



2024

MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

78th Anniversary Annual • May 1, 2024 • New York Marriott Marquis



The Kids are All Right

Congratulations

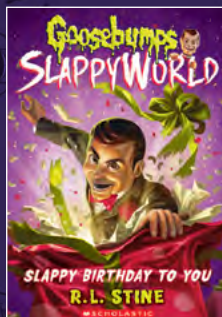
R.L. STINE

EDGAR® AWARDS GRAND MASTER



Photo credit © Don Nielsen

Goosebumps™ 30 Years of Fears



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Welcome!

Mystery Writers of America
welcomes you
to the 78th Anniversary of the
Edgar Allan Poe Awards

New York Marriott Marquis

Times Square

May 1, 2024



Photo: Basil D Soufi

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MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

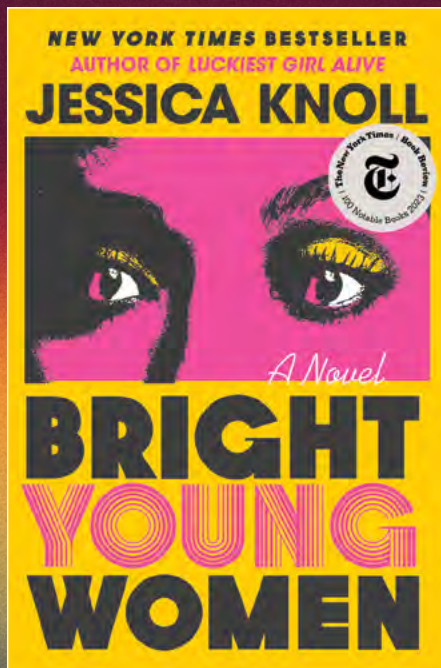
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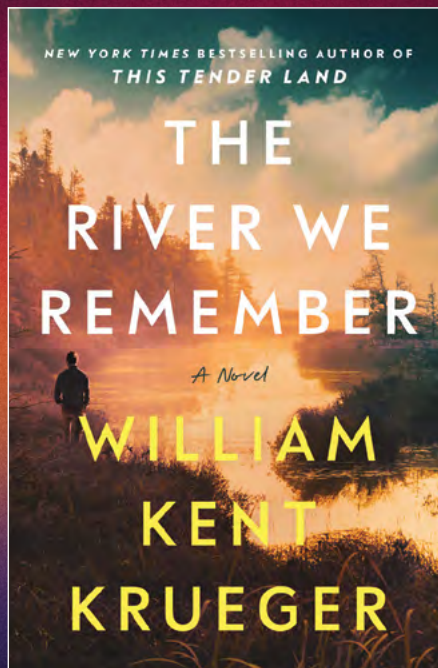
Simon & Schuster
Congratulates Our
2024
EDGAR AWARD
NOMINEES!



BEST NOVEL

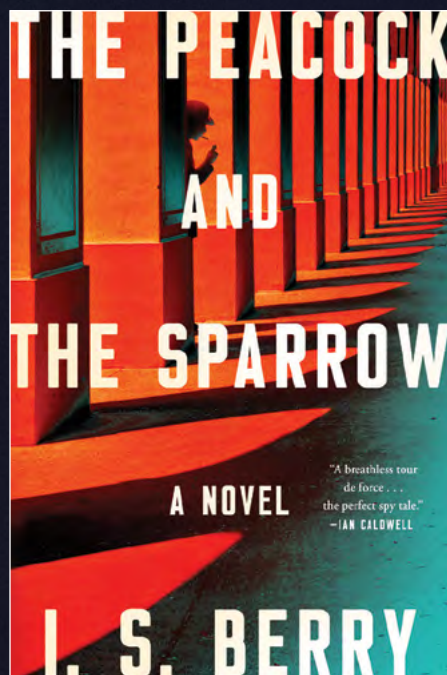


BRIGHT YOUNG WOMEN
Jessica Knoll • Marysue Rucci Books

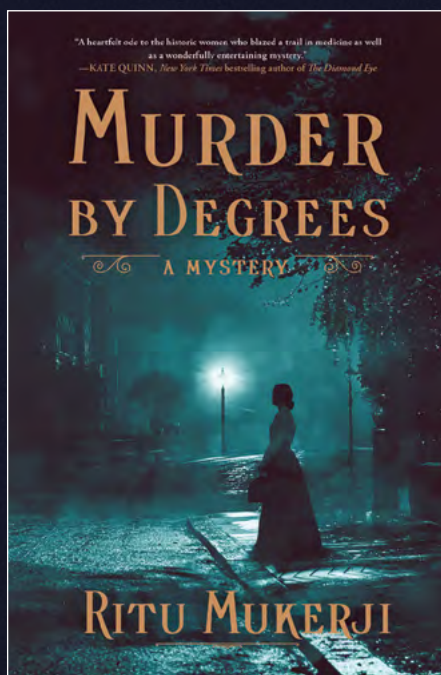


THE RIVER WE REMEMBER
William Kent Krueger • Atria Books

BEST
FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

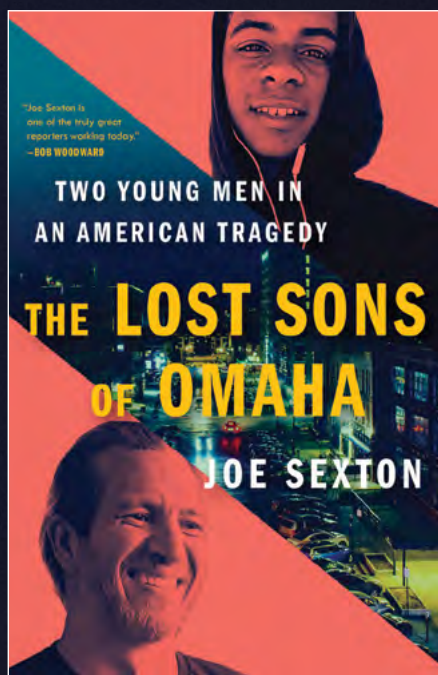


THE PEACOCK AND THE SPARROW
I.S. Berry • Atria Books



MURDER BY DEGREES
Ritu Mukerji • Simon & Schuster

BEST
FACT CRIME



THE LOST SONS OF OMAHA
Joe Sexton • Scribner

For The Young and Young- At-Heart Mysteries Will Never Get Old

By Chris Grabenstein

⇒ **W**elcome to the seventy-eighth annual Edgar Awards.

There's one thing all our nominees have in common: At one point in their lives, they were all kids. And, I'm guessing, like all kids, they loved a good mystery. Like, whose muddy boot prints are those on the white wool carpet? Not mine, Mom! And I'll prove it before supper.

As a writer of mysteries for the 8 to 12-year-old crowd, I am thrilled that the theme for this year's Edgars is "The Kids Are All Right."

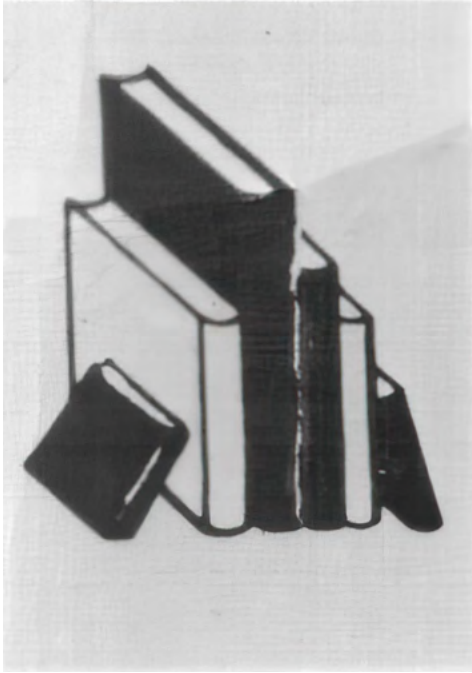
Kids love a mystery. Teachers love them, too, because mysteries are a great way to teach deductive reasoning. Plus, mysteries can make kids feel smart. Especially when they solve the puzzle before the sleuth on the page.

And let's be honest. The mysteries we read when we were young were the ones that first got us hooked on this genre. Nancy Drew. The Hardy Boys. Encyclopedia Brown. "The Munsters and the Great Camera Caper." Okay. Maybe I was the only one who read that one.

I also vividly recall reading Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" when I was in the fifth grade. The short story was included in the thick



© TESS STEINKOLK



Kids love
a mystery.

Even early on, everyone knew to put books next to Chris Grabenstein's second grade photo.

collection we had to lug home and read for English. Poe's story was my favorite (with O. Henry's contribution coming in a close second). First, it taught me a new word. Purloined. As in, "Who purloined my Pop Tart?" It also inspired me to write a mystery of my own. I wanted to trick my teacher, and, more importantly, my friends with a brilliant reveal. It was as if I were performing a magic act. I had a few twists and secrets up my sleeve and tried to fool the audience with my clever misdirection. It worked! And I wanted to do it again.

As I moved on to high school, it was time to read Agatha Christie, Sherlock Holmes, and whatever hard-boiled detective paperbacks my father deemed okay for my teenaged eyes.

A good mystery turns reading into an interactive game, which is great for young reluctant readers (like I was) who get bored when there's nothing to do in a story but yawn at the prose and skim

through the overdone descriptions of the dappled sunlight dancing on the morning dew.

I'm thrilled to see R. L. Stine, who has spent the majority of his writing career creating for kids, receive a Grand Master Award. I'm so excited, I have goosebumps. Sorry. Couldn't resist. Bob has done so much to entertain and excite young readers. To bring them into our genre. He's still doing it. And with Bob clacking away at his keyboard—not to mention all the authors nominated for the Best Juvenile and Best Young Adult Edgars—we don't have to worry.

The kids will still be all right.

Chris Grabenstein, the current president of MWA, is an award-winning, number one *New York Times* bestselling author of over six dozen books, including the Lemongello, Smartest Kid, Wonderland, Haunted Mysteries, and Dog Squad series.

I Owe It All to Freddy

By Donna Andrews

⇒ “Who’s your favorite author?” I hate that question. I don’t have a favorite author—I have regiments of favorites, even if I go all diplomatic and only mention dead authors. I also hate “What are you reading?” Because I’m one of those promiscuous readers who usually has half a dozen books going at the same time—a paper book or two, a couple of ebooks, and several audiobooks, including a mix of fiction and nonfiction. And if a writer friend has a book out that I haven’t started yet, I feel guilty about not mentioning it, which means I have to read a few pages so I can include it.

But ask me what book started me on my mystery-writing career and I’m happy to tell you: *Freddy the Detective*, by Walter R. Brooks.

Between 1927 and his death in 1958, Brooks actually wrote 26 books featuring Freddy the pig and the other talking, anthropomorphic animals who live on the Bean farm in upstate New York. I haven’t read them all (yet!), but I’m working on it. And I love them all, but *Freddy the Detective* holds a special place in my heart.

In this book, after reading *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, Freddy decides to become a detective himself. He recruits Mrs. Wiggins, one of the farm’s cows, to be his partner and fill much the same sensible, down-to-earth role as Dr. Watson. Together they begin trying to solve all the small mysteries plaguing the farm, like a missing baby rabbit and the theft of the farm dog’s dinner. But when Jinx the



Cat is arrested for the murder of a bird, Freddy must prove that his friend was framed.

For a book that’s over 90 years old, *Freddy the Detective* holds up remarkably well, even when I reread it as an adult. The humor is gentle and good-natured, arising from the lovably eccentric

Freddy the Detective was a gateway drug for me.

characters of the farm's inhabitants and the droll situations Freddy's new obsession puts them in. And Brooks creates an impressive degree of suspense as Freddy and Mrs. Wiggins work to prove Jinx's innocence. The book even features one of the best trial scenes I've ever read, a zany yet nail-biting cross between *Anatomy of a Murder* and the trial of the Knave of Hearts in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Freddy the Detective was a gateway drug for me. I went on to the Hardy Boys and Alfred Hitchcock's Three Investigators series. But I also found my way rather quickly to the actual Sherlock Holmes stories. My dad, an avid used-book buyer, brought home a battered copy of *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, and the fervor with which I read and reread it inspired my parents to give me *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* for Christmas. I still have a picture of the 12-year-old me, wearing my new raincoat and rain hat and smiling broadly as I clasp a heavy book to my chest. The picture's black and white, so you can't tell that the rain gear was a vivid flamingo pink. But I think you can tell what the book is.

And now I'm going to hurry up and finish this essay, because I think maybe it's time for a reread of *Freddy the Detective*. In fact, maybe it's time to start with *Freddy Goes to Florida* and read all the way to



Nothing could make Donna Andrews happier than her Sherlock Holmes Christmas present.

Freddy and the Dragon. If you're looking for a little light but enjoyable reading—or, better yet, trying to help get the next generation of readers hooked on mysteries—check out Freddy!

Donna Andrews is the Agatha-, Anthony-, and Lefty-winning author of the Meg Langslow series from Macmillan. *Birder, She Wrote and Let It Crow! Let It Crow! Let It Crow!* are the most recent books in the series, to be followed later in 2024 by *Between a Flock and a Hard Place* and *Rock-in' Around the Chickadee*. She is a longtime member of MWA and Sisters in Crime, and when not writing she can be found feeding her addiction to true-crime podcasts and playing paparazzi to her twin nephews and any plants hardy enough to survive in her garden.

Katherine Hall Page

The Recipe For Success? Wit, Twists And Kindness

By Harlan Coben

⇒ **H**ow do you write about one of your favorite people *and* writers?

First off, our personal connection, which may also serve as a warning of bias: Both Katherine Hall Page and I were raised in Livingston, New Jersey, a storied suburb outside of Newark. Our leafy little town housed a secret Nike nuclear missile base behind an elementary school (I kid you not) and a famed mobster who was the inspiration for *The Sopranos*.

