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WOMEN'S FICTION WRITERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2020 AWARD WINNERS

Sept. 28, 2020 (Fairfax, VA) — The Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) is proud to announce the winners of this year's STAR and RISING STAR awards.

“Our ability to create works of fiction, and to find empathy and connection through stories, has never been needed more than in 2020,” says Christine Adler, President of WFWA. “It is with this important mission that WFWA has supported its members this year. Our Rising Star and Star Awards continue to celebrate the best in Women's Fiction and the power of storytelling. Though our ceremony was online, instead of at our annual retreat, it was no less important to the winners and to the writing community.”

The 2020 award winners include:

- Rising Star Award: Rebecca J. Sanford – *Scarves*
- Star Award/General Category: Erin Bartels – *We Hope for Better Things*
- Star Award/Debut Category: Erin Bartels – *We Hope for Better Things*

The Star Award has been presented to published women's fiction authors since 2016 for excellence in novels that fall under two categories: general and outstanding debut. The general category includes women's fiction novels published within the contest year, while the outstanding debut award recognizes a writer's first published work of women's fiction. Star Award submissions are accepted annually in January via the WFWA website.

The Rising Star Award has been recognizing the outstanding work of aspiring writers of Women's Fiction since 2014. The awards program offers the chance for unpublished writers, who do not have literary agent representation, to receive manuscript feedback from three published and/or agented authors. Additionally, finalists receive feedback from five literary agents who volunteer as award judges and have interest in acquiring Women's Fiction. Rising Star Award submissions of manuscripts of 60k words or more, in any genre of Women's Fiction, are accepted annually in April via the WFWA website.

WFWA's Rising Star Award program would not be possible without the support of its volunteer judges. This year, the organization thanks the following literary agents for their time and support: Nalini Akolekar, Spencer Hill Associates, www.spencerhillassociates.com; Helen Breitwieser, Cornerstone Literary, www.cornerstoneliterary.com; Rachel Ekstrom Courage, Folio Literary Management, www.foliolit.com; Elaine Spencer, the Knight Agency, www.knightagency.net; Ann Leslie Tuttle, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret, www.dystel.com.

The Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) was founded in 2013 as a professional, non- profit organization for women's fiction writers and publishing professionals. With more than fifteen-hundred international members and growing, WFWA is the premier organization for Women's Fiction. WFWA fosters an online community of inclusion and opportunity, and provides resources, professional development, networking, and support for aspiring, debut, and published women's fiction authors. Learn more at www.womensfictionwriters.org. Twitter: @WF_Writers Instagram: womensfictionwriters.