

PUBLICATIONS – BOOKS, NONFICTION

2025 *Breakfast Wine: A Memoir of Chasing an Unconventional Life and Finding a Way Home*,
Apprentice House Press

PUBLICATIONS – BOOKS, LITERARY FICTION

2022 *Duende*, Regal House Publishing
2022 *Jinwar and Other Stories*, Cune Press
2019 *Moxie*, Tortoise Books
2017 *Girl, World*, Laughing Fire Press

PUBLICATIONS – SELECTED NONFICTION

2026 “My father, a WWII refugee, would no longer recognize our country” *Chicago Tribune*
2026 “Trump’s Crackdown on Legal Immigrants Betrays America” *Informed Comment*
2026 “His Bed” *Halfway Down the Stairs*
2026 “A Quicksand Feeling: How Iraq has been Roiled by the Israel-US War on Iran” *Informed Comment*
2026 “The Uncounted Cost for America of Waging War on Iran” *Informed Comment*
2025 “It’s OK to Leave When the Money Runs Out” *Another Jane Pratt Thing; Unpopular Opinion*
2025 “Arabic for Dummies” *The White Picket Fence: Stories of Individuality as Rebelliousness*,
FlowerSong Press
2025 “A Lifeline in War Time” *The New York Times* Tiny Love Stories
2025 “Expatriate, Economic Migrant, or Refugee: Why the Labels Shouldn’t Matter” *Literary Hub*
2025 “Punching Through the Same Old Story” *Halfway Down the Stairs*
2025 “The Evils of MAGA’s Moral Distance—What We Can Learn from Sweden and Iraq” *Informed Comment*
2025 “I’m A USAID Worker Who Lost My Job. Here’s What Trump And Musk Aren’t Telling You About The Cuts” *HuffPost*
2024 “Five Weeks” *The Amsterdam Review*
2024 “The 12-Year-Old Decision that Now Haunts Me” *Scarlett – A Literary Journal*, Jaded Ibis Press
2024 “Attunement, Imagination, and Embodiment: Sculpting the Story” *Theatre Responds to Social Trauma: Chasing the Demons*, edited by Ellen W. Kaplan, Routledge, pp. 215–221.
2022 “Combating Honor Killings among Kurds: Is a New Kind of Education Needed?” *Informed Comment*
2022 “Tethered” *The Laurel Review*, Issue 54.2
2021 “Ode to WhatsApp” *The Startup* (Medium)
2021 “Reprieve” *The Los Angeles Review*
2016 “All Together Now, Penis!” *Bust*
2016 “The Monster by the River” *The Matador Review*
2016 “What’s in a Name” *Hot Metal Bridge*

PUBLICATIONS – SELECTED SHORT LITERARY FICTION

2017 “Refugees Got Talent” *L’Ephemere Review*, Issue V: Sanctum
2017 “Room 308” *The Laurel Review*, Issue 49.2
2016 “Family Matter” *The Massachusetts Review*, Fall 2016
2016 “Moxie” *The Tahoma Literary Review*, Issue 7
2015 “The Crystal Fairies” *Stoneboat Literary Journal*, November
2015 “V” *SHORT FICTION: the visual literary journal*, Volume 9
2015 “Ras Al-Amud” *Litro*, Issue 145: Missed Connections
2013 “Kurdistan” *Prick of the Spindle*, Volume 7.3
2013 “My Mother’s Daughter” *Prick of the Spindle*, Volume 7.3

LITERARY AWARDS & HONORS

2025	USA TODAY Best-selling Booklist, <i>Breakfast Wine</i>
2025	American Writing Awards, Finalist, <i>Breakfast Wine</i>
2025	Eyelands Book Awards, First Runner-Up, <i>Breakfast Wine</i>
2025	Chicago Writers Association, Book of the Year, Finalist, <i>Breakfast Wine</i>
2024	American Legacy Book Awards, Winner, <i>Duende</i>
2024	PenCraft Awards, Runner-Up, <i>Jinwar and Other Stories</i>
2024	Tulsa City-County Library Adult Writing Contest, Second Place, "Five Weeks"
2023	International Book Awards, Novella Category, Winner, <i>Duende</i>
2023	Readers' Choice Book Award Adult Book Category, Winner, <i>Jinwar and Other Stories</i>
2023	Readers' Choice Book Award Adult Book Category, Finalist, <i>Duende</i>
2022	International Book Award Short Story Collection Category, Finalist, <i>Jinwar and Other Stories</i>
2019	Dzanc Books, The Novella Prize, Longlist Honoree, <i>Catalusia</i>
2018	Eric Hoffer Book Award, Honorable Mention, <i>Girl, World</i>
2018	Eric Hoffer Grand Prize, Finalist, <i>Girl, World</i>
2018	First Horizon Award, Finalist, <i>Girl, World</i>
2018	Montaigne Medal, Finalist, <i>Girl, World</i>
2017	35 Over 35 Debut Book Award, Winner, <i>Girl, World</i>
2017	The Pushcart Prize, Nominee, "Room 308"
2016	Best of the Net 2016, Nominee, "The Monster by the River"
2016	<i>Hot Metal Bridge</i> Social Justice Writing Contest, Finalist, "What's in a Name?"
2015	<i>The Red Line</i> Conflict Contest, Finalist, "Sanctuary"
2014	<i>The Conium Review</i> Innovative Fiction Contest, Semi-Finalist, "The Crystal Fairies"
2014	The Baker Prize, Commended, "Mosul"
2012	<i>Glimmer Train</i> , Family Matters Contest, Finalist, "Kurdistan"

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & RESIDENCIES

2026	The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig
2026	Macondo Writers Workshop, Scholarship Recipient
2021	The Atlantic Center for the Arts, Artist-in-Residence, Pabst Scholarship Recipient
2019	DUPLO-LINEA DE COSTA, Artist-in-Residence
2018	Can Serrat Writer-in-Residence, Grant Recipient

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

2026	"Creative Writing for Social Change," Online
2025	"Building Resistance Through Theater," Neon Prairie Music Festival, Tulsa
2025	"Travel and Memoir," Featured Panelist, Printers Row Lit Fest, Chicago
2022	"Place-Based Writing," Featured Panelist, Printers Row Lit Festival, Chicago
2020	"The Persona Narrator," Soho House, Chicago
2020	"Crafting Fiction from Fact," Columbia College, Chicago
2019	"Writing Literary Fiction," Wilbur Wright College, Chicago
2019	"Using Storytelling in Student-Centered Teaching," The American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL), Cairo
2018	"Using Storytelling in Student-Centered Teaching," The 19 th International Conference of College of Arts on Languages and Translation, Al Mustansiriya University, Baghdad

EDUCATION

Master of Letters, Creative Writing, University of Glasgow, *Distinction*
Certificate in Acting, Circle in the Square Theatre School