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***Strivers and Other Stories* by Robert J. Williams**
2016 FICTION WINNER
WASHINGTON WRITERS' PUBLISHING HOUSE

The Washington Writers' Publishing House has selected Robert J. Williams' collection *Strivers and Other Stories* as its 2016 Fiction Prize Winner. The judges were impressed by the range of voices within the collection and Williams' capacity for creating believable and sympathetic characters.

Set between the 1920s and the present day, *Strivers and Other Stories* explores African-American and Southern voices reflecting characters striving towards their versions of the American dream. In 15 stories, we meet teachers and doctors, train porters and factory workers, soldiers and musicians; mothers, fathers, children and spouses; mentors and mentees. With a mix of humor and heart, satire and sentiment, this collection captures their everyday struggles for better lives and their hopes for promising futures.

Williams was born in Augusta, Georgia. He is the recipient of four Larry Neal Writers' Awards given by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Educated at Northwestern University and the University of Georgia's Grady Graduate School of Journalism and Mass Communications, he resides in Washington, D.C. where he has worked in digital marketing, advertising and web technology for over 20 years. He is currently at work on a novel.

"Strivers is an impressive collection filled with memorable characters pushing against the limits imposed on them—by family, fate, racism, and their own flaws and aspirations. With insight and compassion, Williams offers thoughtful portraits of ordinary lives in these stories; in so doing, he presents a varied and vibrant gallery of Black middle-class life in the South. His prose is smart and subtle, and like his characters, it is fueled by a longing heart." -Brendan Short, author of *Dream City*

Washington Writers' Publishing House will publish *Strivers and Other Stories* in November 2016. WWPH, a nonprofit cooperative press that specializes in poetry and fiction, has published some of the area's best-known writers. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Henry Taylor called WWPH "among the most successful recent literary experiments in the country."

To schedule readings, interviews or obtain review copies, please contact wwppress@gmail.com.

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