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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2022 Gulliver Travel Grant Winner

February 2023 – The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce Em North as the winner of the 2022 Gulliver Travel Grant.

Since 2004, the Gulliver Travel Grant has sought to assist writers of speculative literature (in fiction, poetry, drama, or creative nonfiction) in their research. The grant awards one writer \$1000 annually, to be used to cover airfare, lodging, and/or other travel expenses.

North's winning piece is *The School of Forgetting*.

"I was hooked on Em North's winning piece from the opening paragraph, and their deft skill with prose, structure, and characterization drew me deeper and deeper into the endlessly fascinating reality they constructed. In a relatively short space, they built a strange and affecting world that felt utterly real—the beautifully imagined fantastical elements only heightened the emotional impact and authenticity of experiences they brought to life in the story, which is what the best speculative literature does," says Katharine Duckett, author of *Miranda in Milan* and juror.

"The crafting of new words and phrasing reality in precise metaphors carry forward into tangible speculative actions, displaying humanity in its ancient and prospective facets. The social gender-based violence is successfully portrayed without turning the marginalized into victims all over again. The women and queer empowerment are woven intricately into the narrative as well," says Adwaita Das, another juror for this year's grant.

Em North is a writer who has lived in eighteen different states and still can't figure out where to settle down. Their debut novel, *IN UNIVERSES*, is forthcoming from Harper Books (US) and Heinemann Hutchinson (UK) in March 2024. They received their MFA from Johns Hopkins University, where they were awarded the Benjamin T. Sankey Fellowship for a graduating student. They have also received fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Workshop, the Tin House Summer Workshop, Aspen Words, and the Clarion Writers' Workshop. Their fiction and essays have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Sun*, *Conjunctions*, *Lightspeed Magazine*, *Threepenny Review*, and *Best American Experimental Writing 2020*.

Before becoming a writer, they studied physics and philosophy, writing their undergraduate thesis on the many-worlds interpretation of quantum mechanics. In previous lives, they've worked as an observational cosmologist, snowboard instructor, horse trainer, wine taster, pure math researcher, (very brief) investment banker, ranch caretaker, and creative writing instructor.

For more information about the grant, [click here](#).

Launched in January 2004 to promote literary quality in speculative fiction, the Speculative Literature Foundation addresses historical inequities in access to literary opportunities for marginalized writers. Our staff and board are committed to representing racial, gender, and class diversity at all levels of our organization. This commitment is at the heart of what the Speculative Literature Foundation stands for: equal access to create and advance science fiction, fantasy, and horror literature. We strive to enable writers at any stage of their career and of any age, any ethnicity, any gender expression, from any location and of any economic or social status, who want to learn about, or create within, the speculative arts.

The SLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, entirely supported by community donations. If you'd like to be involved with our efforts, please consider joining us as a member for \$2/month, at speculativeliterature.org/membership.

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