Maybe that explains it?

Katherine Hall Page's debut novel *The Body in the Belfry*, was published in 1990. Set in the quaint New England town of Aleford, Massachusetts, the book introduced readers to amateur sleuth, minister's wife, and caterer extraordinaire, Faith Fairchild. I'm not good with facts so my hope is someone will check out my numbers, but by my count, there are now 26 Faith Fairchild novels. They are a terrific blend of captivating storytelling, small-town hijinks, beautiful writing, and, well, yummy recipes.

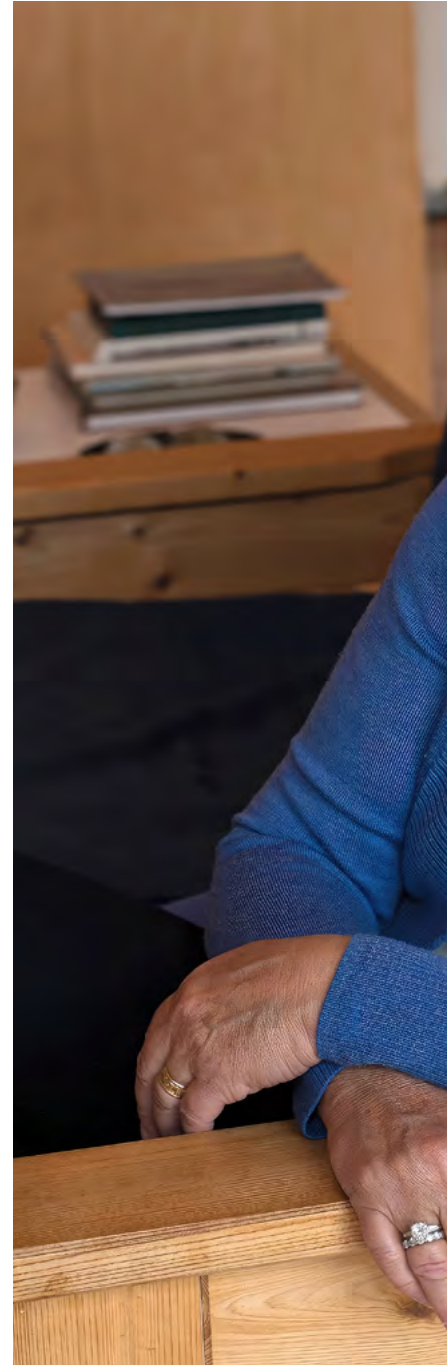
Should a book make your mouth water?

Faith Fairchild is brilliant, witty, and funny—that is to say, she is like her creator. I count Katherine (this is too big an honor to call her “Kathy”) as one of my dearest friends. If you see her tonight, don't be intimidated. Go up to her. Introduce yourself. Congratulate her. She will make you feel welcome,

as she has done for so many of us (this author included) when we felt nervous and alone at a similar banquet or conference. Katherine makes every room better by her presence. She makes everyone smile. She has an aura of kindness and calm we need to study. She is, simply put, one of the finest people I know.

We read Katherine Hall Page for the twisty mystery, of course, but I think what has made her standout, what has made her so deserving of being our Grand Master, is that you just want to spend time with Faith and in her world. Katherine has meticulous eye for detail and a flair for making you care about her characters. Add in the delicious recipes and the social commentary on American life, and boom, you get why we are honoring this author tonight.

I was going to list all Katherine's awards and nominations—numerous Agatha Awards (including both Best First Novel



Katherine makes every



room better
by her presence.



Left to right: brother David, me, sister Anne 1954 Family Christmas card We were very bookish. (I am wearing bound, Norwegian traditional dress)

for *The Body in the Belfry* and Best Novel for her 15th *The Boy in the Snowdrift*), the Mary Higgins Clark Award, the Edgar Award, Maine Literary Award, Lifetime Achievement Award from Malice Domestic—but I started getting jealous, so I stopped. She has been honored, folks. A lot. And yet not enough.

That's why we are here tonight—to name Katherine Hall Page our 2024 Mystery Writers of America Grand Master, the highest honor we in the mystery world can bestow upon an author. I couldn't be more thrilled to be here.



Edgar Award Winner **Harlan Coben** has written numerous number one *New York Times* bestsellers and television series including *Fool Me Once*, *Tell No One*, and the Myron Bolitar series. His next book, *Think Twice*, comes out May 14.

The Magician Of Mysteries: He Turns Kids Into Readers

By Chris Grabenstein

➔ **T**his is a truly terrifying task. A real spine (or Stine) tingler. How can one write an appreciation of R.L. Stine, aka Jovial Bob Stine, which, of course, was his pen name when he first arrived in New York City from Ohio to start writing joke books and running “Bananas,” a funny magazine for kids?

And then he started writing books. Lots and lots of books.

Now there are almost 400 of them. We’d need another program booklet to list all his titles. There is, of course, the extremely popular Goosebumps series plus a few spinoffs such as *Give Yourself Goosebumps*, *Tales to Give You Goosebumps*, *Goosebumps Triple Header*, *Goosebumps Horror Land*, *Goosebumps Most Wanted*, and *Goosebumps Slappy World*, not to mention the two Goosebumps TV series, the Goosebumps comic books, Goosebumps video games and Goosebumps feature films, including the first one with Jack Black starring as Mr. Stine and R.L. Stine making a cameo appearance in a school hallway as Mr. Black.

Phew. And I haven’t even mentioned the Fear Street series for teen readers or his Mostly Ghostly series or his picture books and comic books and the Nightmare Room trilogy and...okay, we better print that second booklet.

There was a time in the 1990s when R.L. Stine



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was writing a new book every two weeks.

His hundreds of horror novels, plus joke books and game books, have sold over 400 million copies. *The Guinness Book of World Records* named Stine as the best-selling children’s book series author of all time.

For three years during the 1990s, *USA Today* ranked R. L. Stine as America’s number one best-selling author. Not just of children’s books. The number one best-selling author of them all.

He’s even inspired his own amusement park rides.



He's won so many awards and honors, including the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Award (three different times) and Disney Adventures Kids' Choice Awards. He was also selected by kids as one of their favorite authors in the National Education Association's Read Across America program.

So how do you write an appreciation of a writer who has done so much? Someone who wrote books with titles like *Jerks In Training*, *Bozos on Patrol*, and *Losers in Space* because, first and foremost, R. L. Stine is an entertainer?

Gripped with fear as I faced this keyboard of doom,

I decided to do what any panicked writer might do when dealing with the monster known as The Looming Drooling Deadline.

I turned to my niece, Scout. Yes, my brother and his wife really, really, really liked *To Kill A Mockingbird*.

Scout is now a family practice doctor with a daughter of her own. These days, Scout reads mostly medical journals and mysteries, the kind most of you reading this now write. (The mysteries; hopefully not the medical journals.)



When he was a child, R.L. Stine enjoyed reading while driving.

Recently, when I was visiting her daughter's school in Pittsburgh, Scout started remembering the authors she absolutely loved when she was in school.

Actually, there was only one.

R.L. Stine.

In the 1990s, she and her best friend Megan were beyond excited to read the newest R.L. Stine the instant it came out. They'd rush to the bookstore or storm the Scholastic book fair to snatch them up.

She vividly remembers reading *Fear Street #1: The New Girl*. Quick plot synopsis: Cory falls in love with Anna, the new girl at his high school. But as he attempts to learn more about her, he finds that his friends don't recognize her, he can't find her in the school files, and a phone call to her family home results in someone on the other end insisting Anna is dead.

Spooky, creepy stuff with just a hint of spooky, creepy romance. Exactly what my teenaged niece needed to read.

Scout and her friend Megan would pass a single copy of the book back and forth to "read them together," one chapter at a time. But, as Scout told me, "Sometimes it was too exciting to stop on the page we had agreed on so I'd have to confess to

(Continued on page 14)

Michaela Hamilton

Michaela Hamilton Tribute

When I turned in *Dread of Winter*, I felt it was lacking something, but as a writer I am always second-guessing myself and never satisfied. Sadly, this time I was right. Michaela very tactfully told me the manuscript was not ready.

After letting this sink in, we discussed the issues, and she suggested one possible change: a new character—a sister that my main character had never known existed. With that small nudge, the work was transformed. Michaela also continued to push me to add more depth and details and be more courageous in addressing threads related to race and culture.

Once she felt the manuscript was done, she then dug in and made some changes, removing about half of the post-climax ending scenes. “No need to tie a neat bow around every plot point.” This is a lesson I continue to revisit over and over.

I know this is just a taste of all that she has brought to so many other authors and their work. I am profoundly grateful I had a chance to work with such a fantastic editor, supporter, and consummate professional.

Congratulations Michaela! Well-deserved.

—SUSAN ALICE BICKFORD

When I was at a low ebb, Michaela Hamilton rescued my Nathan Heller series from oblivion. But when she left Dutton, I felt largely adrift. When she went to Kensington, I didn’t see a way I could travel with her. But she encouraged me to try a cozy, and my wife Barb and I took a shot at doing a proposal. Michaela came back saying, “You don’t understand. We need a spunky heroine, an older woman, a cute pet, a gimmick, and an unusual setting.” What we came up with was a young woman on Prozac, an eccentric mother with bipolar disorder, a blind shih tzu, low-end yard-sale antiques, and our own Iowa hometown. We went in expect-



ing the worst. Her acceptance email was one word: “More.” She published 16 of our Trash ‘n’ Treasures mysteries. When I told her at a Bouchercon I had an unproduced Mickey Spillane western screenplay written for John Wayne, she said, “Can you give me three?” We ended up doing six Caleb York novels. She was not just a friendly editor but a genuine friend. And did I mention what a sharp-eyed, supportive editor she was?

—MAX ALLAN COLLINS (ONE HALF OF BARBARA ALLAN)

Michaela Hamilton took me in at Kensington after I was orphaned by my first editor. I’d only had a few editors since I’d started publishing so I was nervous, especially after hearing so many stories about the fate of orphans. I live on a moun-

Kensington Publishing

tain in Eastern Tennessee. Michaela took the time to get to know me, not only by email, but then she made the trip to a cozy con in Pennsylvania for a face-to-face meeting. Developing this relationship made me trust that she is now my cheerleader at the house. Her edits are spot on, but she always softens the pain with a gentle “but you know your readers.” She’s always right. Thank you, Michaela, for making me feel welcome in your troupe of authors. You deserve this award and many more.

—LYNN CAHOON

From 2013 to 2021, I had the privilege of working with Michaela Hamilton, the remarkable editor behind my six-volume Jimmy Vega mystery series. The first time I dialed her number, one thought echoed through my head: “It’s ‘Michael-a,’ not ‘Mi-kay-la’.” Having experienced the frustration of being called “Susan” instead of “Suzanne,” my whole life, I understood the importance of getting names right.

I needn’t have worried. Michaela proved to be an exceptionally humble, charming, and meticulous editor. She adores books. But even more, she tirelessly supports the authors behind them.

During the editing of our first book, *Land of Careful Shadows*, there was a debate about retaining Spanish phrases and accent marks. I protested that authenticity linguistic or otherwise was the cornerstone of the series. Michaela swiftly rallied behind me, advocating for the integrity of the text with the Kensington editorial team.

“I care as much about this book as you do,” she promised me. She truly does. That’s why tonight, I am overjoyed to celebrate her well-deserved recognition. Brava!

—SUZANNE CHAZIN

I knew of Michaela Hamilton when I was dreaming of being a crime writer. That was a long time ago. She was the editor at NAL back then, the guiding light behind one of my all-time favorite books, *Small Sacrifices* by Ann Rule. Fast forward decades later, and I’m thrilled—and truly grateful—to be one of her authors at Kensington. Michaela saw in me a

potential that other publishers couldn’t or wouldn’t see as I sought to pivot from true crime to crime fiction. She’s been my champion. My publisher. My partner in crime. I love this woman with all my heart. Being honored at the Edgars tonight is so right. In fact, it’s about damn time.

—GREGG OLSEN

ODE TO MICHAELA HAMILTON BY MCCRACKEN POSTON JR.

When I made my manuscript deadline, she took it with her skiing.

I researched ski conditions sites for avalanche reports when I hadn’t heard from her in a week.

I wanted to meet her, so I went to New York City.

I was expecting a woman over six feet tall; such was her command of all things.

When I went astray over audiobook auditions, I got a stern comeuppance.

When I merely asked a question about it later, I got another.

She inspires me to work harder than I have ever worked on anything before.

She will always have my respect because there’s a lot of power in that small frame.

And now she wants to talk about my next book, which horrifies me.

But I can’t think of anyone I’d rather be with on that journey.

Thank you, Michaela, for your patience and guidance.

For believing in my story, and the stories of so many others.

—MCCRACKEN POSTON JR.

Michaela Hamilton is so deserving of the Ellery Queen Award. Hearing the news brought a tear to my eye. I can’t say enough good things about Michaela Hamilton. She was my first editor, my mentor, my supporter, and friend. She could also be stern and not afraid to tell it like it is. I’ve known Michaela since 2004 and since that time she has given me the help and criticism I needed to continue and to become a better writer.

—RICK REED

Kristy Montee

The Books That Buoyed Us Through Childhood

A book, I think, is very like
A little golden door
That takes me into places
Where I've never been before.
It leads me into fairyland
Or countries strange and far,
And best of all the golden door
Always stands ajar.

- Adelaide Love

By PJ Parrish (Kris Montee)



became a reader not because I read but because I was read to.

My first book memory is sitting on my dad's lap while he read to us from the Childcraft books. This was back in the early Fifties, and my world was limited to the dusty developing lots of suburban Detroit. But those 15 Childcraft volumes whisked me off to foreign countries, introduced me to music and science, and sparked my creative imagination with fairy tales and poems.

That poem by Adelaide Love above? It was in my Childcraft book. I memorized it. It is as true for me today as it was when I was eight.

