

Department of English
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721
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October 14, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been asked to write a recommendation for Jaime Clarke for your Graduate Creative Writing Program in fiction. I do so gladly.

Jaime was a student of mine in an advanced undergraduate fiction writing workshop last year, and was clearly one of the class standouts, not only because of his talent and dedication, but because of his obvious understanding of what made good fiction work (he is one of the best undergraduate students I've had in that regard). In his writing, he was ambitious, always eager to try a new approach, always willing to push his writing to its limits. As a result, he didn't always write the kind of polished "workshop" fiction some students settle for--and are rewarded for too often. His work had lumps in it, but always intelligently conceived and interesting lumps. And it always showed promise.

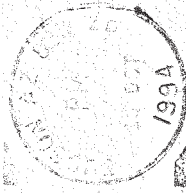
If I had to bet on Jaime (and I do) and his future as a writer, I'd make the bet a high one. He wants that future more than most, will work harder for it than many, and has the talent he needs. I recommend him highly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Houston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Houston, Professor
English/Creative Writing

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