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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Carrie Callahan Wins Speculative Literature Foundation’s 2019 Working Class Writers Grant

August 2020—The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce that Carrie Callahan is the winner of the 2019 Working Class Writers Grant.

Callahan received the grant for her short story “The Zombie in the Yard.” She is also the recipient of a 2019 Writers of the Future Award for her short story “Dirt Road Magic,” which appears in *Writers of the Future Volume 35*.

Callahan has described her writing as *Dirt Spec*, or speculative fiction about people who are economically disadvantaged, inspired by her own background. She says that she “strives to portray these people with nuance even amid space wars, zombie invasions, and magical school graduations.”

The SLF Working Class Writers grants are awarded annually, since 2013, to working class, blue-collar, poor, and homeless writers of speculative fiction. These writers have been historically underrepresented in speculative fiction, due to the financial barriers which have made it much harder for them to have access to the writing world. Such lack of access might include an inability to attend conventions, to purchase a computer, to buy books, to attend college or high school, or to have the time to write.

Founded in January 2004 to promote literary quality in speculative fiction, the all-volunteer Speculative Literature Foundation is led by Mary Anne Mohanraj and 30 other committed volunteers. The Foundation maintains a comprehensive website offering information for readers, writers, editors and publishers of speculative fiction, develops book lists and outreach materials for schools and libraries, and raises funds for redistribution to other organizations in the field, as well as five awards made annually to writers, including the Diverse Worlds and Diverse Writers Grants. For more information, visit speculativeliterature.org.

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