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Cincinnati author wins 2013 Pitt Press poetry prize

PITTSBURGH—Sarah Rose Nordgren of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been named the winner of the 2013 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize from the University of Pittsburgh Press for her debut collection *Best Bones*. The Starrett, awarded annually for a first full-length book of poems, is named after the original director of the Press. It carries a cash award of \$5,000 and publication by UPP in the acclaimed Pitt Poetry Series.

Best Bones was selected from over 550 entries, with Ed Ochester, series editor, serving as final judge. It will be published in the fall of 2014.

Nordgren described her collection as “a house. When you walk around the rooms of the house, you overhear the desires and griefs of a family, as well as the unresolved concerns of lingering ghosts,” she said. The voices in the house struggle against the family’s roles and social identities that they wear like heavy garments—mother, father, wife, husband, sister, brother, servant, and master. “All these voices crave unification,” Nordgren stated. “They want to join themselves into one whole sentient being, into ‘a mansion steering itself.’”

A native of Frankfort, Illinois, the 32-year-old author was raised in Durham, North Carolina.

Nordgren’s poems have recently appeared, or are forthcoming, in several publications, including *Agni*, *The Iowa Review*, *Pleiades*, *The Harvard Review*, *Ploughshares*, *The Literary Review*, *32 Poems*, and the *Best New Poets* anthology. She is also the winner of the 2012 James Wright Poetry Award from *Mid-American Review* and a two-time fellowship recipient from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Nordgren earned degrees from Sarah Lawrence College (B.A.) and the University of North Carolina-Greensboro (M.F.A), where she held the Fred Chappell Fellowship.

“I am thrilled *Best Bones* has found a home with the University of Pittsburgh Press,” Nordgren remarked. “It is an honor and a dream come true to count myself among the Pitt Poetry Series authors.”

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