

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • FROM FEMINIST PRESS

For press inquiries contact Lucia Brown lbrown@gc.cuny.edu 212-817-7928

## PREMIERE LOUISE MERIWETHER FIRST BOOK PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED

**NEW YORK, NY**—The Feminist Press, *TAYO* Literary Magazine, and distinguished judges Ana Castillo, Tayari Jones, Jennifer Baumgardner, and Melissa R. Sipin are honored to award the **2016 Louise Meriwether First Book Prize to YZ Chin**. Chin's short story collection, *Though I Get Home*, explores oppression, dissent, artistic freedom, and the human condition through a series of interconnected vignettes set primarily in Malaysia.

"The need to escape, to live, and to survive is rendered beautifully in these eclectic and visceral stories," explains judge Melissa R. Sipin, *TAYO* Editor in Chief. Ana Castillo, author of *Black Dove*, found Chin's work "intimate and complex" and calls *Though I Get Home* "a welcome read in American contemporary literature."

The Feminist Press and *TAYO* Literary Magazine established the prize last year to honor landmark African American feminist author Louise Meriwether and her 1970 novel *Daddy Was a Number Runner*. One of the first American novels to feature a young black girl as the protagonist, the book inspired the careers of writers like Jacqueline Woodson and Bridgett M. Davis, among countless others. The Louise Meriwether First Book Prize seeks the best debut fiction by women and nonbinary writers of color.

"We are an activist publisher," says Feminist Press executive director Jennifer Baumgardner. "If we believe that the world needs more diverse books, we have to do something about it." YZ Chin will be the first in a line of winners expanding upon Meriwether's legacy.

The submission period for the 2017 prize runs from May 1 until July 31.

For more information, please contact [louismeriwetherprize@gmail.com](mailto:louismeriwetherprize@gmail.com).



**YZ Chin** was born and raised in Taiping, Malaysia. She now lives in New York, working as a software engineer by day and writer by night. She cites Karen Tei Yamashita, Toni Morrison, and Shirley Jackson as literary ancestors and inspirations.



JOIN THE NYC LITERARY COMMUNITY ON MARCH 28  
FOR A CELEBRATION OF LOUISE MERIWETHER AND YZ CHIN  
*With special guests Florence Howe and Bridgett M. Davis*

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

The Pen and Brush, Inc. • 29 East 22nd Street • NYC 10010

**RSVP VIA EVENTBRITE**

The Feminist Press at CUNY • 365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5406 • New York, New York 10016 • 212-817-7915

**FEMINISTPRESS.ORG**