I didn't realize then I was digesting the greats—Longfellow, Emerson, Browning. I do remember being captivated by “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes, about the tragic rogue lover who “came riding, up to the old inn-door...he whistled a tune to the window, and who should be waiting there but the landlord's black-eyed daughter, Bess, the land-



My favorite place was Dad's lap while he read to me.

(continued from page 11)

The Magician Of Mysteries: He Turns Kids Into Readers

reading more than I was supposed to. Sometimes Megan would make the same confession to me.”

Scout and Megan went on to read every single Fear Street Book. Whenever a teacher gave them a reward of extra “free time” for good behavior or finishing their classwork early, Scout and Megan would use that time to read more of R. L. Stine’s books.

The two of them were a big part of the reason R. L. Stine had to write those two books a month back in the 1990s.

But think about all the other Scouts and Megans learning to fall in love with reading thanks to the funny, spooky, and creepy writing of R.L. Stine. And he does it for kids at an age where far too many of them fall out of love with reading, especially reading for fun. Would Scout have become the family physician she is today if she hadn’t spent all that time on Fear Street when she was a teen? Maybe not. You have to do a lot of reading to become a doctor. So, before you get to med school, it’s good if you love reading. R. L. Stine gave Scout, and so many others, that gift.

This, then, is the true source of my sincere and overwhelming appreciation for R. L. Stine and all that he has done and will continue to do.

He turns kids into readers.

Even kids who think reading is worse than eating asparagus mixed with broccoli between two slices of yucky kale bread until they pick up a Goosebumps or Fear Street story.

Someone once described R.L. Stine as a “literary training bra for Stephen King.” A crude metaphor, perhaps, but very apt.

The only way to get readers hooked on mysteries or horror stories or thrillers is to make sure they have fun with them when they’re young.

R.L. Stine has been doing that for decades.

Here’s hoping he does it for several more decades to come.

Chris Grabenstein, the current president of MWA, is an award-winning, number one *New York Times* bestselling author of over six dozen books, including the *Lemoncello*, *Smartest Kid*, *Wonderland*, *Haunted Mysteries*, and *Dog Squad* series.

lord’s daughter, plaiting a dark red love-knot into her long black hair.”

My parents divorced and we moved around a lot when I was a kid. Libraries were my sanctuaries and teachers filled in for my absent dad, reading to our class the Laura Ingalls Wilder books, *The Black Stallion* and *Charlotte’s Web*. (which contains the best opening line of all thrillers: “Where is Papa going with that axe?”)

We all have a favorite kid book. When we decided to honor children’s books with this year’s program, we asked nominees to tell us about their own. The answers came quickly and were delightful. You can read them on pages 45-61. I know everyone in this room tonight can name their favorite without pause.

When I asked Margery Flax about hers, she didn’t hesitate—*The Pink Motel* by Carol Ryrie Brink, published in 1959. “Even at the tender age of 8 years

old, I was already a good way through Nancy Drew and wanting to read something different. I was shopping with my mom, saw the cover and was immediately drawn to it. I knew nothing about Florida but the mysterious messages, alligators and secret treasures grabbed me. Many years later, I found a first edition copy at a great used bookstore in San Francisco. Every now and then I read a chapter or two and become that curious 8-year old voracious reader once again.”

Those Childcraft books of my youth? They somehow made the move to each new house and I made it through my weird childhood. The kid turned out all right. I still have three of Childcraft volumes. You never forget your first love.

Kris Montee is half of the writing team of PJ Parrish, whose *New York Times* bestselling books have won the ITW Thriller Award, two Anthony awards, two Shamus awards, and was an Edgar nominee.



Penguin
Random
House

THEY DUNIT

We Proudly Applaud the **BIG REVEAL** of Our
Edgar Award Finalists

Jennifer J. Chow

Lina Chern

Jennifer Cody Epstein

Matthew J. Kirby

Zeke Faux

Kristen Loesch

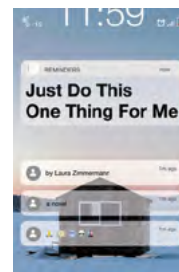
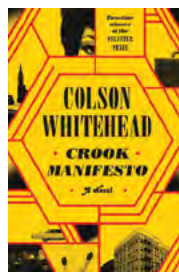
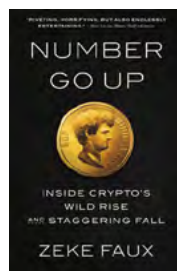
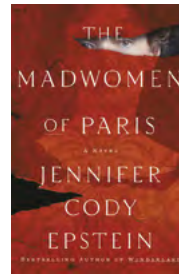
Barbara Rae-Venter

Jesse Q. Sutanto

Colson Whitehead

Mary Winters

Laura Zimmermann



Penguin
Random House
PENGUIN PUBLISHING GROUP



Penguin
Random House
AUDIO PUBLISHING



Penguin
Random House
PENGUIN YOUNG READERS

2024 Edgar[®] Award Nominations

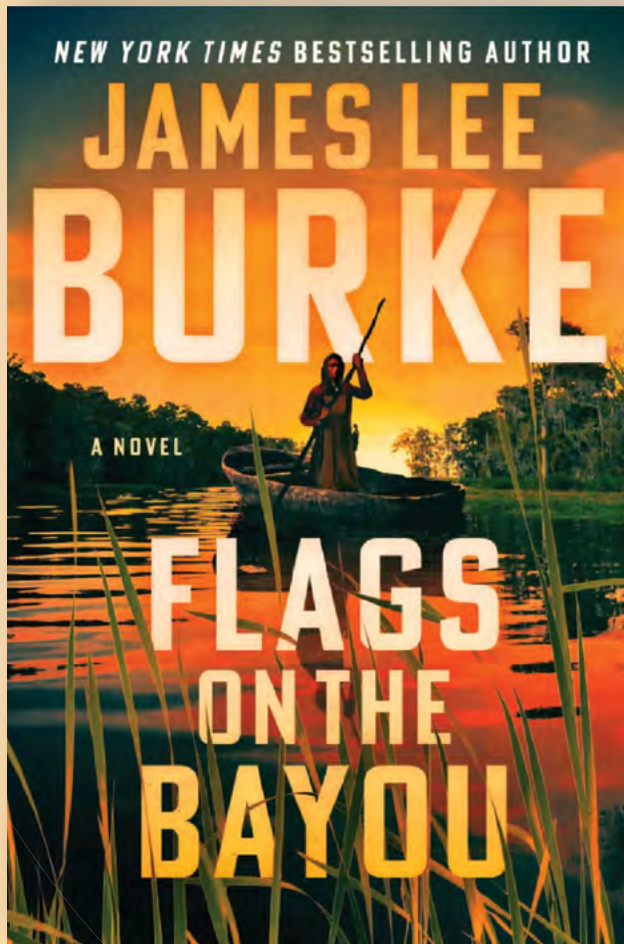


MWA is proud to announce the nominees for the 2024 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television published or produced in 2023.

CONGRATULATIONS

JAMES LEE BURKE

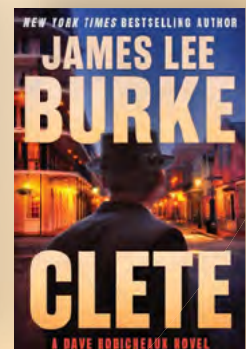
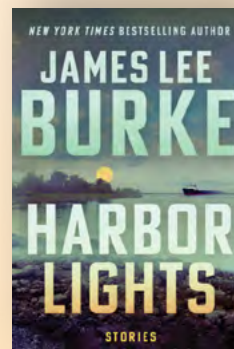
FROM THE PHILIP G. SPITZER
LITERARY AGENCY



Nominated for Best Novel of the Year
by the Mystery Writers of America for
Flags on the Bayou

**“Burke’s evocative
prose remains a
thing of reliably
fierce wonder.”**

—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



James Lee Burke is a *New York Times* bestselling author. He is a two-time winner of the Edgar Award as well as the Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America. Abroad, he has won the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière, the CWA's Gold Dagger, and will be honored with the 2024 Diamond Dagger. He was the recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts in Fiction in 1988.

Mr. Burke's recent books, published
by Atlantic Monthly Press, also include
Harbor Lights (Stories), published January
2024, and the forthcoming *Clete: A Dave
Robicheaux Novel*, June 2024.

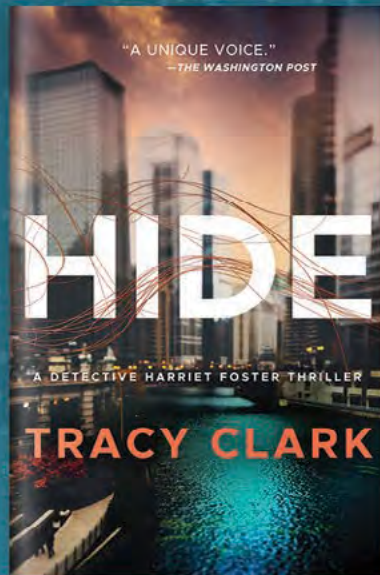


2024 Edgar Award Nominees


Best Novel

		<p>FLAGS ON THE BAYOU James Lee Burke Grove Atlantic – Atlantic Monthly Press</p>	<p><i>Morning on the Lady of the Lake Plantation can be a grand experience, particularly in the late fall when the sky is a clear blue and the wind is blowing in the swamp, Spanish Moss lifting in the trees, and thousands of ducks quacking as they end their long journey to the South.</i></p>
		<p>ALL THE SINNERS BLEED S.A. Cosby Flatiron Books</p>	<p><i>Charon County was founded in bloodshed and darkness. Literally and figuratively.</i></p>
		<p>THE MADWOMEN OF PARIS Jennifer Cody Epstein Penguin Random House – Ballantine Books</p>	<p><i>I didn't see her the day she came to the asylum. Looking back, this sometimes strikes me as unlikely.</i></p>
		<p>BRIGHT YOUNG WOMEN Jessica Knoll Simon & Schuster – Simon Element – Marysue Rucci Books</p>	<p><i>You may not remember me, but I have never forgotten you, begins the letter written in the kind of cursive they don't teach in schools anymore.</i></p>
		<p>AN HONEST MAN Michael Koryta Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown and Company – Mulholland Books</p>	<p><i>The yacht appeared nine weeks after Israel returned to his father's house, and even from a distance and under the squeezed red sun of dawn, he could see that the vessel was in trouble.</i></p>
		<p>THE RIVER WE REMEMBER William Kent Krueger Simon & Schuster – Atria Books</p>	<p><i>The Alabaster River cuts diagonally across Black Earth County, Minnesota, a crooked course like a long crack in a china plate.</i></p>
		<p>CROK MANIFESTO Colson Whitehead Penguin Random House – Doubleday</p>	<p><i>From then on whenever he heard the song he thought of the death of Munson.</i></p>

Amazon Publishing Congratulates Our 2024 Edgar® Award Nominees

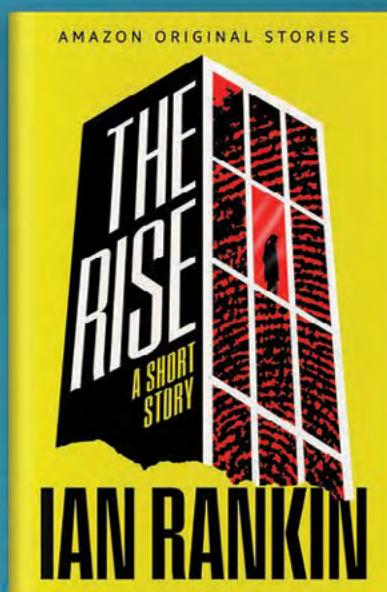


Best Paperback Original

 THOMAS & MERCER

Best Short Story

AMAZON
ORIGINAL
STORIES



2024 Edgar Award Nominees

Best First Novel By An American Author

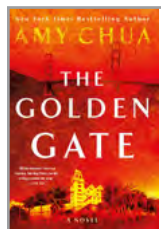


THE PEACOCK AND
THE SPARRROW

I.S. Berry

Simon & Schuster – Atria Books

I hated the smell of Rashid's cigarettes. He always lit up in my car, a beat-up Mitsubishi Lancer with just enough space to breathe.

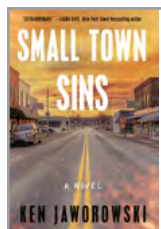


THE GOLDEN GATE

Amy Chua

Macmillan Publishing – Minotaur Books

Inside an alabaster palace one January afternoon in 1930, a six-year-old girl hiding inside a closed armoire felt truly alone for the first time in her life.



SMALL TOWN SINS

Ken Jaworowski

Macmillan Publishing – Henry Holt and Co.

I can trace so much of my life back to a summer night when I was seventeen.



THE LAST RUSSIAN DOLL

Kristen Loesch

Penguin Random House –

In some faraway kingdom, in some long-ago land, there lived a young girl who looked just like her porcelain doll.



Berkley
MURDER BY DEGREES

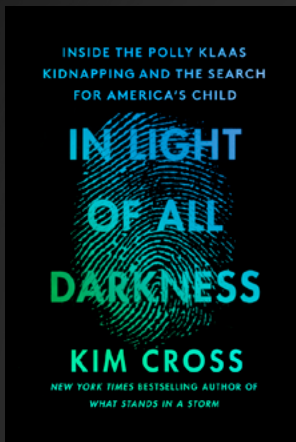
Ritu Mukerji

Simon & Schuster

Her breath was soft and ragged. She crouched against the column and closed her eyes, placing her flushed cheek against the stone as if she could draw strength from its bulwark.

hachette BOOK GROUP

Congratulates all of our
2024 EDGAR AWARD NOMINEES



BEST FACT CRIME



BEST FACT CRIME



BEST YOUNG ADULT



BEST NOVEL



BEST JUVENILE



BEST JUVENILE



Best Paperback Original



BOOMTOWN
A.F. Carter

Penzler Publishers – Mysterious Press

You're a psychopath. That's what my father said when he kicked me out of the house for the last time.



