

# American Novelist Ann Patchett

## Coming to Tulsa to Receive Prestigious Helmerich Award

“You can go anywhere you want using your imagination,” said world-renowned American novelist Ann Patchett, who will be in Tulsa Dec. 5 and 6 to receive the Tulsa Library Trust’s 2014 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award.

For more than two decades, this critically-acclaimed author has used her vivid imagination to take readers into the lives of an array of characters, such as the beautiful Rose Clinton, a young pregnant woman fleeing from a dull marriage to a Roman Catholic home for unwed mothers, which takes place in Patchett’s best-selling debut novel, *The Patron Saint of Liars*. Patchett’s most recent novel, *State of Wonder*, drops readers deep into the Amazon jungle where unlikely beauty stands beside unimaginable loss. This provocative, ambitious tale leads readers into the heart of darkness and then shows what lies on the other side.

Hailed as one of the most interesting and unconventional writers of her generation, Patchett has dazzled readers with award-winning novels such as *Taft*, the critically-acclaimed *The Magician’s Assistant*, *Bel Canto* and *Run*. Her nonfiction work has equally intrigued readers. In her latest nonfiction title, *This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage*, Patchett shares the story of her own marriage, which she says is “the great joy and astonishment of my life, and is too much like a fairy tale (the German kind) unsweetened by Disney.” Her memoir *Truth & Beauty* recounts her friendship with writer Lucy Grealy, and *What Now?* expands on her graduation address at Sarah Lawrence College.

For her distinguished body of work and major contributions to the field of literature and letters, the Tulsa City-County Library and Tulsa Library Trust

will honor Patchett with the 2014 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award at a black-tie dinner on Dec. 5 at the Librarium, 1110 S. Denver Ave. The prestigious award consists of a \$40,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal book. The public is invited to meet Patchett at a free presentation on Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m. at Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St.

To prepare for Patchett’s visit to Tulsa, the library has planned several programs, including “Books Sandwiched In: An Ann Patchett Sampler,” sponsored by the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries and presented by Adrian Alexander, dean of the University of Tulsa’s McFarlin Library, on Nov. 24 at 12:10 p.m. at Oklahoma Methodist Manor, Fleming Center, 4134 E. 31st St. In addition, “Novel Talk: Music, the Universal Language” will explore Patchett’s *Bel Canto* on Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. (venue to be announced). Panelists include Sloan Davis, assistant professor of English at Tulsa Community College, and Linda Strummer, former opera singer. Check the library’s November and December event guides for more details and additional events.

Patchett said she is looking forward to visiting Tulsa again as she spent a week here in 1995 while on assignment for *Vogue*. Though the assignment was heartbreaking as the feature was about Tulsa’s Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) program, Patchett said she has very fond memories of Tulsa as everyone she met here was warm, friendly and kind.

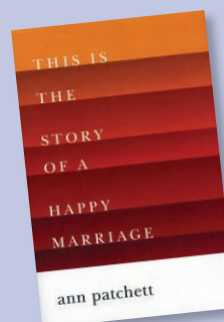
For more information about the Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, visit [www.helmerichaward.org](http://www.helmerichaward.org) or call (918) 549-7365 to purchase tickets to the dinner.

by Jackie Hill, Publications Manager,  
Tulsa City-County Library



**Ann Patchett**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Books Sandwiched In: An Ann Patchett Sampler**

Presented by Adrian Alexander, dean of the University of Tulsa’s McFarlin Library

Nov. 24 • 12:10 p.m.

Oklahoma Methodist Manor • Fleming Center • 4134 E. 31st St.

### **Novel Talk: Music, the Universal Language**

Panelists Sloan Davis, assistant professor of English at Tulsa Community College, and Linda Strummer, former opera singer will explore Patchett’s *Bel Canto*.

Dec. 3 • 7 p.m. • Venue to be announced

Check the library’s November and December event guides for more details and additional events.