For Immediate Release
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The Center for Fiction Awards Sarah McGrath with Medal for Editorial Excellence

New York, NY — The Center for Fiction is thrilled to award Sarah McGrath, Editor-in-Chief of Riverhead Books, with the 2022 Medal for Editorial Excellence. Since 2005, The Center for Fiction has honored the work of an editor, publisher, or agent who over the course of his or her career has discovered, nurtured, and championed writers of fiction in the United States.

For the past twenty-five years, Sarah McGrath has shepherded many books to phenomenal success—including best-seller lists and recognition by the Booker Prize, National Book Awards, and Pulitzer Prize, among others—at Knopf, Scribner, and, since 2006, Riverhead Books. Her illustrious list of authors includes Brit Bennett, Hernan Diaz, Lauren Groff, Paula Hawkins, Khaled Hosseini, Chang-rae Lee, Sigrid Nunez, Helen Oyeyemi, Emma Straub, Meg Wolitzer, and Jacqueline Woodson.

“It’s high time Sarah was awarded this honor,” said nominator Rebecca Saletan, Vice President and Editorial Director of Riverhead Books. “With an unrivaled editorial range, she has built a list that is at once extraordinarily diverse, wildly commercially successful, and critically acclaimed.”

McGrath is also lauded by her colleagues for her collaborative nature, and her belief in nurturing authors and their work over time rather than being beholden to the performance of any given book. Through her leadership, Riverhead has developed an editorially-driven culture that cultivates some of the most exciting voices in fiction today.

The Center for Fiction will be awarding Sarah McGrath with the Medal for Editorial Excellence at their Annual Awards Benefit on Tuesday, December 6th, 2022.
About The Center for Fiction

The Center for Fiction is a literary nonprofit that brings diverse communities together to develop and share a passion for fiction. Founded in 1821 as the Mercantile Library of New York in Manhattan, the organization is now based in the heart of the Brooklyn cultural district, with a 18,000 sq. ft. facility that offers New Yorkers an immersive cultural experience centered on reading and writing. Throughout the year, The Center for Fiction provides a vast array of public programming, reading groups, and writing workshops. The First Novel Prize and Emerging Writer Fellowships help build literary careers, and KidsRead/KidsWrite programs inspire an early love of reading and writing in public school students with author-led events. In recent years, the organization’s programming has expanded to include storytelling in all its forms, integrating music, theater, dance, film, television, and the visual arts into its exploration of the best of fiction throughout history and today.

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