HIDE
Tracy Clark

Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer

Elyse Pratt hated Mondays on principle. She hated running on a Monday even more, but at thirty-eight she knew time was not on her side, and she was determined to stay in a size six if it killed her.



THE TAKEN ONES
Jess Lourey

Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer

The sun smiled violently overhead, causing the tar beneath Rue's blue-striped Adidas to glisten and pulse.



**VERA WONG'S UNSOLICITED
ADVICE FOR MURDERERS**
Jesse Q. Sutanto

Penguin Random House – Berkley

Vera Wong Zhuzhu, age sixty, is a pig, but she really should have been born a rooster.



LOWDOWN ROAD
Scott Von Doviak

Hard Case Crime

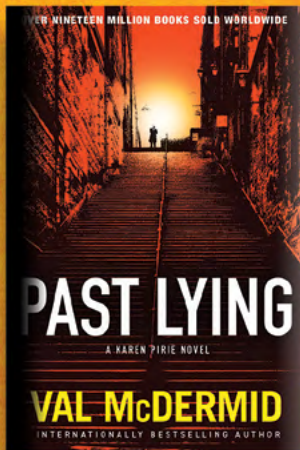
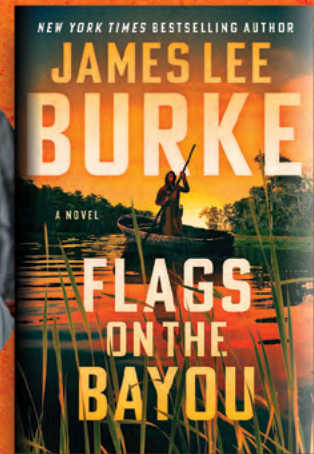
Chuck Melville managed to stay out of trouble for six months following his release from the Texas state prison in Huntsville.

GROVE ATLANTIC CONGRATULATES

**JAMES LEE
BURKE**

*Author of **Flags on the Bayou***

**NOMINATED FOR
BEST NOVEL**



VAL McDERMID

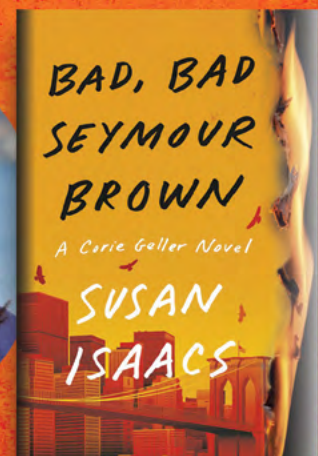
*Author of **Past Lying***

**NOMINATED FOR THE
SUE GRAFTON
MEMORIAL AWARD**

SUSAN ISAACS

*Author of **Bad, Bad Seymour Brown***

**NOMINATED FOR THE
SUE GRAFTON
MEMORIAL AWARD**



READ MORE AT GROVEATLANTIC.COM

2024 Edgar Award Nominees

Best Fact Crime

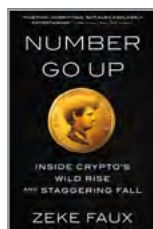


IN LIGHT OF ALL DARKNESS:
Inside the Polly Klaas Kidnapping and the Search
for America's Child

Kim Cross

Hachette Book Group – Grand Central
Publishing

On the first Friday of October 1993, a twelve-year-old girl with a dimpled grin burst out of the week's final class at Petaluma Junior High.

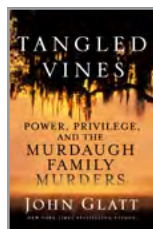


NUMBER GO UP: Inside Crypto's Wild
Rise and Staggering Fall

Zeke Faux

Penguin Random House – Crown
Currency

"I'm not going to lie," Sam Bankman-Fried told me. This was a lie.



TANGLED VINES: Power, Privilege, and
the Murdaugh Family Murders

John Glatt

Macmillan Publishers – St. Martin's Press

Alex Murdaugh's world was falling apart. The highly respected attorney, heir to a powerful legal dynasty that had ruled South Carolina's Lowcountry for more than a century, had run out of places to hide.

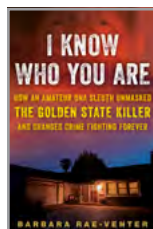


CROOKED: The Roaring '20s Tale of a
Corrupt Attorney General, a Crusading Senator,
and the Birth of the American Political Scandal

Nathan Masters

Hachette Book Group – Hachette Books

Only the president and a few trusted aides knew the attorney general's whereabouts on the morning of September 1, 1922.



I KNOW WHO YOU ARE: How An
Amateur DNA Sleuth Unmasked the Golden State
Killer and Changed Crime Fighting Forever

Barbara Rae-Venter

Penguin Random House – Ballantine Books

No human walks this world without leaving a trace.



THE LOST SONS OF OMAHA:
Two Young Men in an American Tragedy

Joe Sexton

Simon & Schuster – Scribner

By nightfall on May 30, 2020, Jake Gardner was inside his nightclub on Omaha's Old Market district. He had two pistols and a shotgun. One of his regular bartenders soon joined him.

Congratulations

to our nominees

Best Juvenile

The Ghosts of Rancho Espanto

Adrianna Cuevas,

Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers

Best Fact Crime

Tangled Vines

John Glatt, St. Martin's Press

Best Novel

All the Sinners Bleed

S.A. Cosby, Flatiron Books

Best First Novel

by an American Author

The Golden Gate

Amy Chua, Minotaur Books

Best Short Story

Hallowed Ground

Linda Castillo, Minotaur Books

Small Town Sins

Ken Jaworowski, Henry Holt & Co.

The Simon & Schuster
Mary Higgins Clark Award

Of Manners and Murder

Anastasia Hastings, Minotaur Books

The G.P. Putnam's Sons
Sue Grafton Memorial Award

Hard Rain

Samantha Jayne Allen, Minotaur Books

Best Critical/Biographical

A Mystery of Mysteries

Mark Dawidziak, St. Martin's Press

An Evil Heart

Linda Castillo, Minotaur Books

A Stolen Child

Sarah Stewart Taylor, Minotaur Books

The Lilian Jackson Braun
Memorial Award

Misfortune Cookie

Vivien Chien, St. Martin's Paperbacks

Best Critical/Biographical



PERPLEXING PLOTS: Popular
Storytelling and the Poetics of Murder

David Bordwell

Columbia University Press

*Ahhh! It was Friday, October 14, 1994,
and my first encounter with Pulp Fiction
was coming to a close.*

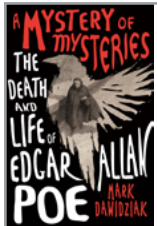


SPILLANE: King of Pulp Fiction

**Max Allan Collins,
James L. Traylor**

Penzler Publishers – Mysterious Press

*In the second half of the twentieth century,
almost overnight, Frank Morrison “Mickey”
Spillane became the most popular mystery
writer in the United States, rivaled
internationally only by Great Britain’s
Agatha Christie.*



A MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES:
The Death and Life of Edgar Allan Poe

Mark Dawidziak

Macmillan Publishing – St. Martin’s Press

*Having completed just forty years of what
was without question a most stormy life,
Edgar Allan Poe took leave of this realm
early Sunday morning, October 7, 1849.*



FALLEN ANGEL: The Life
of Edgar Allan Poe

Robert Morgan

LSU Press

*From the time he played at marrying his
neighbor Catherine Poitiaux at the age of five
or six, until he was engaged to Elmira Royster
Shelton in the weeks before his death, Poe
seemed to have a troubled fascination with the
idea of matrimony.*



LOVE ME FIERCE IN DANGER –
The Life of James Ellroy

Steven Powell

Bloomsbury Publishing – Bloomsbury
Academic

*“James lives life like he was shot out of a
cannon,” Helen Knode, his ex-wife tells me.*

Dell
MAGAZINES

PUBLISHER OF *ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE* & *ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE*

◆◆ **Congratulates** ◆◆

OUR EDGAR® NOMINEE FOR BEST SHORT STORY



ROB OSLER

"Miss Direction"

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine
September/October 2023

**AND OUR NOMINEES FOR THE ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL
AWARD FOR BEST FIRST SHORT STORY BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR**

"ERRAND FOR A NEIGHBOR"
BY BILL BASSMAN

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine
January/February 2023

"THE BODY IN CELL TWO"
BY KATE HOHL

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine
May/June 2023

"THE SOILED DOVE OF SHALLOW HOLLOW"
BY SEAN MCCLUSKEY

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine
January/February 2023

"IT'S HALF YOUR FAULT"
BY MEGHAN LEIGH PAULK

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine
July/August 2023

"TWO HOURS WEST OF NOTHING"
BY GABRIELA STITELER

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine
September/October 2023

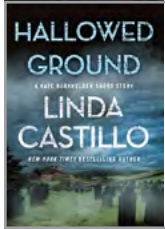


**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK,
TWITTER, INSTAGRAM**

www.themysteryplace.com
www.trace-evidence.net
www.somethingisgoingtohappen.net

2024 Edgar Award Nominees

Best Short Story



“HALLOWED GROUND”

Linda Castillo

Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books

Eddie Chupp slashed the vine with his harvest knife and rolled the pumpkin from beneath its canopy.



“THRILLER” – *Thriller*

Heather Graham

Blackstone Publishing

“Don’t you look at me like that!” Riley Jordan told Rocket, Ethan Warner’s Rottweiler.



“MISS DIRECTION” –
“EQMM September-October”

Rob Osler

Dell Magazines

Before we begin, yes, my name is really Perry Winkle. My pronouns are he/she, him/her, potato/potahto.



“THE RISE” – “Amazon
Original Stories”

Ian Rankin

Amazon Publishing

Gish arrived at The Rise on her mountain bike, so had no trouble parking.



“PIGEON TONY’S LAST
STAND” – “Amazon Originals”

Lisa Scottoline

Amazon Publishing

It was June in South Philly, and the humidity was scented with cheesesteaks.

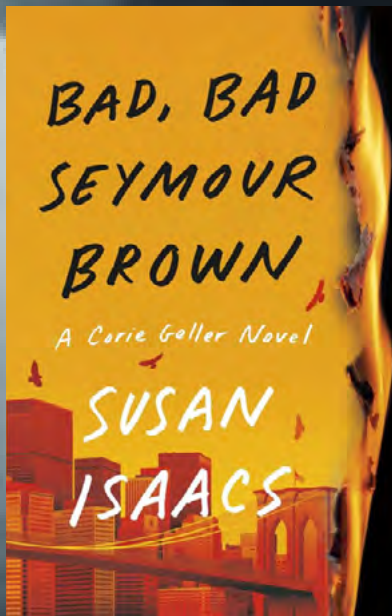
InkWell Management

Congratulates our Edgar Award Nominees

BEST NOVEL

An Honest Man

by Michael Koryta



**THE G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS
SUE GRAFTON
MEMORIAL AWARD**

Bad, Bad Seymour Brown

by Susan Isaacs

2024 Edgar Award Nominees

Best Juvenile



MYRTLE, MEANS, AND
OPPORTUNITY

Elizabeth C. Bunce

Hachette Book Group – Workman
Publishing – Algonquin Young Readers

“I’ve never even heard of Augustus Horatio MacJudd,” Miss Judson, my governess, regarded her telegram on the dining table, its edges curling like the legs of a prematurely dispatched insect.



THE GHOSTS OF
RANCHO ESPANTO

Adrianna Cuevas

Macmillan Publishers – Farrar, Straus
and Giroux BFYR

“You meander down an empty corridor, late afternoon light streaming through the large, smudged windows,” Beto whispers behind me and Yesi as we walk down the hall. “You slowly make your way to the large banquet, empty of revelers.”



EPIC ELLISONS:
COSMOS CAMP

Lamar Giles

HarperCollins Publishers – Versify

Victoria and Evangeleen Ellison – “Wiki” and “Leen” to their friends, or “Epic Ellisons” to folks who needed saving around Logan County – had never, ever been apart.



THE JULES VERNE PROPHECY

**Larry Schwarz,
Iva-Marie Palmer**

Hachette Book Group –
Christy Ottaviano Books

Boom! I send at least one hundred tiny Eiffel Tower key chains to the ground and almost bobble off my board as I roll over a few of them.




WHAT HAPPENED TO
RACHEL RILEY?

Claire Swinarski

HarperCollins Publishers – Quill Tree Books

“Ms. O’Dell, I hope that you’re having a good winter break. Enclosed you will find my un-essay for our Social Issues Class. I’m sorry it’s late, but I hope you understand. Thanks for giving me an Incomplete on my report card instead of an F, because that would have given my mom a heart attack.”

