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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Katie Watson Honored with 2018 George Orwell Award

**Katie Watson** has been named the winner of the 2018 George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language for *Scarlet A: The Ethics, Law, & Politics of Ordinary Abortion*. The NCTE Public Language Awards Committee values the accessibility, linguistic analysis, and sensitivity to language expressed in *Scarlet A* by Katie Watson. The book is an exploration of the abortion debate and how language shapes and blocks our discussion of what is essentially a health topic. Watson's analysis brings depth and nuance to an issue that has become polarizing, often considered too extreme to discuss with candor. The Committee agreed it is a book we will eagerly share to re-start conversations on this important topic. *Scarlet A* is a book that tears down language barriers and achieves the goals and the spirit of the Orwell Award.

In *Scarlet A*, Watson wisely and respectfully navigates one of the most divisive topics in contemporary life. This book explains the law of abortion, challenges the toxic politics that make it a public football and private secret, offers tools for more productive private exchanges, and leads the way to a more robust public discussion of abortion ethics. *Scarlet A* combines storytelling and statistics to bring the story of ordinary abortion out of the shadows, painting a rich, rarely seen picture of how patients and doctors currently think and act, and ultimately inviting readers to tell their own stories and draw their own conclusions. For more information, please go to Oxford University Press website <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/scarlet-a-9780190624859?cc=us&lang=en&> .

The Orwell award was established in 1975 by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). This award recognizes an author, editor, or producer who has made outstanding contributions to the honesty and clarity in public language through critical analysis of public discourse.

She will be announced as the recipient of the George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language at the NCTE Awards Presentation Session on Saturday, November 17, during the 2018 NCTE Annual Convention in Houston, Texas (<http://convention.ncte.org/>).

For more information about the NCTE George Orwell Award, including past winners, see <http://www2.ncte.org/awards/george-orwell-award/>.

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*The National Council of Teachers of English (<http://www.ncte.org>), with 25,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is the nation's oldest literacy organization. With the expertise of its members, NCTE has led the nation in its most important decisions and trajectories around preK–16+ literacy/writing/literature thinking. NCTE is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. Please follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*

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