January 9, 2022

Recommending Kristina Marie Darling

Kristina Marie Darling has asked me to write a letter in support of her application for various residencies and other opportunities, and I could not be more enthusiastic in doing so. I asked her to send her C.V. along to acquaint myself with her background more thoroughly, and I’ve just spent a delightful hour absorbing all of her accomplishments.

In my own class at Columbia in spring, 2021, which included many distinguished contemporary poets exploring with us the work of predecessors who had deeply influenced them, a class conducted entirely via Zoom, I was struck by Kristina’s intuitive grasp of each poet’s sensibility, terrain, and artistic goals. She is a passionate and perceptive reader, a born editor, modest in demeanor but clearly exceptionally focused, disciplined, and attuned to an exceptionally wide range of poetic achievement.

I have not yet read her poetry, but I am amazed by her publication history. She is enterprising and wise in her choice of excellent independent presses, and I am impressed and excited about the forthcoming collection from Salmon Press, which I know through the many marvelous Irish poets I had the privilege of introducing to *The New Yorker* readership while poetry editor there from 1987-2007.

Her five (!) academic degrees, her innumerable awards and honors, her book reviews, visiting speaking engagements as both a scholar and poet, her thrilling collaborations, editorial responsibility and eminence, and the nominations her books have received for major, national awards all speak to her well nigh phenomenal productivity.

As mentioned, I experienced Kristina as a modest person, interested in the viewpoints of others, always precise and eloquent in her comments and judgments, and naturally charming. She wears her erudition lightly and would be a boon to any artistic gathering or retreat situation.

I recommend her in the highest terms. My cell phone is 646 378 9269. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if I can be of further assistance in your evaluation of any candidacy of hers.

Respectfully,

Alice Quinn

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