 HarperCollins Publishers

Congratulates Our

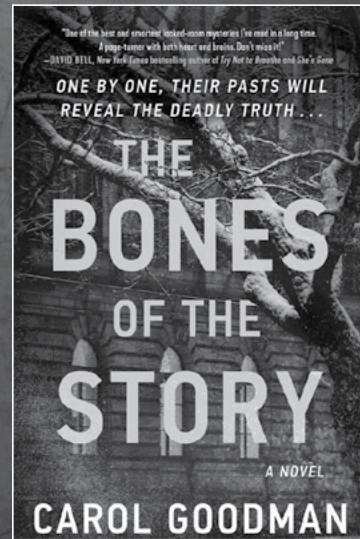
EDGAR[®] AWARD NOMINEES

GRAND MASTER

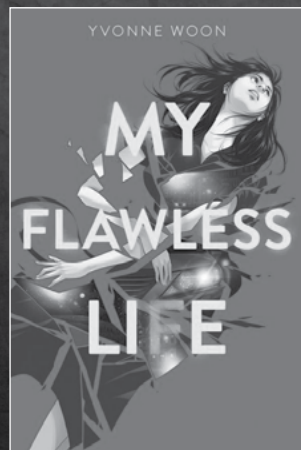
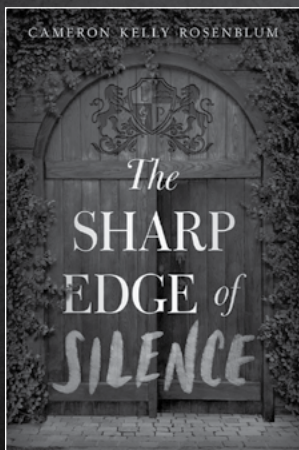


Katherine Hall Page

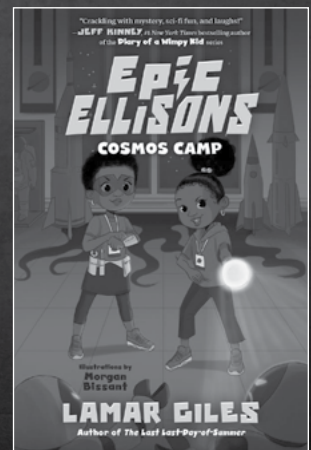
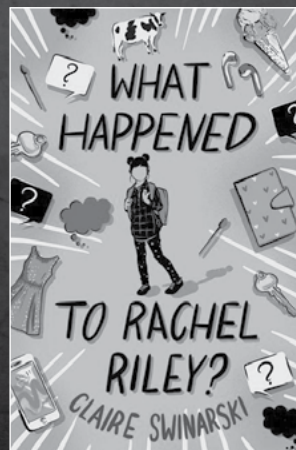
MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD



BEST YOUNG ADULT



BEST JUVENILE



 WILLIAM MORROW

 **VERSIFY**
An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

 **Quill Tree Books**
An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

 **KATHERINE TEGEN BOOKS**
An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

2024 Edgar Award Nominees

Best Young Adult



GIRL FORGOTTEN

April Henry

Hachette Book Group – LBYR –
Christy Ottaviano Books

Maybe after dark, this older section of the cemetery, with its crumbling headstones, would be scary.



STAR SPLITTER

Matthew J. Kirby

Penguin Young Readers – Dutton Books
for Young Readers

I don't care how many prep classes you take, or how many counseling sessions you go through, or how many waivers you sign, none of it actually prepares you to be burned apart by a laser, atom by atom.

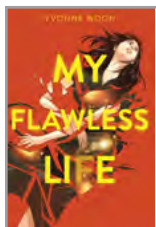


THE SHARP EDGE OF SILENCE

**Cameron Kelly
Rosenblum**

HarperCollins Publishers – Quill Tree Books

Dear Charlotte, It is my great honor to offer you admission to the Lycroft Phelps School.

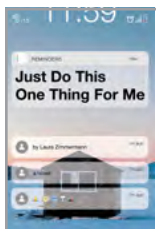


MY FLAWLESS LIFE

Yvonne Woon

HarperCollins Publishers –
Katherine Tegen Books

Picture, if you'll indulge me, a portrait gallery.

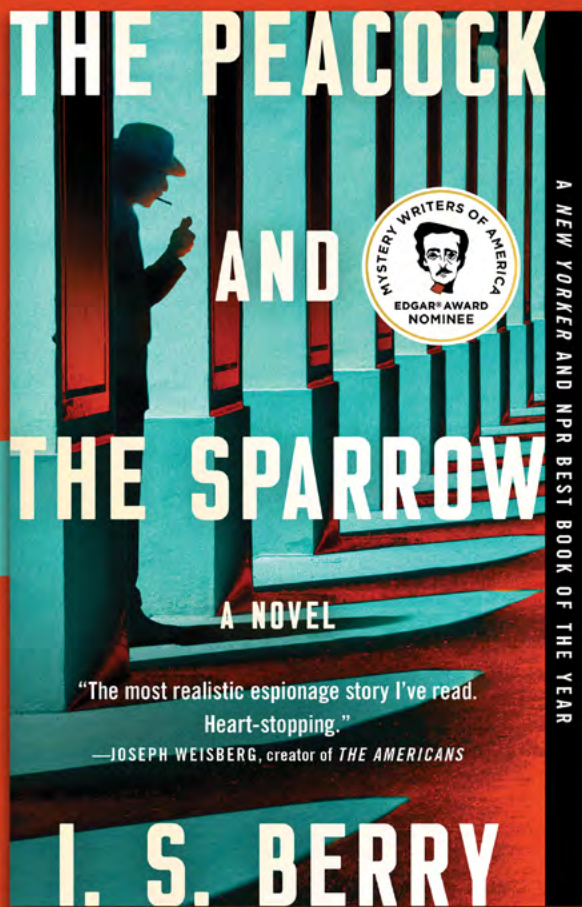


JUST DO THIS ONE
THING FOR ME

Laura Zimmerman

Penguin Young Readers – Dutton
Books for Young Readers

The last time I saw my mother, I mean saw saw her, in real life, she asked for a favor.



McCORMICK LITERARY CONGRATULATES

I.S. BERRY



AUTHOR OF THE ACCLAIMED DEBUT

THE PEACOCK AND THE SPARROW

ON HER EDGAR AWARD NOMINATION FOR

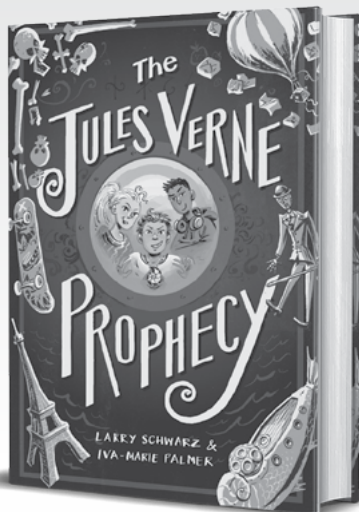
BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

BEST JUVENILE NOMINEE

Congratulations, **LARRY SCHWARZ**
and **IVA-MARIE PALMER!**

"A fabulous
adventure that reads
like a dream vacation."
Sarah Ferguson

"One part *Goonies*,
one part *National
Treasure* (if that
nation were France),
and one-hundred
percent wild ride!"
Micol Ostow



◆ START READING AT LBYR.COM ◆

BEST YOUNG ADULT NOMINEE

Congratulations,
APRIL HENRY!

"This podcast-themed
fusion of mystery and
suspense will arouse
readers' curiosity to
the nail-biting end."
School Library Journal

"The pages fly by
until a final reveal
that will leave
readers questioning
everything."
Booklist



◆ START READING AT THENOVL.COM ◆



Christy Ottaviano Books



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY
BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

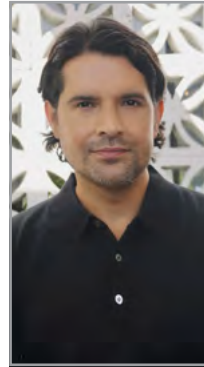


2024 Edgar Award Nominees

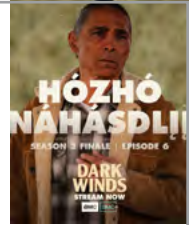
Best Television Episode Teleplay



“TIME OF THE
MONKEY” –
POKER FACE
Wyatt Cain
Peacock



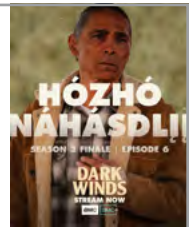
HÓZHÓ
NÁHÁSDLII
(BEAUTY IS
RESTORED) –
DARK WINDS
**Graham
Roland**
AMC



“I’M A PRETTY
OBSERVANT
GUY” – WILL
TRENT
Liz Heldens
ABC



HÓZHÓ
NÁHÁSDLII
(BEAUTY IS
RESTORED) –
DARK WINDS
John Wirth
AMC



“DEAD MAN’S
HAND” – POKER
FACE
Rian Johnson
Peacock



“ESCAPE
FROM SHIT
MOUNTAIN” –
POKER FACE
**Lilla
Zuckerman**
Peacock



“TIME OF THE
MONKEY” –
POKER FACE
**Charlie
Peppers**
Peacock



“ESCAPE
FROM SHIT
MOUNTAIN” –
POKER FACE
**Nora
Zuckerman**
Peacock

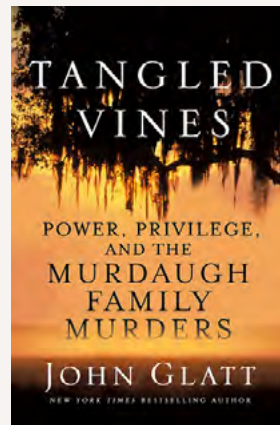




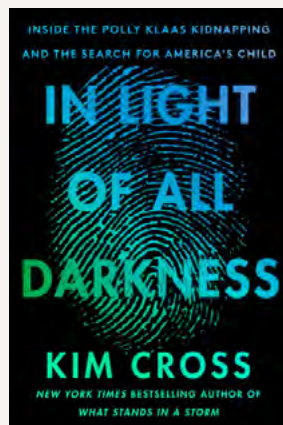
Congratulates our 2024 Edgar Award nominees!



Best Young Adult



Best Fact Crime



Best Fact Crime



*The G.P.
Putnam's Sons
Sue Grafton
Memorial Award*



2024 Edgar Award Nominees

The G.P. Putnam's Sons Sue Grafton Memorial Award



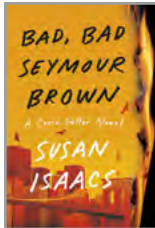
HARD RAIN
Samantha Jayne Allen
Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books

“Shrill, the sound cut through the steady drum of rain on tin.”



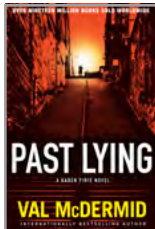
AN EVIL HEART
Linda Castillo
Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books

The sky above the treetops blazed in hues of fluorescent orange and Easter-egg pink when Aden Karn backed his bicycle from the shed.



BAD, BAD SEYMOUR BROWN
Susan Isaacs
Grove Atlantic – Atlantic Monthly Press

In the universe of the 1990s Brooklyn bad guys, Seymour Brown, CPA, had risen way above most of the goons and gangsters.



PAST LYING
Val McDermid
Grove Atlantic – Atlantic Monthly Press

He really believed it was a madcap game. A joke. A dare, played out between old friends. Why would anyone imagine otherwise?



A STOLEN CHILD
Sarah Stewart Taylor
Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books

“Guards! Guard and American Guard! Guard and American Guard!”

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING GROUP CONGRATULATES ADRIANNA CUEVAS 2024 EDGAR AWARD NOMINEE!



"An intriguing mystery with a satisfying emotional payoff."

—KIRKUS REVIEWS

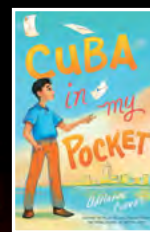
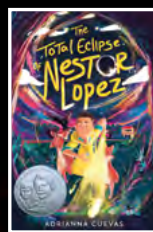
"Humorous, sensitive, and compelling."

—HORN BOOK

"A whirlwind mystery populated by a compassionate community of lovable characters."

—PW

ALSO BY
ADRIANNA CUEVAS



Farrar, Straus and Giroux BYR • An imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group • mckids.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIELLE ARCENEAUX AND *GLORY BE*



Finalist for the Lilian Jackson Braun Award

"Glory Broussard is a character for the ages."

—Sarah Weinman, *The New York Times Book Review*, "The Best Crime Novels of 2023"



PEGASUS CRIME
NEW YORK LONDON

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

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2024 Edgar Award Nominees

Robert L. Fish Memorial Award



“ERRAND FOR A NEIGHBOR”
– “EQMM Jan-Feb 2023”

Bill Bassman

Dell Magazines

The Weather Channel called it the Great Blizzard of '92. To me, it was the night my next-door neighbor smashed all the windows in my house with a baseball bat.



“THE BODY IN CELL TWO”
– “EQMM May-June 2023”

Kate Hohl

Dell Magazines

It took four men to carry the body into the police station.



“THE SOILED DOVE OF
SHALLOW HOLLOW” –
“EQMM Jan-Feb 2023”

Sean McCluskey

Dell Magazines

*The problem I have in bars is my mouth –
booze goes in, words come out.*

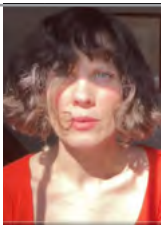


“IT’S HALF YOUR FAULT” –
“EQMM July-August 2023”

Meghan Leigh Paulk

Dell Magazines

*A shadow falls across the open doorway.
Lingers there.*



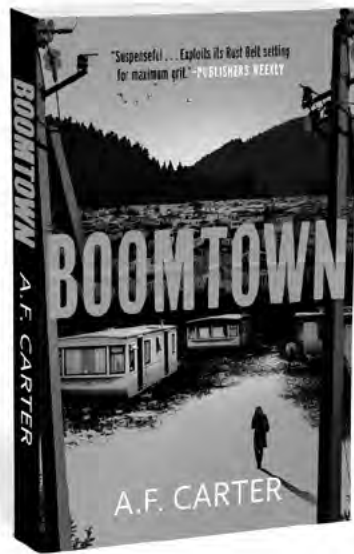
“TWO HOURS WEST OF
NOTHING” – “EQMM
September-October”

Gabriela Stiteler

Dell Magazines

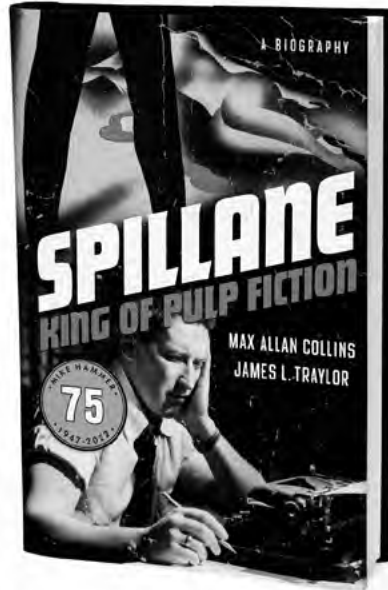
*It was two-thirty on a Tuesday, and I was
slow-sipping a gimlet while folding laundry
and watching the Antiques Roadshow,
when the phone rang.*

The Mysterious Press Congratulates



A.F. Carter
Boomtown

NOMINATED FOR
BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL



**Max Allan Collins &
James L. Traylor, *Spillane***

NOMINATED FOR BEST CRITICAL/
BIOGRAPHICAL WORK



THE
**CHARLOTTE
GUSAY**
LITERARY
AGENCY

Congratulates

Mark Dawidziak

Author: *A Mystery of Mysteries: The Death and Life of Edgar Allan Poe*

Special Thanks to: Stephen Power, Sarah Grill, Hector DeJean, Michelle Cashman

THE CHARLOTTE GUSAY LITERARY AGENCY, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

2024 Edgar Award Nominees

The Simon & Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award



PLAY THE FOOL

Lina Chern

Penguin Random House – Bantam

I always knew Marley would disappear.

