook** for *Man v. Nature* (HarperCollins). Competition finalists and honorable mentions each receive a Ucross Residency Fellowship at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming.

The judges for the PEN/ Hemingway Award this year were celebrated writers **Chris Adrian**, **Peter Cameron**, and **Yiyun Li**. Cameron was cited for excellence himself by the PEN/Hemingway judging panel in 1987 and Yiyun Li won the PEN/Hemingway award for her first work of fiction, *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* in 2006.

The awards ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 19, at the JFK Library in Dorchester. **Ann Patchett** will be the featured keynote speaker. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and the Iowa Writer's Workshop, Patchett is the author of six novels and three books of nonfiction, including *Bel Canto*, *State of Wonder* and *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage*. The ceremony includes the presentation of the **PEN New England Awards**, celebrating best works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction by New England authors. The announcement of these winners is coming soon.

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 and all who celebrate literature and defend free expression. For more information about PEN New England, visit www.pen-ne.org.

The late Mary Hemingway, the wife of Ernest Hemingway, founded the PEN/ Hemingway Award in 1976 to honor her late husband and draw attention to first books of fiction. Previous winners include Marilynne Robinson, Edward P. Jones, Chang-Rae Lee, Ha Jin, Jumpa Lahiri, Jennifer Haigh, Ben Fountain, Joshua Ferris, and Teju Cole. The complete list is available at www.pen-ne.org/hemingway-foundationpen-award/. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis brought the presentation of the PEN/ Hemingway Award from New York to the Kennedy Library in 1992.

The Ernest Hemingway Collection at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library spans Hemingway's entire career, and contains ninety percent of existing Hemingway manuscript materials, making the Kennedy Library the world's principal center for research on the life and work of Ernest Hemingway. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis described Mary Hemingway's gift of Ernest Hemingway's papers to the Kennedy Library as helping "to fulfill our hopes that the Library will become a center for the study of American civilization, in all its aspects." For more information on the Hemingway Collection at the Kennedy Library, visit www.jfklibrary.org.

The awards ceremony is sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, PEN New England, Cerulli Associates, the Hemingway Family, the Friends of the Ernest Hemingway Collection, and the Ernest Hemingway Society/Foundation.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is a presidential library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration and is supported, in part, by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, a non-profit organization.

The ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 19, from 2:00pm to 3:00pm and is free and open to the public. Those interested in attending should call the Kennedy Presidential Library at (617) 514-1643 or register on-line at www.jfklibrary.org to reserve a seat.

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PEN/ HEMINGWAY AWARD
Winners

1976	Loyd Little	<i>Parthian Shot</i>
1977	Renata Adler	<i>Speedboat</i>
1978	Darcy O'Brien	<i>A Way of Life, Like Any Other</i>
1979	Reuben Bercovitch	<i>Hasen</i>
1980	Alan Saperstein	<i>Mom Kills Kids and Self</i>
1981	Joan Silber	<i>Household Words</i>
1982	Marilynne Robinson	<i>Housekeeping</i>
1983	Bobbie Ann Mason	<i>Shiloh and Other Stories</i>
1984	Joan Chase	<i>During the Reign of the Queen of Sheba</i>
1985	Josephine Humphreys	<i>Dreams of Sleep</i>
1986	Alan V. Hewart	<i>Lady's Time</i>
1987	Mary Ward Brown	<i>Tongues of Flame</i>
1988	Lawrence Thornton	<i>Imagining Argentina</i>
1989	Jane Hamilton	<i>The Book of Ruth</i>
1990	Mark Richard	<i>The Ice at the Bottom of the World</i>
1991	Bernard Cooper	<i>Maps to Anywhere</i>
1992	Louis Begley	<i>Wartime Lies</i>
1993	Edward P. Jones	<i>Lost in the City</i>
1994	Dagoberto Gilb	<i>The Magic of Blood</i>
1995	Susan Power	<i>The Grass Dancer</i>
1996	Chang-Rae Lee	<i>Native Speaker</i>
1997	Ha Jin	<i>Ocean of Words</i>
1998	Charlotte Bacon	<i>A Private State</i>
1999	Rosina Lippi	<i>Homestead</i>
2000	Jhumpa Lahiri	<i>Interpreter of Maladies</i>
2001	Akhil Sharma	<i>An Obedient Father</i>
2002	Justin Cronin	<i>Mary and O'Neil</i>
2003	Gabriel Brownstein	<i>The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Apt. 3W</i>
2004	Jennifer Haigh	<i>Mrs. Kimble</i>
2005	Chris Abani	<i>Graceland</i>
2006	Yiyun Li	<i>A Thousand Years of Good Prayers</i>
2007	Ben Fountain	<i>Brief Encounters With Che Guevara</i>
2008	Joshua Ferris	<i>Then We Came to the End</i>
2009	Michael Dahlie	<i>A Gentleman's Guide to Graceful Living</i>
2010	Brigid Pasulka	<i>A Long, Long Time Ago and Essentially True</i>
2011	Brando Skyhorse	<i>The Madonnas of Echo Park</i>
2012	Teju Cole	<i>Open City</i>
2013	Kevin Powers	<i>The Yellow Birds</i>
2014	NoViolet Bulawayo	<i>We Need New Names</i>