
“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 louisemeriwetherprize@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 sites 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
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