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**For Immediate Release**

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**The Center for Fiction Honors  
Distinguished Editor and Publisher Susan Kamil With  
Renaming of Emerging Writer Fellowships**

**NEW YORK, NY** — The Center for Fiction is pleased to announce that the Emerging Writer Fellowships, established in 2011, will be renamed The Center for Fiction/Susan Kamil Emerging Writer Fellowships in honor of the successful completion of a fundraising campaign in support of the Fellowships by friends of the late Susan Kamil. The \$250,000 raised to date will guarantee crucial funding for the Emerging Writer Fellowships in perpetuity, and commemorate a beloved editor and publisher who devoted her considerable talents to the championing of young writers.

The Center for Fiction will be hosting a special evening in honor of the Fellowships' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Kamil's legacy on **Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 p.m.** The night will feature a tribute to Susan Kamil by Andy Ward, Publisher of Random House and Kamil's chosen successor; a public reading by the 2020-21 class of Emerging Writer Fellows; and an introduction to the next group of writers who will begin their Fellowships on October 21st.

Susan Kamil had the gift of enabling authors to write at their best. She began her career as an internationally-regarded subsidiary rights director, then became an editor in 1993, going on to lead the revival of The Dial Press. A stellar succession of senior publishing and editorial positions followed over more than a quarter century at Bantam Books, Random House, and Penguin Random House. Named Random House Editor-in-Chief in 2008, and Executive Vice President and Publisher in 2010, Kamil personally acquired and edited the works of dozens of debut and established authors, among them Salman Rushdie, Elizabeth Strout, Annie Barrows, Allegra Goodman, Elizabeth McCracken, Sophie Kinsella, Gary Shteyngart, Hisham Matar, Patrick Ryan, Hannah Tinti, Helen Simonson, Ruth Reichl, Ta-Nehisi Coates, and Lena Dunham. She died on September 8, 2019, at age 69.

“Susan Kamil was one of the largest gifts to my career,” said Elizabeth Strout. “She believed in me as a writer, and therefore I could believe in myself. She was a phenomenal editor—always kind, funny, supportive, and filled with gems of added ideas. I trusted her completely, and what a thing that was!”

“The Emerging Writer Fellowships nurture writers as they develop their craft and begin to establish their place in the industry, just like Susan Kamil did for countless authors throughout her storied career,” said Traci Lester, Executive Director of The Center for Fiction. “Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we can ensure the program will continue to carry on her legacy, both in name and in the spirit of her work.”

The Center for Fiction/Susan Kamil Emerging Writer Fellowships annually provide a diverse group of nine early-career, New York City-based writers with grants; editorial mentorships; monthly dinners with eminent editors, agents, and authors; access to the Center’s Writers Studio; a Master Class on Performance and Public Reading, sponsored by Audible; two public readings in The Center’s performance space, and ongoing support in establishing their literary career. The application process for the Fellowships is extremely competitive and highly selective. In the past three years alone, eleven Emerging Writers have published debut novels developed during their Fellowships, thanks to industry connections made through The Center.

A total of 145 donors from the literary community contributed to the Susan Kamil endowment, including a cornerstone founding gift from Penguin Random House. The Center for Fiction/Susan Kamil Emerging Writer Fellowships also receive generous annual support from the Jerome Foundation, the Amazon Literary Partnership, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in Partnerships with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

### **About The Center for Fiction**

[The Center for Fiction](https://centerforfiction.org), now celebrating its 200th year, is a literary nonprofit that brings diverse communities together to develop and share a passion for fiction. Founded 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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