

SOPHIA VELTFORT | Sophia.veltfort@yale.edu
Associate Research Scholar and Lecturer in English, Yale University

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Joint MFA in Fiction, 2020 / PhD in English Language and Literature, 2024

University of East Anglia, MA in Creative Writing Prose Fiction, with Distinction, 2014
(Marshall Scholar, 2013-2014)

Oxford University, MSt in English (1900-Present), with Distinction, 2013
(Marshall Scholar, 2012-2013)

Yale University, BA in English, Writing Concentration, with Distinction, *magna cum laude*, Phi
Beta Kappa, 2012

PUBLICATIONS

Novel

This Vital Absence (Deep Vellum, forthcoming November 2026)

Short Fiction

“Movie Stubs.” *The Normal School*. November 9, 2022

“Queen of the Dryads.” *Prairie Schooner* 95 No. 3. 2021 (Delayed to 2022)

“How Easy It Is To Leave.” *Pigeon Pages*. March 27, 2022

“Schism, 1995.” *Writer’s Digest* online. First place in the Literary / Mainstream Short Story
Category of the 89th Annual Writer’s Digest Writing Competition. November 4, 2020

“Ex-Lover.” *Santa Monica Review* 32 No. 2. 2020

“Generalized Barotrauma on a Fifteenth Birthday.” *Narrative* online (Story of the Week). 30
Below Contest Finalist. 30 Below 30 List. February 28, 2020

“Gingersnaps.” *Meridian* 44. Pushcart Prize nominee. 2020

“Tooth Fairy.” *Sonora Review* online. January 30, 2019

“Plus One.” *Quiddity* 11.2. December 1, 2018

“Mare Liberum.” *Isthmus* 7. June 24, 2018

“Olivia.” *Chicago Tribune* online. Nelson Algren Award finalist. June 2, 2018

“Bishop Street.” *Post Road* 33. First Place in Flash Fiction Contest. 2017

“Man Accused.” *J Journal: New Writing on Justice* 10 No. 2. Pushcart Prize nominee. 2017

“Clown College.” *Hobart*. September 8, 2017

“Pigeons.” *Saturday Evening Post* online. May 12, 2017

“Taking Things.” *Alaska Quarterly Review* 33 No. 3 & 4. 2017

“Gus and Diane.” *UEA Prose Fiction Anthology*. Norwich, Norfolk: Egg Box Publishing. 2014

“To Sea in a Sieve.” *Guildhall School of Music Collaborate Grant for the Next Generation of Artists*. Performed at the Milton Court Theatre of the Barbican, London. 2014

“The Restaurant.” *Yale Undergraduate Magazine* IX. 2010

“The Sea Lion Waltz.” *Stone Soup*. Number 33.3. 2004

Nonfiction

“Missing.” *The Harvard Review* 42. Finalist in the Norman Mailer College Writing Awards. Notable Essay in *The Best American Essays 2013*. 2012

HONORS

First-place graduate student winner of the Cornell Department of Literatures in English Arthur Lynn Andrews Award for Fiction, 2022

Semi-finalist in the *American Short Fiction* Halifax Ranch Fiction Prize, 2021

Second-place graduate student winner of the Cornell Department of Literatures in English Arthur Lynn Andrews Award for Fiction, 2021

First-place winner in the Literary / Mainstream Short Story Category of the 89th Annual Writer’s Digest Writing Competition, 2020

First-place graduate student winner of the Cornell Department of English 2020 Arthur Lynn Andrews Award for Fiction, 2020

Runner-up in *Third Coast’s* 2020 Fiction Contest, 2020

Finalist in *CutBank’s* 2020 Montana Prize in Fiction, 2020

Finalist in *Narrative’s* 30 Below Contest, 2019

Semi-finalist in the *American Short Fiction* Halifax Ranch Fiction Prize, 2019

Finalist in the Writers' League of Texas Manuscript Contest (General Fiction), 2019

Finalist in *The Arkansas International* Emerging Writer's Prize, 2018

Finalist in the *Chicago Tribune's* Nelson Algren Awards, 2018

First Place in the *Post Road 33* Flash Fiction Contest, 2017

Semi-finalist in the *American Short Fiction* Short Story Contest, 2015

Shortlisted for the Bridport Prize, 2015

Shortlisted for the Weidenfeld & Nicolson / UEA Orion Short Story Prize, 2014

Student Marshal at Yale Commencement, 2012

Elmore A. Willets Prize for Fiction Writing, Yale University, 2012

Elizabeth R. and William H. Sledge Prize in the Performing Arts, Calhoun College, Yale University, 2012

Finalist in the Norman Mailer College Writing Awards, 2011

Henry P. Wright Memorial Prize for a Descriptive Article, Yale University, 2011

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Marshall Scholarship, 2012-2014

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, 2022

Sewanee Writers' Conference, 2022

Tin House Summer Workshop, 2021

Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, 2021

Tin House Summer Workshop, 2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
Associate Research Scholar and Lecturer in English, 2025-present
ENGL 2441 Section 02: The Craft of Fiction
Associate Research Scholar, Fall 2024

The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Assistant Professor of Practice in the Arts, 2022-2024
CRWR 10206/30206: Beginning Fiction Workshop: Metamorphoses
CRWR 20233/40233: Technical Seminar in Fiction: Who Sees and Who Speaks?

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Instructor, 2019-2021
English 1170: Short Stories
Reader, Spring 2021
English 2580: Imagining the Holocaust
Intern, Summer 2019
English 1132: The Personal Essay

SERVICE

The University of Chicago: Creative Writing Search Committee, 2023-2024; Olga and Paul Menn Foundation Prize in Fiction Selection Committee, Spring 2023