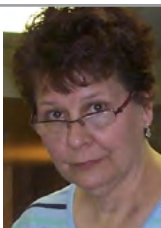
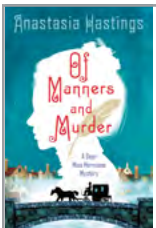


THE BONES OF THE STORY

Carol Goodman

HarperCollins Publishers – William Morrow

I'm just having trouble getting back on track.

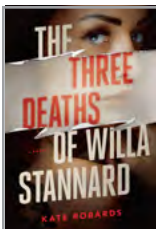


OF MANNERS AND
MURDER

Anastasia Hastings

Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books

It should be known from the beginning, I am no flibbertigibbet.

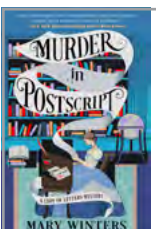


THE THREE DEATHS OF
WILLA STANNARD

Kate Robards

Crooked Lane Books

If Willa Stannard were on air to break the news of her death, she'd report that the police lights sliced through the night.



MURDER IN POSTSCRIPT

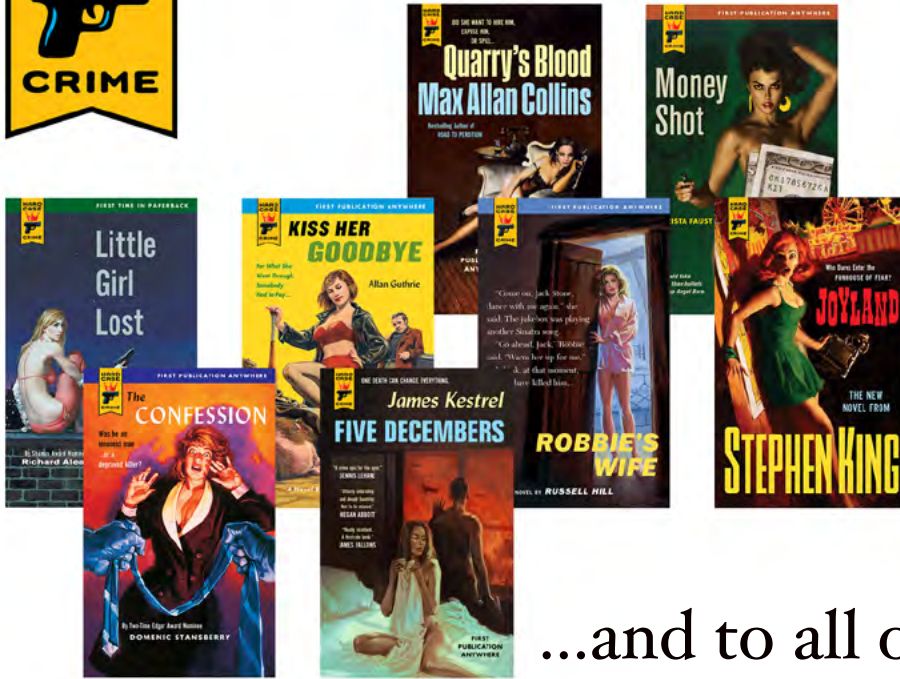
Mary Winters

Penguin Random House – Berkley

Amelia Amesbury hated to admit it, but she was bored. Mind-numbingly bored.



Congratulations to Scott Von Doviak...



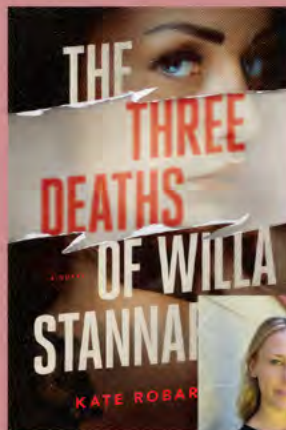
...and to all our past honorees.

CROOKED LANE CONGRATULATES:



Patricia Johns
MURDER OF AN AMISH BRIDEGROOM

The Lilian Jackson Braun Memorial Award Nominee



Kate Robards
THE THREE DEATHS OF WILLA STANNARD

The Simon & Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award Nominee



Mark Waddell
THE BODY IN THE BACK GARDEN

The Lilian Jackson Braun Memorial Award Nominee

2024 Edgar Award Nominees

The Lilian Jackson Braun Memorial Award



GLORY BE
Danielle Arceneaux
Pegasus Books – Pegasus Crime

Glory Broussard was tired of waiting. She figured this barista was new, and she would know since she was a regular at CC's Coffee House.



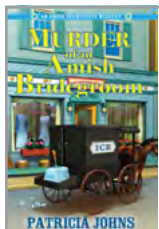
MISFORTUNE COOKIE
Vivien Chien
Macmillan – St. Martin's Paperbacks

I'm what you call a nervous flyer. I don't do well on aircraft. I prefer my feet on solid ground, thank you very much.



HOT POT MURDER
Jennifer J. Chow
Penguin Random House – Berkley

All happy hot pot gatherings are alike; each unhappy hot pot event is disastrous in its own way.



MURDER OF AN AMISH
BRIDEGROOM
Patricia Johns
Crooked Lane Books

Petunia Yoder's pies never turned out. Even in January, with crisp, cold, snowy days, her pies could not be counted on.



THE BODY IN THE BACK
GARDEN
Mark Waddell
Crooked Lane Books

"Look. I'm only going to be there for a couple of days, so can we meet today?" "Of course," Daisy Simpson assured me, the Realtor's low voice coming clearly through the speakers of my rental car.

HORROR ON THE STAGE

MONSTERS, MURDERS AND TERRIFYING MOMENTS IN THEATER
by Amnon Kabatchnik

The history and behind-the-scenes tales of more than 500 stage productions about monsters, hauntings and horrors. Included are nightmarish adaptations of writings from Edgar Allan Poe, Oscar Wilde, H.G. Wells, Henry James, Arthur Conan Doyle, and others.



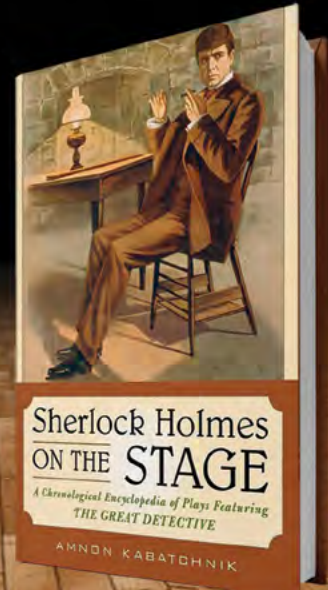
McFARLAND AND COMPANY • MCFARLANDBOOKS.COM

SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE STAGE

By Amnon Kabatchnik

Citing the many theatrical appearances of Holmes since his debut in 1893. Provides plot synopses, production details, and other unique features.

The characterizations of Holmes, Watson and their milieu are dizzying in their variety and complexity... Preferable to others, it provides the opportunity to enjoy the scarce plays.
- Los Angeles Times



ROWMAN & LITTLEFIELD • ROWMAN.COM

COURTROOM DRAMAS ON THE STAGE Vol. 1

by Amnon Kabatchnik

Covers more than fifty plays chronologically. Each includes a plot synopsis, production data, opinions by critics and scholars, as well as biographical sketches of playwrights and key actors-directors.

Enlightening and engaging reference book.
- Ellery Queen
Mystery Magazine



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COURTROOM DRAMAS ON THE STAGE Vol. 2

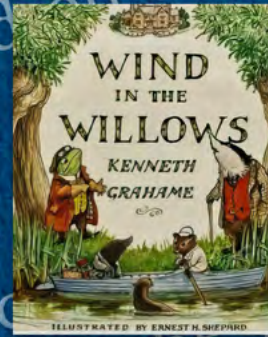
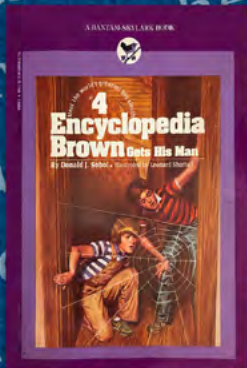
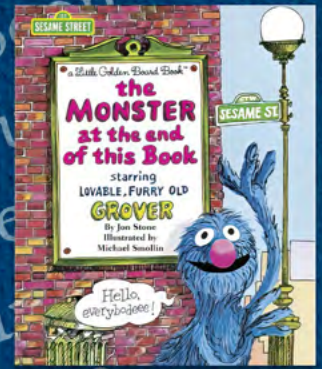
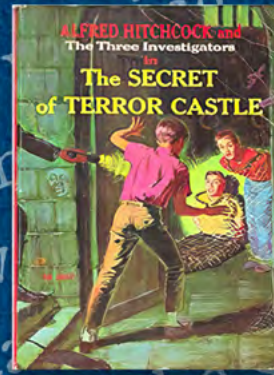
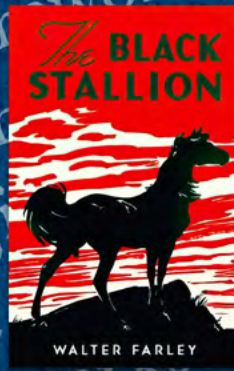
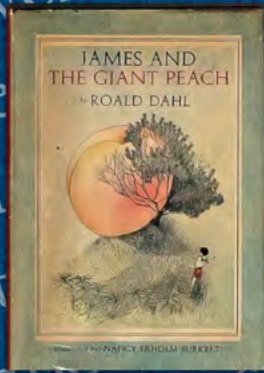
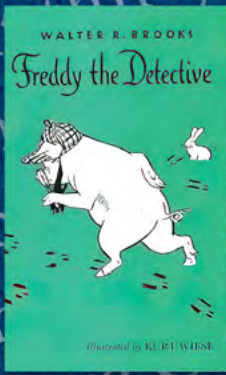
by Amnon Kabatchnik

Volume II concentrates on trial plays mounted in the twentieth century. Authors of the main stream penning plays populated with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, jurors, witnesses, and the accused, often charged with murder in the first degree.

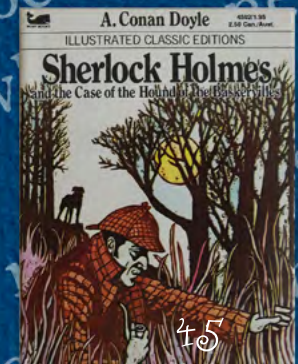
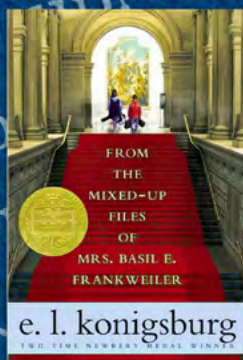
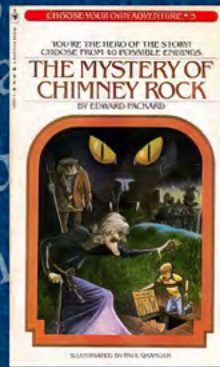
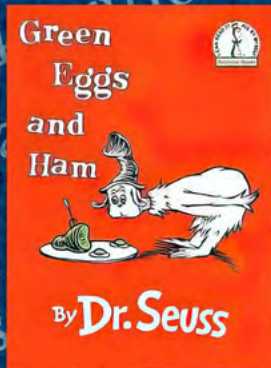
A must-have resource for theater historians, educators, students, and fans of the titular genre.
- DC Theater Arts



BEARMANOR MEDIA • BEARMANORMEDIA.COM



We all had favorite books growing up. This year's nominees tell us about theirs.



My Favorite Book as a Kid...

LJB AWARD NOMINEE

DANIELLE ARCENEUX

Encyclopedia Brown

DONALD J. SOBEL



I was a reluctant reader as a kid, but I devoured every copy of Encyclopedia Brown I could get my hands on. Most were purchased from the Scholastic Book Fair, along with issues of Dynamite magazine. I loved the notion that a kid could solve a mystery—I even started snooping around my neighborhood to find mysteries I might be able to solve. It sparked my lifelong love of the genre.

BEST FIRST NOVEL NOMINEE

I.S. BERRY

The Hundred Dresses

ELEANOR ESTES



This is a book I loved as a child, still go back to, and have read to my son. It's a heartbreaking, sensitive story of an impoverished immigrant girl, Wanda Petronski, who's ridiculed by her classmates when she claims to own one hundred dresses. It spoke to me: I, too, was a young person trying to find my way in the world, often identifying as an outsider. Stories, it made me realize, help us understand ourselves. And the book's ending—Wanda and her father are driven from their town by prejudice—inspired my love of meaningful, haunting literature.

