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WOMEN'S FICTION WRITERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2019 AWARD WINNERS

Nov. 13, 2019 (Albuquerque, NM) — The Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) is proud to announce the winners of this year's STAR and RISING STAR awards.

"It's always a highlight of WFWA's year to gather at our annual retreat in Albuquerque and recognize the excellent work of both published and aspiring writers of women's fiction," says Tasha Seegmiller, WFWA President. "Our awards program is truly a reflection of our organization, in that we support and celebrate the work of writers along every stage of their writing journeys."

The 2019 award winners include:

- Star Award/General Category: Laura Kamoie – *My Dear Hamilton*
- Star Award/Debut Category: Kimmery Martin – *Queen of Hearts*
- Rising Star Awards: William Schreiber – *Someone to Watch Over*; and Michele Egan – *In Search of Jake Ryan*

The Star Award has been presented to published women's fiction authors since 2016 for excellence in novels that fall under two categories: general and outstanding debut. The general category includes women's fiction novels published within the contest year, while the outstanding debut award recognizes a writer's first published work of women's fiction. Star Award submissions are accepted annually in January via the WFWA site.

The Rising Star Award, which honors two aspiring authors this year, has been recognizing the outstanding work of aspiring writers of women's fiction since 2014. The award program offers the chance for unpublished writers, who do not have literary agent representation, to receive manuscript feedback from three published and/or agented authors. Additionally, finalists receive feedback from five literary agents who volunteer as award judges and have interest in acquiring women's fiction. Rising Star Award submissions of manuscripts of 60k words or more, in any genre of women's fiction, are accepted annually in April via the WFWA site.

WFWA's Rising Star Award program would not be possible without the support of its volunteer judges. This year, the organization thanks the following literary agents for their time and support: Jessica Alvarez, Bookends Literary Agency, www.bookendsliterary.com; Sonali Chanchani, Folio Literary Management, www.foliolit.com; Stephanie Mesa, Andrea Hurst & Associates, www.andreahurst.com; Ann Leslie Tuttle, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret LLC (DG&B), www.dystel.com; and Carly Watters, P.S Literary Agency, www.psliterary.com.

The Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) was founded in 2013 as a professional, non-profit organization for women's fiction writers and publishing professionals. With more than one thousand international members and growing, WFWA is the premier organization for women's fiction. WFWA 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. Learn more at www.womensfictionwriters.org. Twitter: wf_writers, Instagram: womensfictionwriters