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For Immediate Release

## **WFWA ANNOUNCES FIVE RISING STAR FINALIST FOR 2019 CONTEST WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER**

June 24, 2019 (Washington, D.C) – Coordinators of the Rising Star competition, one of the most anticipated writing award events exclusive to the women's fiction genre, are excited to announce the top five finalists for 2019.

Sponsored by the Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA), the Rising Star competition is open to unagented writers with completed women's fiction manuscripts. Each writer receives a review and score based on a large sample of their work. Five finalists are selected and then move to a final round where acquiring literary agents review the submissions and select a winner.

Past winners have received offers of representation and all entrants receive valuable feedback to help support their publishing goals.

"Our mission is to support women's fiction writers and help those who are interested in literary representation or Indie publishing reach those goals," says Tasha Seegmiller, WFWA president. "We're proud to offer this competition for aspiring women's fiction writers because we know how valuable it is to receive quality feedback and support, not to mention the opportunity to partner with agents and launch careers."

Seventy-five manuscripts were entered into this year's competition and five have been selected for the next round. A winner will be crowned in September at the annual WFWA Retreat in Albuquerque, NM.

### **Congratulations to the following finalists:**

#### **Michele Egan**

**In Search of Jake Ryan**, Michele Egan's wild trip down high school's memory lane, is a girlfriend story with heart. Lenore Wilson always felt like the tagalong girl in the shadows. Now she's a frazzled English teacher, wrangling her own kids while trying to be a supportive spouse. She can't remember the last time she fought for her right to party. Hell, she can't even remember the last time she slowed down enough to properly shave her legs. Her life makes a U-turn when she reunites with her childhood best friend and the two embark on a journey in search of Hollywood idol, Jake, the most pined after boy of the Eighties – maybe of all time.

## Jacquie Herz

Jacquie Herz's manuscript, titled **Circumference of Silence**, is a mother-daughter story that crosses continents, history, and lives. When Mali Feuer finds a stash of unsent letters written to her from her mother, she untangles the story of her Jewish family's flight from Nazi Germany to London and the war's destructive hold over her mother's life. The letters, spanning 27 years, reveal the painful truth about her father's decision to ban her mother from her life. Mali is reunited with her mother when she is a teen, but is disappointed and angry when their relationship is not what she had always longed for. Later, Mali's grief over her mother's death forces her to reconcile her own memories growing up in 1950s London and later with her mother in New York City. Learning to let go of the past is the hardest lesson to live.

## Seema Khan

Seema Khan crafts an edge of the seat story of love, life, loss, and New York City in **A Moment's Indulgence**. When single parents, Zaina and Connor make an unlikely connection in Manhattan, their attraction blooms over one extraordinary autumn day. This could be the relationship they've both always wanted. But each has a secret that in the coming days could change the course of their lives. Zaina will learn if her cancer has spread, and Connor must devise a plan to save his brother's career without sacrificing his own. As they explore the streets of Manhattan and dance on its rooftops, they hope to freeze time when time is running away.

## William Schreiber

William Schreiber crafts a gritty, Southern family saga with a supernatural lure in **Someone to Watch Over**. Eleanor "Lennie" Riley has never forgotten the baby whom her father secretly forced her to give away as a teenager. Lennie's brother John has never forgiven her for leaving their Tennessee home. With their father dead, Lennie gives up hope of finding her child. She seeks a *guardakin* rumored to live deep in the Appalachian Mountains who can speak for the dead. When Lennie tells John what she learns, he refuses to believe her nonsense, forcing her to question her own reality and her dream of reuniting with her lost child.

## Maggie Smith

Maggie Smith's **Truth and Other Lies** tells a story of cyber intrigue and the Internet's reach into the deepest part of our lives. Investigative reporter Megan Barnes is furious over a series of tweets accusing her mentor, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, of plagiarism and puts her skills to use to clear her mentor's reputation. Her cyber-investigation leads her to an Internet troll, but the showdown doesn't go as planned. Now she's faced with an impossible choice: if she writes the truth, a long-buried secret about her own mother, a current candidate for Congress, will also come to light. Is she willing to sabotage the careers of both the women she loves and respects to hold fast to her journalistic integrity?

The Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) was founded in 2013 and is now the premier organization for women's fiction. The organization fosters an online community of inclusion and opportunity, and provides resources, professional development, networking, and support for aspiring, debut, and published women's fiction authors, as well as industry professionals.