ROBERT FISH AWARD NOMINEE

BILL BASSMAN

Elevator to the Moon

STANLEY WIDNEY



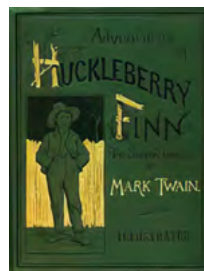
As a kid I mostly read science fiction. The following stand out in my memory: *Elevator to the Moon* by Stanley Widney—not sure how it would hold up today. *The Synthetic Man* by Theodore Sturgeon—not really a kid's book but it cemented my addiction

BEST CRITICAL/BIO NOMINEE

DAVID BORDWELL

Huckleberry Finn

MARK TWAIN



I devoured the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew stories, which gave me my love for mysteries, but the book I kept rereading, then and into adulthood, was *Huckleberry Finn*. I think the opening line, "You don't know about me, without you have read a book by the name of *The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer*," gave me a jolt. Someone was speaking directly to me from the printed page! Maybe I could do that too someday...

My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST NOVEL NOMINEE

JAMES LEE BURKE

Nancy Drew & Hardy Boys

"CAROLYN KEENE" AND "FRANKLIN W. DIXON"



My career as a writer began with the war years and the bookmobile. It was an old bread truck that had been remodeled with wood shelves inside and packed with books, driven by a long-haired kid who probably made \$0.30 an hour if he was lucky. Thursday afternoons during summer he came down our dead-end street and parked in the shade of a canebrake, and every kid on the block ran from his or her house to check out the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books and Mr. Halliburton's adventures. 1942 was a perilous year.

We heard about the casualties at

Wake Island and Guadalcanal and the incendiary bombs the Japanese were supposedly balloon-floating above our nation. Somehow the bookmobile was not only a safe place but one where justice and kindness and goodwill would help us prevail in a world that seemed to be falling apart. Regardless, I was hooked and never wanted to be anything other than an artist, either a musician or an actor or somebody who recited stories. The kid with the un-barbered hair changed my life, and I often wonder what happened to him or if he was drafted and sent to the war. I'll never forget those days. I believe they are indelible for me because they tapped into a Golden Age we can't see, one that may not come again. But that's one man's thinking. The other night I watched *Shane*, the great screenplay written by my friend A.B. Guthrie. As long as we can listen to and see artwork like that, maybe we'll be okay.

MHC AWARD NOMINEE

LINA CHERN

Wizard of Oz (in Russian)

ALEXANDER VOLKOV



One of my favorite books when I was a kid was *The Wizard of Oz*, which I first read in a Russian retelling by Soviet author Alexander Volkov. Volkov took some wild liberties with the original and churned out five sequels, one of which I'm pretty sure featured extraterrestrials.

When I discovered later that the story was an American classic, I was struck for the first time by the magic of authorship, and the effect that different creative viewpoints can have on the same material.

LJB AWARD NOMINEE

JENNIFER J. CHOW

Charlotte's Web

E. B. WHITE



My favorite childhood book was *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White. I loved Fern's courage when she advocated for Wilbur the piglet. For a long time, I even carried around my own stuffed pig. The novel also made me fall in love with the enchantment of words, and I enjoyed Charlotte's spun sayings within its pages. I

appreciated the strong themes of sacrifice and deep friendship, and the dramatic, emotional twist of events at the end. Finally, as a writer, I was happy to follow in White's footsteps and attend the same alma mater.

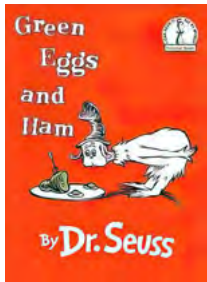
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST PBO NOMINEE

TRACY CLARK

Green Eggs and Ham

DR. SEUSS



The first book I remember loving was Dr. Seuss' *Green Eggs and Ham*. My poor mother would have to read that book to me every night. Some nights, she'd try to pull a fast one and skip a couple pages, but I had memorized the book by then, and always made her go back. I think it was the rhythm of the sentences that appealed to me. The symmetry. "My name is Sam. Sam I am. I do not like green eggs and ham." The even sound, the way the words tripped off the tongue. I write to sound to this day, listening for the rhythm. Thanks, Dr. Seuss. Oh, and Sam.

BEST FACT CRIME NOMINEE

KIM CROSS

All Stephen King books



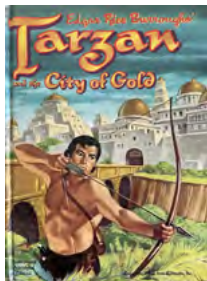
From the ages of 12 to 15, I spent summers living with college-aged coaches at a water-ski training camp in the Mojave Desert. With no TV, no friends my age, and one pay phone shared by twenty-something people, I had to entertain myself. I was never bored or homesick thanks to Stephen King's novels, which transported me to some other place and made me lose track of time. Now, even though I write nonfiction, I strive for novelistic scenes that feel like you're living the story—not reading it.

BEST CRITICAL/BIO NOMINEE

MAX ALLAN COLLINS

Tarzan and the City of Gold

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS



My mother read to me at night, starting at around age four and stopping when I could read myself. She also did not stand in my way where reading comic books were concerned. My most vivid memory is that she read me Tarzan novels by Edgar Rice Burroughs, including *Tarzan and the City of Gold*. Years later I wrote a novel with Burroughs as the hero (*The Pearl Harbor Murders*) and to this day I often employ his method of alternating story threads with chapters ending with cliffhangers, making you read another chapter before the cliffhanger resolves.

BEST JUVENILE NOMINEE

ADRIANNA CUEVAS

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe

CARLOS HERNANDEZ



The first time I saw myself represented in a book was while I read *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez. I was drafting my debut, *The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez*, but the main character wasn't Nestor. His name was Benjamin. I didn't think I'd be published if I wrote about a Cuban boy because I didn't believe there was a market for my culture's stories. And then I read an adventure about a Cuban boy whose family was just like mine. I realized that I could be true to myself and tell stories that honored my culture.

My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST CRITICAL/BIO NOMINEE

MARK DAWIDZIAK

The Secret of Terror Castle

ROBERT ARTHUR JR.



Not too long after my 13th birthday, which fell in 1969, I fell under the spell of those marvelous tales of mystery and horror by Edgar Allan Poe. About the same time, I read my first Sherlock Holmes story and was hooked. But the literary gateway drug to Poe and Conan Doyle was a series of wonderfully atmospheric hardcover novels marketed to young readers and featuring those youthful Three Investigators. The first nine books by Robert Arthur Jr. were what truly sparked the interest in reading — a spark fanned into a brush fire by Poe and Doyle.

BEST FACT CRIME NOMINEE

ZEKE FAUX

Redwall

BRIAN JACQUES



The mice and badgers of Redwall were my first literary heroes. Each year, starting when I was around seven, I'd eagerly await a new adventure in Redwall Abbey and the Mossflower Wood. I loved the honorable warriors, the tricky thieves, the epic battles and the even more epic feasts.

BEST NOVEL NOMINEE

JENNIFER CODY EPSTEIN

The Witch Family

ELEANOR ESTES



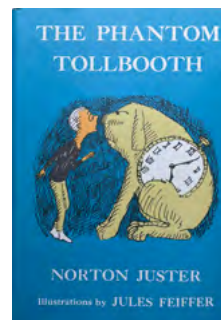
I discovered this somewhere around 2nd grade in our school library, and was immediately entranced. Not just by the story of “Old Witch, Little Witch” and “Weenie Witch” (complete with appropriately-scaled brooms and black cats) living in exile on a bleak glass hill that secretly houses mermaids, but by the metaphysical twist of their witchy reality colliding with that of two suburban girls who'd quite literally imagined them all into being. I loved the novel so much that I read it every Halloween well into adolescence, and resurrected the tradition with my own daughters when they were small.

BEST JUVENILE NOMINEE

LAMAR GILES

The Phantom Tollbooth

NORTON JUSTER



The Phantom Tollbooth is a book that not only made me giddy as a child reader with its funny wordplay (hello “Whether Man” and “Tock the Watchdog”) and whimsical plotting, it imprinted on my story telling DNA. There’s probably a shade of it in everything I write, but especially my Logan County books which have been described (by me) as “The Hardy Boys crashing into the Phantom Tollbooth.”

My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST FACT CRIME NOMINEE

JOHN GLATT

Alice in Wonderland

LEWIS CARROLL



One of the first books that really captured my imagination was Lewis Carroll's magical *Alice In Wonderland*. I totally related to Alice's boredom as she sat by the River Thames, thinking, 'What's the use of a book without pictures or conversations?' Then I carried on reading to be

introduced to the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter, and felt them come alive through Carroll's printed words. I think that was when I first realized the immense power of words and made me want to be a writer.

BEST SHORT STORY NOMINEE

HEATHER GRAHAM

Reader's Digest Treasury for Young Readers



I was a lucky child as both parents were great readers and my sister and I had tons of books from early ages. My favorite? *Reader's Digest Treasury for Young Readers*. I learned so much! As a Floridian, I couldn't understand why the survivors on the Titanic didn't just swim and

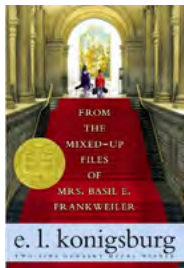
float to safety—I had no idea until then just how cold water could be! Every story gave me great new places, history, and events that fascinated me and while I loved many books, these 'treasuries' stay in my mind as some of the best reads ever for kids!

MHC AWARD NOMINEE

CAROL GOODMAN

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

E.L. KONIGSBURG



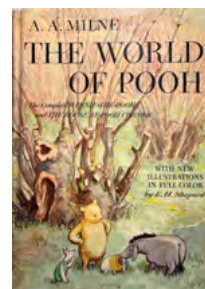
From the *Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg set me on my path to become a writer. The story of two children, Claudia and Jamie Kincaid, who run away from home and hide out at the Metropolitan Museum, inspired me with its spirit of adventure, real-life setting, and mystery plot. Claudia becomes intrigued by a recent donation to the museum of a marble angel and sets out to prove it was made by Michelangelo. Through tenacity, intelligence, and a deep need to discover secrets, Claudia solves the mystery. She's just the kind of heroine I have always loved and aspired to write.

ELLERY QUEEN NOMINEE

MICHAELA HAMILTON

Winnie the Pooh books

A.A. MILNE



My favorite memories of childhood revolve around reading the A. A. Milne books with my mother. Christopher Robin and Pooh were my best friends.

Tigger and Roo made me laugh, while Eeyore and Wol made me think. Reading opened the door to my personal Hundred Acre Wood, where animals talked,

adventures awaited, and problems were solved. My mother and I quoted the Pooh books throughout our lives together, enjoying the timeless wisdom of a simpler world

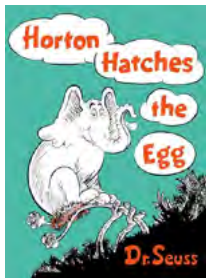
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

MHC AWARD NOMINEE

ANASTASIA HASTINGS

Horton Hatches the Egg

DR. SEUSS



I can't say it was my favorite, but I can remember the first book I took out of the library. I was maybe 6 years old and my dad (a police detective who was usually working the mean streets) took me to the Cleveland Public Library for my first library card. I can still remember skipping back into the house with that pink cardboard card, jumping up and down, showing it to my mom. The book? *Horton Hatches the Egg*.

ROBERT FISH AWARD NOMINEE

KATE HOHL

Jane Emily

PATRICIA CLAPP



Every summer vacation my mother took me and my brothers to the bookstore where we could each buy two books. When I was 10 years old, one of my choices was *Jane Emily* by Patricia Clapp, a nifty little ghost story that takes place in 1910's Massachusetts. An orphan accompanies her aunt to her grandmother's for the summer where she encounters the malevolent ghost of the little girl who used to live there. Or is she imagining things? Chills upon chills. I reread this creepy little gem many times over the years. A gateway to adult mysteries and thrillers.

BEST YOUNG ADULT NOMINEE

APRIL HENRY

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

ROALD DAHL



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was magical for me. Reading it made me want to be a writer. When I was 12, I wrote a short story about

a six-foot tall frog named Herman who loved peanut butter. I thought Roald Dahl would appreciate it, so I sent it to him care of his publisher in New York. It eventually made its way to England and Dahl sent me back this postcard. He even showed the story to his editor, and she arranged to have it published in a children's magazine.



My Favorite Book as a Kid...

SUE GRAFTON AWARD NOMINEE

SUSAN ISAACS

Auntie Mame

PATRICK DENNIS



The young me did not have exquisite taste. Sure, if a book was intensely boring, I'd stop reading. But neither parents nor teachers ever urged, "Sweetie, you must get to..." Whatever. Some kiddie classic about anthropomorphic rabbits. I had no guidelines, just a Brooklyn Public Library card. Astronomy, mysteries, dinosaurs, the Tudor monarchs, science fiction. Three or four books a week so I could get away to other worlds. Then, when I was 11, I came across *Auntie Mame* by Patrick Dennis, a romp of a novel about a boy adopted by the most urbane of Manhattanites. Witty, mocking, at times touching, it sizzled with life. Those pages must have shocked my system. I didn't think, Hey, I gotta read more satire. I thought, I want to write.



BEST FIRST NOVEL NOMINEE

KEN JAWOROWSKI

Charlotte's Web

E. B. WHITE



My parents both worked exhausting jobs. Reading wasn't a priority when they returned home. Sleep was. But one night my mother sank into an easy chair, showed me a book, and said, "Let's try this." It was *Charlotte's Web*. My mother was a waitress and I imagine a customer had left the book behind. I sat beside her and followed along as her finger moved underneath each word, my mouth open in wonder. It's a memory that can still mist my eyes, and it's a feeling that I carry to most every book I've read since.

