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For Immediate Release:

\$2,500 CASH PRIZE GOES TO “WITH ALL THE TROUBLE JESUS WENT THROUGH HE SHOULD AT LEAST GET A JELLY BEAN”

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce that Heather Tucker has won the \$2,500 cash prize for its eighteenth annual Short Prose Competition for Developing Writers, for the best story under 2,500 words, with her piece "With All The Trouble Jesus Went Through He Should At Least Get a Jelly Bean." In addition to her winning entry, another one of her stories was shortlisted this year. The Union will submit the winning story and the eleven other shortlisted stories to three Canadian magazine publishers for their consideration.

By profession, Heather Tucker works in the health sciences. By passion, she writes fiction. She is a three-time winner of the Writers' Community of Durham Region Short Story Competition, and was a finalist in the 2009 Writers' Union of Canada Short Prose Competition. Presently she is working on a full-length manuscript.

The Union initiated the Short Prose Competition in 1993 in honour of its twentieth anniversary. The Competition aims to discover, encourage, and promote new writers of short prose who are not yet published in book format, in order to provide opportunity and exposure to developing writers. This year, twenty-five Union members donated their time and expertise to read 525 outstanding submissions and distill them into a longlist of one hundred fourteen stories. These stories went on to a second round of twenty-four readers who selected the finalists to pass on to the jury: Tarek Fatah, K.V. Johansen, and Sharon Pollock.

WINNER:

"With All The Trouble Jesus Went Through He Should At Least Get a Jelly Bean" by Heather Tucker

The jury noted that "Tucker's 'With All The Trouble Jesus Went Through ...' is a well-written story, focussed and balanced, coming close but not veering into absurdity. It captures the ambiance of the narrator's life with humour and without angst, creating a credible world and characters. It leaves the reader with both a sense of having witnessed the satisfying completion of a story, and the expectation that for the characters, it is not over."

FINALISTS

Hair Like Hymn Pages, Natalie Appleton, Vernon, BC
An Act of Grace, Christine Barbetta, Newmarket, ON
Paint, Virginia Boudreau, Yarmouth, NS
Thieves, Corinna Chong, Victoria, BC
That Slice of Recklessness is Delicious,
Christine Estima, Toronto, ON

Speak Easy, Matthew Heiti, Sudbury, ON
Looking Back, Christi Howes, Victoria, BC
Roadside Special, Alison Hughes, Edmonton, AB
Carbonated, Joanna Lilley, Whitehorse, YT
All the Lost Cowboys, Diana Swennes Smith, Victoria, BC
Stages of Grief, Heather Tucker, Ajax, ON

READERS FOR THE COMPETITION

Cheryl Antao-Xavier, Shyamal Bagchee, Clayton Bailey, Sylvia Barrett, Brenda Brooks, Kristin Butcher, Mary Frances Coady, Betty Cullen, Jeannine A. Davies, Sue Donaldson, Susan Evans Shaw, Melanie Florence, Sylvia Fraser, Katherine Gibson, Dave Glaze, Nan Gregory, Sue Harper, Margaret Hastings-James, Noel Hudson, Fred W. Kennedy, Michael Kusugak, Shelley A. Leedahl, Loris Lesynski, B.M. Lloyd, Paul Mackan, Catherine Macleod, Anna Jean Mallinson, Samuel Thomas Martin, Anne Metikosh, Eleanor Millard, Michael Mirolla, Elizabeth Neill, Edeet Ravel, J. Jill Robinson, Gina Roitman, Holley Rubinsky, Mark Sampson, Rene Schmidt, John Scully, Jocelyn Shipley, Marina Sonkina, Debbie Spring, Royston Tester, James William Trautman, Paul Vasey, Judith Williams, Marg Wilson, Cathleen With, Betty Jane Wylie.

FINAL JURY

Tarek Fatah, K.V. Johansen, and Sharon Pollock.

The Writers' Union of Canada is our country's national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well being of all writers. For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca.

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