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## Judge Monica Youn Chooses JC Andrews as 2026 Yale Younger Poets Winner for *Of an Ilk*

New Haven—Yale University Press is pleased to announce a winner in the 2026 Yale Series of Younger Poets competition. The judge, award-winning and critically acclaimed poet Monica Youn, has chosen JC Andrews’ manuscript, *Of an Ilk*. This is Youn’s first selection since being named judge of America’s longest-running poetry prize, succeeding Rae Armantrout.

Of this winning volume, Youn says: “I’m absolutely exhilarated and truly honored to help bring this fearless, radiant collection to a wider readership. These poems slice effortlessly through the grim malignancies of our present moment, carving out new forms and opening up new spaces for love and survival.”

The book, according to its author JC Andrews, “is full of kitchens, angels, chimes, horses, and moons. These poems build questions of grief and hope in an effort to interrogate how they might sharpen one another.”

Of her recent win, Andrews adds: “I feel plain and immense gratitude that my book will live among so many of the books I have leaned on throughout my life in the Yale Series of Younger Poets. It is such a gift to have these poems, poems I have built with the people I love most in the world, be seen and cared for in this way. Thank you all for believing in my work and for believing in me.”

Yale University Press will publish *Of an Ilk* in March 2027. The manuscript is the 121<sup>st</sup> volume in the series. Its last volume, Isabel Neal's *Thrown Voice*, was recently published by Yale University Press, in March 2026.

### ***About the Yale Series of Younger Poets***

Awarded since 1919 by Yale University Press, the Yale Series of Younger Poets celebrates the most prominent new American poets by bringing the work of these artists to the attention of the larger public. Earlier winners of the prize include such giants as Adrienne Rich, John Ashbery, and Robert Hass. It is the longest-running poetry prize in the United States.

Yale University Press will also continue its partnership with The James Merrill House. Winners of the Series receive a writing fellowship at The James Merrill House in Stonington, CT. The fellowship provides a furnished living space and daily access to James Merrill's apartment for a writer in search of a quiet setting to complete a project of literary or academic merit.

### ***About the Author***

**JC Andrews** is a lesbian poet from Springfield, Arkansas with an interest in poems that work as an un-ing, poems that hold questions as a form of caretaking. Her work can be found in *Gulf Coast*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Waxwing*, and elsewhere. She is a student and teacher at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the author of the chapbook *TRILLION AMBER TRUMPETS* (Sibling Rivalry Press).

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