

Maria Sticco, Publicist  
e-mail: mes5@pitt.edu  
tel: (412) 383-2493 fax: (412) 383-2466

3400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
tel: (412) 383-2456 fax: (412) 383-2466  
www.upress.pitt.edu

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**Characters in prize-winning collection 'do battle  
with their own worst selves'**

PITTSBURGH—The University of Pittsburgh Press has just published the winner of its 2012 Drue Heinz Literature Prize—*The Source of Life and Other Stories*, short fiction by New York author Beth Bosworth.

"Bosworth has a voice capable of a great performative range: comic, rueful, alert to implication, sophisticated," remarked Sven Birkerts, this year's final judge. "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."

The 55-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."

Bosworth is the author of *A Burden of Earth and Other Stories* (Hanging Loose Press, 1995) and the fantasy novel *Tunneling* (Shaye Areheart Books/Crown Publishers, 2003). Her stories have appeared in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Seneca Review*, and *Guernica*, among other publications.

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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