

Press Release #22

SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES OLDER WRITERS GRANT WINNER

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Deborah Roggie wins the Speculative Literature Foundation's Older Writers Grant

After graduating with a history degree from Rutgers University in 1978, Deborah Roggie stayed in New Jersey to work as a writer, trainer and technical specialist in the insurance and telecommunications industries.

However, she fell in love with writing at the age of ten after reading *The Hobbit* and *Harriet the Spy*.

History helped drive that love for writing, though, and she majored in the subject because she's fascinated with the past and enjoys finding stories buried in the old texts.

In particular, she's intrigued by how differently our predecessors saw their world, how our past is remembered, and how we use the timeless world of fairy tales to make sense of our lives today.

So, it comes as no surprise that her stories feature talking snakes, bears shape shifting into women, and love potions that work all too well.

Currently, she is working on an untitled novel set in New Jersey during the first decade of the twentieth century where a family with hidden ties to Faerie must maintain a façade of respectability despite the desperate longings and secret adventures of various family members.

Grant Administrator Malon Edwards said of Roggie's entry, *The Puzzle Tree*: "From the beginning, the reader is thoroughly taken

with the witch Tamana Sorn: she's kind, strong-willed but flawed, and extremely intelligent. She comes alive when dispensing her knowledge of herb lore to her apprentice Braye Smitson, and the little boy in me can't help but envy him for all of the wonderful things he learns."

Roggie wins a grant of US\$750 to assist writers who are fifty years of age or older at the time of grant application, and who are just starting to work at a professional level.

Honorable mentions go to Ada Milenkovic Brown, Rae Bridgman, Ralan Conley, Marcelle Dubé and Guy Immega for their unique and thought-provoking submissions, which made the selection of the eventual winner a difficult but enjoyable process.

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The Speculative Literature Foundation is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the interests of readers, writers, editors and publishers in the speculative literature community.

"Speculative literature" is a catch-all term meant to inclusively span the breadth of fantastic literature, encompassing literature ranging from hard and soft science fiction to epic fantasy to ghost stories to folk and fairy tales to slipstream to magical realism to modern mythmaking -- any literature containing a fabulist or speculative element.

More information about the Speculative Literature Foundation is available from its web site (<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/>) or by writing to info@speculativeliterature.org.

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