



PEN/FAULKNER

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JULIE OTSUKA RECEIVES 2012 PEN/FAULKNER AWARD FOR FICTION

Washington, DC—Julie Otsuka's *The Buddha in the Attic* (Knopf) has been selected as the winner of the 2012 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. The announcement was made today by the directors of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation, Susan Richards Shreve and Robert Stone, Co-Chairmen.

The **judges**—**Marita Golden, Maureen Howard, and Steve Yarbrough**—considered more than 350 novels and short story collections by American authors published in the U.S. during the 2011 calendar year. Submissions came from 93 publishing houses, including small and academic presses. There is no fee for a publisher or writer to submit a book.

The honored book, *The Buddha in the Attic*, is a precise, poetic novel that tells the story of Japanese picture brides brought to California from Japan in the early twentieth century. In a series of eight slim, self-contained chapters, Otsuka crafts a first-person plural voice that has been described as incantatory.

“In *The Buddha in the Attic* Julie Otsuka creates a voice that is hypnotic and irresistible, and renders her story with the power of the most ancient, timeless myths, the legends that crowd our dreams, and the truths we cannot bear. Her skill is awesome and utterly inspiring. The story she tells with the ear of a poet, the touch of an artist, and the wisdom of a very old soul is breathtaking in its scope and intimacy. This slender volume simply stole my heart,” said judge Marita Golden.

Born and raised in California, Otsuka currently resides in New York City and is the author of *When the Emperor Was Divine*. She has received the Asian American Literary Award, the American Library Association Alex Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The PEN/Faulkner Award is America's largest peer juried prize for fiction. As winner, Otsuka receives \$15,000. Each of the four finalists— **Russell Banks** for *Lost Memory of Skin* (Ecco); **Don DeLillo** for *The Angel Esmeralda: Nine Stories* (Scribner); **Anita Desai** for *The Artist of Disappearance* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt); and, **Steven Millhauser** for *We Others: New and Selected Stories* (Knopf)—receives \$5,000.

All five authors will be honored during the **32nd annual PEN/Faulkner Award Ceremony** at the Folger Shakespeare Library, located at 201 East Capitol Street, SE, on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$125, and can be purchased by phoning the Folger Box Office at (202) 544-7077, or online at www.folger.edu/penfaulkneraward

The PEN/Faulkner Award was first given in 1981. Past winners include last year's winner, Deborah Eisenberg, as well as Joseph O'Neill, E.L. Doctorow, Ann Patchett, Philip Roth, John Updike, Sherman Alexie, and John Edgar Wideman, among others. A full list of winners is at http://www.penfaulkner.org/award_for_fiction

The PEN/Faulkner Foundation is committed to building audiences for exceptional literature and bringing writers together with their readers. This mission is accomplished through a **reading series** at the Folger Shakespeare Library by distinguished writers who have won the respect of readers and writers alike; the **PEN/Faulkner Award**; the **PEN/Malamud Award**, honoring excellence in the short story; and the **Writers in Schools** program, which brings nationally and internationally-acclaimed authors to public high school classrooms, and to book groups of teen parents and incarcerated youth in Washington, DC.

For More Information, visit www.penfaulkner.org

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