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## The Center for Fiction Awards Lee Boudreaux with the Medal for Editorial Excellence

**New York, NY** — The Center for Fiction is thrilled to award **Lee Boudreaux** with the 2026 [Medal for Editorial Excellence](#).

First awarded in 2005, The Center for Fiction Medal for Editorial Excellence honors the work of editors, publishers, and agents who, over the course of their careers, have discovered, nurtured, and championed writers of fiction in the United States. The Center for Fiction is proud to recognize Boudreaux's contributions to the arts.

“Anyone who’s ever received a bolded sixteen-point type email from Lee festooned with multiple exclamation points, or heard her pitch a book with her honey-laden Southern accent turned up to eleven, understands why her exuberant advocacy has propelled so many of the novels she has edited to outsized success,” said **Bill Thomas**, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief at Doubleday. “Lee pays no attention to fashions or trends. Her only criterion is if she falls in love with what she reads, she wants to bring the book into the world.”



Photo Credit: Nina Subin

Boudreaux's distinguished career has shaped some of the most acclaimed fiction of the past two decades. She joined Doubleday in 2018 as Vice President and Executive Editor, after

holding positions at Little, Brown and Company; Ecco; and Random House. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a keen eye for emerging talent and helped launch the careers of numerous notable writers. She has worked with some of the most celebrated authors in contemporary literature, including **Kate Atkinson**, **Margaret Atwood**, **Percival Everett**, **Bonnie Garmus**, **Andrew Sean Greer**, **Claire Lombardo**, **Madeline Miller**, **Maria Reva**, **Curtis Sittenfeld**, and **Sunil Yapa**. Her editorial vision and commitment to excellence have guided books that have garnered many of publishing's highest honors. The books Boudreaux has edited have won or been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Booker Prize, the National Book Critics Circle (NBCC), the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Orange Prize, and numerous PEN awards.

"Lee Boudreaux's passion for literature and her authors is joyous and inspiring," said **Madeline Miller**, author of *The Song of Achilles* and *Circe*. "She's an Olympic archer—she can spot at fifty paces the moments where the story goes slack, or needs to deepen, and she sees clearly through to the heart of the author's intent. I feel eternal gratitude and great good fortune to have had her as my editor."

**Percival Everett**, award-winning author of *James*, added, "Lee Boudreaux, aside from having a cool name, is a terrific editor. She has made my work better at every turn. Yes, she is annoying, but that's only because she is usually right. She is smart, quick, and always in service to the story."

**Claire Lombardo**, author of *The Most Fun We Ever Had*, and **Andrew Sean Greer**, author of *Less* and *Villa Coco*, also praised Boudreaux's insight and dedication.

"Lee is superheroically good at what she does—eagle-eyed, intuitive, brilliant, humane, and boundlessly enthusiastic," Lombardo said. "To work with her is to be truly and enormously fortunate."

Greer added: "Lee Boudreaux is the meanest, cruelest person in New York. She can charm you into transforming your book from dreck into what it always should have been, all the while filling you with discovery and delight. She is a sorceress, a conjurer, and a demon, by which I mean: she is simply the best, and I love her."

Lee Boudreaux will accept the Medal for Editorial Excellence at The Center for Fiction's **Annual Awards Benefit on Tuesday, December 8, 2026**.

Previous recipients of the Medal for Editorial Excellence include **Kate Medina** (Random House); **Kathryn Belden** (Scribner); **Graywolf Press**; **Sarah McGrath** (Riverhead Books); **Alvina Ling** (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers); and **Chris Jackson** (One World). Visit [The Center's website](#) for more information and to reserve a table at the Awards Benefit.

## About The Center for Fiction

The Center for Fiction, a literary nonprofit located in the heart of Downtown Brooklyn's arts and cultural district, supports readers and writers of all ages and histories, and builds community through fiction. Through our Events, Reading Groups, Library, and Bookstore, we inspire readers to explore classic and contemporary literature. In our Workshops and Writers Studio, emerging and established writers hone their craft and develop new work. Our [Fellowships](#) and [Awards](#) champion fresh talent and celebrate excellence in fiction. Through our [KidsRead](#) programs with New York City public schools, we foster a lifelong love of books for our youngest readers. Come visit The Center to browse our Bookstore and Café & Bar, attend an event, and tour our Membership Library and Writers Studio—or explore our work online at [centerforfiction.org](https://centerforfiction.org).

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