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**Starrett prize winner, 'vibrant new voice,' explores intimacy and connectivity**

PITTSBURGH—Award-winning poet Kasey Jueds said the poems in her debut collection *Keeper* “explore, and long for, intimacy: with nature, with others, with the unknown.”

*Keeper* won the 2012 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize from the University of Pittsburgh Press. The Starrett, awarded annually for a first full-length book of poems, is named after the first director of the Press. It carries a cash award of \$5,000 and publication by UPP in its acclaimed Pitt Poetry Series. *Keeper* has just been released.

According to Jueds, her poems delve into “purely dark spaces and in-between places, searching out, as Paul Eluard put it, the other world inside this one, pointing to the pervasive sensuality that connects all beings, and to the fact that essential goodness and sorrow often walk hand in hand.”

Linda Pastan offered this praise for *Keeper*: “From the very first poem we know we are in the presence of a vibrant new voice, confident and true. Jueds has a sensitive ear and a sharp eye,” she said. “These poems of memory, of the natural world, and of art go from the specific to the abstract with amazing ease.”

Jueds holds degrees from Harvard and Sarah Lawrence, and has taught for many years at premier public and private schools on both the East and West coasts. A native of Coral Gables, Florida, she resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The poet has been awarded residencies at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Soapstone, and the Ucross Foundation.

Jueds’ poems have appeared in several publications, including *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Manhattan Review*, *Salamander*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Women’s Review of Books*, and *5AM*.

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