2012 Drue Heinz Literature Prize awarded to Brooklyn author

PITTSBURGH—Beth Bosworth has been named the 2012 winner of the Drue Heinz Literature Prize, one of the nation’s most prestigious awards for a book of short stories. Bosworth’s manuscript, *The Source of Life and Other Stories*, was selected by Sven Birkerts from a field of nearly 300 entries. The collection will be published this fall by the prize sponsor, the University of Pittsburgh Press.

“Beth Bosworth has a voice capable of a great performative range: comic, rueful, alert to implication, sophisticated,” remarked Birkerts. “The overall vision encompassed in *The Source of Life* is aware of all the ills and grievances and worse that being human entails, but its spirit is nonetheless tolerant, at key moments redemptive. When I turned the last page, I had the sensation I used to have in movie theaters as a kid, when the credits rolled and the lights went on: that I had been somewhere that felt very real, and that I wasn’t quite ready to go back outside.”

The 54-year-old Bosworth, who resides in Brooklyn, New York, explained, “The characters in *The Source of Life* do battle with their own worst selves as much as fate or circumstance.” She cited a few examples: a neurotic stumbles into an encounter with his therapist and her armed ex-husbands; the editor of a struggling magazine faces a fatal choice; a woman risks poisoning her estranged son’s dog.

Woven throughout Bosworth’s collection are the stories of Ruth Stein, divorced mother of three and author of a book about surviving childhood abuse. “As Ruth grapples with the consequences of freedom, she records her changing world,” Bosworth said, “from the 1960s integration of New Jersey public schools to a projected restoration of the Gowanus Canal and ongoing perils to Vermont’s water sources.”


Founding editor of *The Saint Ann’s Review*, Bosworth has taught at Saint Ann’s School in Brooklyn, The New School for Social Research, and The NYC Technological College of CUNY. Currently she divides her time between Brooklyn and Arlington, Vermont.

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