AKIL KUMARASAMY’S HALF GODS IS THE STORY PRIZE SPOTLIGHT AWARD WINNER FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2018
This year’s prize goes to an exceptional debut short story collection.

Beyond naming three finalists each January, The Story Prize also presents The Story Prize Spotlight Award to an additional collection of exceptional merit. Selected books can be promising works by first-time authors, collections in alternative formats, or works that demonstrate an unusual perspective on the writer's craft. The award includes a prize of $1,000.

We're pleased to announce that the winner for books published in 2018 is Half Gods by Akil Kumarasamy (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), a collection of ten stories set in the U.S. and Sri Lanka that centers around a family that has a foot in each world. Although the book references the epic Hindu text the Mahabharata, these beautifully written and shaped stories are firmly grounded in the details of Kumarasamy's characters' everyday lives.

“We created this award because we always read and admire more books than we can honor as finalists. And we’re always looking for new ways to further our mission: to support and encourage the writing and publishing of short stories,” said Larry Dark, the Director of The Story Prize. “We enjoyed and admired Half Gods and are pleased to be presenting this award to Akil.”

This is the seventh time we've given out The Story Prize Spotlight Award. The six previous winners are: Drifting House by Krys Lee, Byzantium by Ben Stroud, Praying Drunk by Kyle Minor, Killing and Dying by Adrian Tomine, Him, Me, Muhammad Ali by Randa Jarrar, and Subcortical by Lee Conell.

Congratulations to Akil Kumarasamy and Farrar, Straus and Giroux for winning The Story Prize Spotlight Award for short story collections published in 2018.

AKIL KUMARASAMY is a writer from New Jersey. Her work has appeared in Harper’s Magazine, American Short Fiction, and Boston Review, among others. She has received fellowships from the University of Michigan, the University of East Anglia, the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, and the Schomburg Center. She is a visiting professor in fiction at Michigan’s Helen Zell Writers’ Program.

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