

Award-winning author N.K. Jemisin to discuss her acclaimed novel *The Fifth Season* in this year's William Starr Distinguished Lecture, October 2, 2017

N.K. Jemisin author of the science fiction novel *The Fifth Season* will deliver a lecture titled, "Whose Name Fills the World," on Monday, October 2, 5:30pm, in the Villard Room of Main Building. This event is free and open to the public.

The Fifth Season, which is the first book in *The Broken Earth* series, was chosen as the first-year common reading for Vassar's class of 2021, and as is customary the author will deliver the William Starr Distinguished Lecture.

Dean of First-Year Students Denise Walen says the selection committee was looking for a work of science fiction, which is an under-represented genre for the common reading. The committee chose *The Fifth Season* because of how it "thoughtfully uses concepts from geology and earth science to craft a story that also addresses issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class in complex and imaginative ways."

Jemisin's work has received multiple nominations for the Hugo, the Nebula, and the World Fantasy Award. In 2016, she became the first African-American author in the long history of the Hugo awards to win the Best Novel for *The Fifth Season*. The second book in the series, *The Obelisk Gate*, won the 2017 Best Novel Hugo, placing Jemisin in rare company as one of few authors to receive the award in successive years.

This lecture is sponsored by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, the First-Year Writing Seminar Program, and the Vassar First-Year Program.

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Directions to the Vassar campus, located at 124 Raymond Avenue in Poughkeepsie, NY, are available at www.vassar.edu/directions.

Vassar College is a highly selective, coeducational, independent, residential liberal arts college founded in 1861.

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