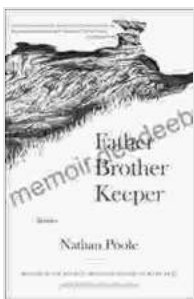


Unveiling the Mary McCarthy Prize: A Coveted Accolade for Masters of Short Fiction

In the realm of contemporary literature, the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction stands as a beacon of excellence, recognizing and celebrating extraordinary works of short fiction. Established in 1999 in honor of the renowned American writer Mary McCarthy, this prestigious award honors the legacy of a literary icon while fostering the growth and recognition of emerging and established short story writers alike.

The Genesis of a Literary Legacy

Mary McCarthy (1912-1989) was an acclaimed American novelist, essayist, critic, and playwright known for her sharp wit, intellectual rigor, and unwavering commitment to truth-telling. Her incisive prose and provocative ideas made her a prominent voice in 20th-century American literature, earning her widespread recognition and respect.



Father Brother Keeper: Stories (Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction) by Edith Pearlman

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 560 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 164 pages
Lending	: Enabled

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Inspired by McCarthy's literary brilliance and her unwavering dedication to short fiction, the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction was founded in 1999 by Syracuse University and the estate of Mary McCarthy. The award aims to perpetuate her legacy by supporting and showcasing exceptional short stories that embody the qualities that made McCarthy's work so distinctive.

The Criteria of Excellence

The Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction seeks to recognize short stories that exemplify the highest literary standards and exhibit the following qualities:

* **Literary Merit:** Stories that demonstrate exceptional craftsmanship, engaging narrative, and a distinctive voice. * **Complexity and Depth:** Works that explore complex themes, human emotions, and the intricacies of the human condition. * **Innovation and Originality:** Stories that break new ground in terms of style, form, or subject matter. * **Social Relevance and Impact:** Works that address important social issues, offer fresh perspectives, or contribute to cultural dialogue.

The Selection Process

The selection process for the Mary McCarthy Prize is rigorous and competitive. Each year, hundreds of short stories are submitted for consideration by writers from all over the world. A distinguished panel of judges, composed of renowned authors, editors, and literary critics, reads and evaluates each submission carefully.

The judges consider the aforementioned criteria when assessing the stories. They seek works that not only showcase literary excellence but also resonate with readers on a profound level. The winning story is chosen

based on its overall impact, its ability to captivate and move the reader, and its contribution to the genre of short fiction.

The Honor and the Legacy

Winning the Mary McCarthy Prize is a significant achievement for any writer. The award brings with it a cash prize, national recognition, and the opportunity to publish the winning story in *The Common*, a prestigious literary journal.

Beyond the immediate recognition, the Mary McCarthy Prize serves as a testament to the writer's talent and dedication to the craft of short fiction. It provides a platform for emerging writers to gain exposure and establish themselves as rising stars in the literary world.

Moreover, the award perpetuates the legacy of Mary McCarthy by inspiring and encouraging future generations of writers to strive for excellence in the genre of short fiction. It ensures that her name and her commitment to literary brilliance will continue to resonate throughout the literary landscape.

Past Winners and Notable Mentions

Since its inception, the Mary McCarthy Prize has recognized a diverse range of accomplished writers, including established literary figures as well as promising newcomers. Among the notable past winners are:

* **Alice McDermott**, winner in 2001 for her story "Hill Annie" * **Lorrie Moore**, winner in 2004 for her story "Debarik" * **George Saunders**, winner in 2013 for his story "Tenth of December" * **Sarah Shun-lien Bynum**, winner in 2017 for her story "Long Island" * **Kali Fajardo-Anstine**, winner in 2020 for her story "Sabrina & Corina"

In addition to the winners, several other notable stories have received honorable mentions, including works by Junot Díaz, Amy Hempel, and Salman Rushdie.

The Enduring Impact

The Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction has become an integral part of the literary landscape, shaping the trajectory of contemporary short fiction. It has provided a vital platform for writers to hone their craft, showcase their talents, and gain recognition within the literary community.

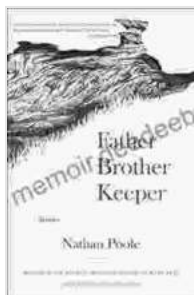
The award's unwavering commitment to literary excellence has influenced countless writers and inspired aspiring short story writers to push the boundaries of the genre. It has helped nurture a new generation of literary voices, ensuring the vitality and diversity of short fiction for generations to come.

The Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction stands as a testament to the enduring power of the short story form. As a prestigious literary award that recognizes excellence and innovation, it perpetuates the legacy of Mary McCarthy while fostering the growth and recognition of exceptional short story writers worldwide.

The prize not only rewards literary achievement but also serves as a catalyst for cultural dialogue and critical discourse. It invites readers to engage with thought-provoking stories, explore diverse perspectives, and appreciate the artistry of language.

By celebrating the brilliance of short fiction, the Mary McCarthy Prize contributes to the vibrant tapestry of American literature and ensures that

the voices of contemporary writers continue to shape our understanding of the world around us.



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