LJB AWARD NOMINEE

PATRICIA JOHNS

Freddy the Detective

WALTER R. BROOKS



The first book to really capture my imagination as a child was *Freddy the Detective* by Walter R. Brooks. I loved that talking pig, and I found the Freddy the Pig series in the children's section of our local library. A few years ago, I bought a hardcover copy of that book, just like the copy I'd read and reread from the public library. It's comforting, somehow, to have it nestled in my bookshelf.

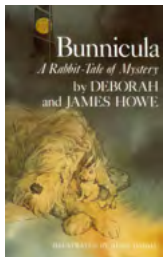
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST NOVEL NOMINEE

MICHAEL KORYTA

Bunnicula / The View from the Cherry Tree

JAMES HOWE / WILLO DAVIS ROBERTS



There were two mysteries that hooked me as soon as I began to read: *Bunnicula*, by James Howe, in which the affable narrator dog, Harold, delivers a manuscript to his editor, detailing the adventures he shared with the surly but well-read cat, Chester, and the book's titular vampire rabbit character. The other was *The View From The Cherry Tree*, by three-time Edgar-winner Willo Davis Roberts, in which a kid witnesses a murder in his neighborhood and no one believes his story. That tale also featured a cat named S.O.B., which absolutely delighted me.



BEST NOVEL NOMINEE

WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER

The Count of Monte Cristo

ALEXANDRE DUMAS



Most of my early reading pleasure came from comic books. But the summer I was twelve, to satisfy a Boy Scout requirement, I volunteered at the library. My first day there, the librarian asked me what I liked to read. When I confessed my proclivity for comic books, she suggested I try *The Count of Monte Cristo*. That novel changed my reading life forever. I fell in love with adventure stories. After I devoured everything the library had by Dumas, this wonderful woman turned me on to Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Arthur Conan Doyle, Robert Louis Stevenson, and the like. God bless librarians!

BEST FIRST NOVEL NOMINEE

KRISTEN LOESCH

Alanna

TAMORA PIERCE



At 9 years old, I spent a week at my aunt's house and found a copy of Tamora Pierce's *Alanna* between the sofa cushions. I would go on to devour the rest of the four-book series, and I adored every line...until the ending. I hated the ending. I wrote an angry letter to Tamora Pierce demanding that she change it, and then I decided the only way to get the endings I wanted was to write my own books. Dear Tamora Pierce, you changed my life. You don't have to change the ending anymore.

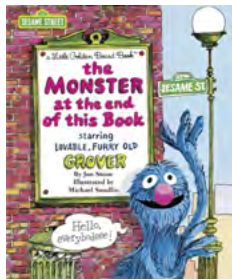
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST PBO NOMINEE

JESS LOUREY

The Monster at the End of This Book, Starring Loveable, Furry Old Grover

JON STONE



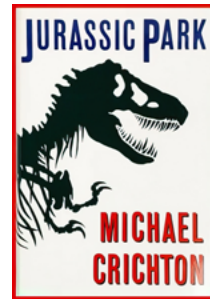
The book that I adored as a child is still one of my favorite today: *The Monster at the End of This Book, Starring Loveable, Furry Old Grover*. I loved it as a kid because my mom read it using silly voices. As an adult, it reminds me that the monsters we create are often our own worst enemies (spoiler alert), and that accepting and acting instead of worrying is the way to go. Corny, for sure, but a reminder I need. I even read the book to my clients at writing retreats to help them acknowledge the personal barriers they build. Story time!

BEST FACT CRIME NOMINEE

NATHAN MASTERS

Jurassic Park

MICHAEL CRICHTON



Stories from the past have always fascinated me, but I'll confess that, as a kid, I may not have devoured narrative history about political corruption. What really fired my young imagination was Michael Crichton's cautionary tale of science overstepping its bounds and T. rex running amok. (Not

Fact Crime, thankfully!) What 8-year-old boy doesn't love dinosaurs? It might be the first page-turner I ever read, and ultimately it inspired me to apply the techniques of a thriller to my own writing—especially when tackling the long-forgotten, once-dusty story of an outlaw attorney general.



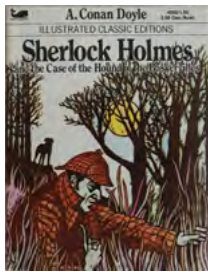
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

ROBERT FISH AWARD NOMINEE

SEAN McCLUSKEY

The Hound of the Baskervilles

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



Long ago, I borrowed a book from my grade school library: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. It was the Illustrated Classic Edition, an abridged pocket-sized version credited to “A. Conan Doyle” (even his name was abridged), with brisk, straightforward prose complemented by comic book-style images on every other page.

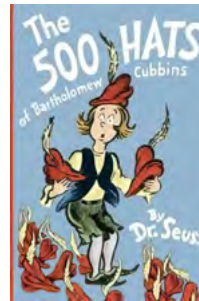
I thought this Doyle guy was a pretty good writer and a talented artist! Years later I discovered Doyle’s original, also illustrated—far more sparsely—by the inimitable Sidney Paget. But that tiny digest inspired me to seek out more mysteries, and eventually, to try writing (though not illustrating) my own.

BEST CRITICAL/BIO NOMINEE

ROBERT MORGAN

500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins

DR. SEUSS



This was the story that frightened me most at about the age of 5. My father read it to my sister and me and I began to cry as Bartholomew mounted the steps yanking off one hat after another. That must have been one of my first experiences of sublime terror. But then what wonderful relief when he reached the top of the tower, jerked off the last hat and

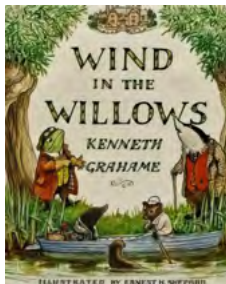
felt the cool breeze in his hair. I had discovered the power of the sympathetic imagination, the intense joy of storytelling.

SUE GRAFTON AWARD NOMINEE

VAL McDERMID

The Wind in the Willows

KENNETH GRAHAME



I had measles when I was 5 and was confined to a darkened room. My mother sat outside the door in the hallway and read me *The Wind in the Willows*. I was captivated by the talking animals, their adventures and the world Kenneth Grahame conjured up; it made me forget how ill I

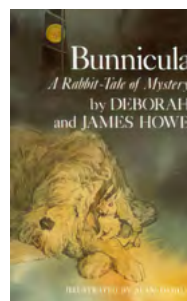
felt and it lit a fire in me for more stories.

BEST FIRST NOVEL NOMINEE

RITU MUKERJI

Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery

DEBORAH AND JAMES HOWE



It is a dark and stormy night when the Monroe family returns home with an orphaned bunny. But something is odd about this mysterious visitor: he has tiny fangs and roams the house at night. Soon strange things start happening. All the elements of great crime fiction are here: an endearing pair of investigators in Harold the dog and Chester the cat, an unreliable and

intriguing suspect, layered red herrings. I will never forget the thrill my 9-year-old self experienced with this novel, the utter delight of being transported into a mystery that kept me guessing until the end.

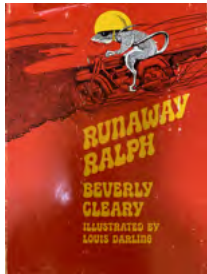
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST SHORT STORY NOMINEE

ROB OSLER

Runaway Ralph

BEVERLY CLEARY



The sequel to equally terrific *The Mouse And The Motorcycle*, this passage tells you all you need to know: “Ralph was free for the night! He darted under the television set where he had hidden his motorcycle and the crash helmet that Keith had made from half a pingpong ball lined with thistle-down. He

already had polished the chrome on his motorcycle by licking his paws and rubbing them over the dull spots. Now he set his crash helmet on his head, snapped the rubber band under his chin to hold it in place, and taking care to keep his tail out of the spokes mounted his motorcycle.”

BEST JUVENILE NOMINEE

IVA-MARIE PALMER



For me, it wasn't one singular book that got me reading so much as it was visits to the library with my mom. While I had a shelf of books in my room, the Oak Lawn Public Library offered me two floors of more books than I could wrap my head around. The day I got my own

library card was a moment that felt like I'd been given a treasure map and saw that the X that marked the spot was already right beneath my feet. Since then, my life has been broadened and my work inspired by more books and authors than I can count.

ROBERT FISH AWARD NOMINEE

MEGHAN LEIGH PAULK

The Westing Game

ELLEN RASKIN



I read obsessively as a kid, but *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin changed my life by launching my love of mysteries. The book became my bridge to discovering Agatha Christie and it eventually inspired me to pick up a pen and write. (I couldn't type yet.) In *The Westing Game*, 16 potential heirs must compete for a millionaire's

fortune by solving the mystery surrounding his death. Turtle Wexler, a smart and spirited preteen who's the youngest player in the game, both financially savvy and fiercely protective of her braid, remains one of my favorite protagonists.

GRAND MASTER

KATHERINE HALL PAGE

A Little Princess

FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT



I was lucky to grow up in a house filled with books. My parents gave me *A Little Princess* for my tenth birthday. I had read *Little Women*, *Anne of Green Gables* and more; yet *A Little Princess* became and remains my favorite. Perhaps it is the plot in which Sara Crewe goes from

riches to rags to happily ever after riches. Perhaps the characters. Miss Minchin is truly evil. Rereading it yet again I've realized it is because Sara was a teller of tales and her words—“Everything's a story. You are a story—I am a story.” became mine.

My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST CRITICAL/BIO NOMINEE

STEVEN POWELL

April Fools

RICHIE TANKERSLEY CUSICK



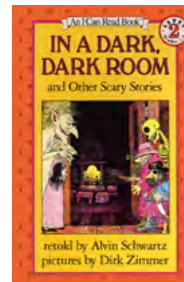
I was 13 when I walked into the new school library. A display of Point Horror books stood out as a pretty girl in my class was standing there reading *April Fools* by Richie Tankersley Cusick. I picked up the novel as a conversation-starter. A few pages in and that pretty girl had disappeared, but I didn't notice. I was immersed in the world of Point Horror. The plot: Belinda witnesses what she believes is a fatal car crash, but a series of pranks afterwards makes her doubt her recollection of events.

MHC AWARD NOMINEE

KATE ROBARDS

In a Dark, Dark Room and Other Scary Stories

ALVIN SCHWARTZ



As the daughter of a librarian, I developed a love of reading at a young age. My favorite book was a collection of urban legends and horror stories retold for children. One haunting tale, “The Green Ribbon,” — an adaptation of a short story by Washington Irving — never left my mind. As a beginning reader, I savored the feeling of being frightened by a book. This book ignited my love of campfire tales with the power to burrow into our imaginations, inspiring me as a writer.

BEST SHORT STORY NOMINEE

IAN RANKIN

Treasure Island

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



Robert Louis Stevenson was born in Edinburgh. As a child he was often unwell and would stay in his bedroom, peering down into the park opposite—where there also happened to be a pond with a small island. His imagination did the rest. *Treasure Island* is an adventure story that has it all: a plucky young hero, plenty of scares, pirates, treasure, a tropical

island and one of the great fictional villains in Long John Silver. It can be enjoyed by children and adults alike and is perfect for reading out loud at bedtime. I love it as much now (at 63) as I did when I was 10.

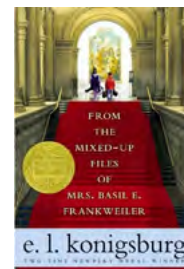
—Sir Ian Rankin

BEST YOUNG ADULT NOMINEE

CAMERON KELLY ROSENBLUM

The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

E.L. Konigsburg



As a kid, *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg blew my mind. Claudia was the perfect heroine: a kid with inner angst, despite her comfortable life. I had inexplicable inner angst and a comfortable life! But Claudia had the guts to run away from home to prove it; she wasn't kidding around. She cleverly managed to move into the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and with her little brother (I have a little brother) uncover secret after secret about a suspected Michelangelo, the mysterious Mrs. Frankweiler, and her own family. Sheer genius.

My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST SHORT STORY NOMINEE

LISA SCOTTOLINE

The Secret of the Old Clock

CAROLYN KEENE



I'm not the first mystery writer who read Nancy Drew as a child, but I might be the first mystery writer who read only Nancy Drew as a child. As soon as I finished one Nancy Drew, I started another. I finished all the Nancy Drews and then started over again. I loved Nancy's pluckiness, her besties Bess and George, her boyfriend Ned, and

her blue roadster. I loved that she was always in the driver's seat. And every book, she chose her own adventure. What else could a girl want?

GRAND MASTER

R.L. STINE

Tales from the Crypt

VARIOUS



People always ask me my favorite book when I was a kid. And I have to answer and say I didn't read books. I read only comic books. I was a comic book freak. I carried a big stack with me which I would read and trade with my friends. My favorites were the EC horror comics, "Tales from the Crypt" and "The Vault of Horror."

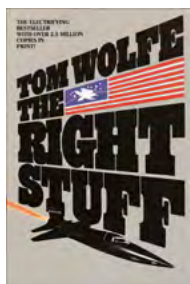
Gruesome, terrifying stories with great art and funny twist endings. My mother wouldn't allow me to own them. But the barbershop had a big stack of them. So I used to go get a haircut every Saturday morning. I had less hair as a kid than I do now! But I was very well-read.

BEST FACT CRIME NOMINEE

JOE SEXTON

The Right Stuff

TOM WOLFE



I read *The Right Stuff* by Tom Wolfe on the cusp of adulthood. Startled, enthralled, inspired, I was. Narrative nonfiction with style and humor and a distinctive ambition worthy of the men who were the book's subjects. I was the oldest boy in a sprawling family of liberal Democrats, anti-war protesters and defiant

Muhammad Ali supporters. Still, the patriotism and heroism captured in the book felt natural and intoxicating. "Read the book," one review raved, "then go fly a jet." Hell, yeah!

BEST JUVENILE NOMINEE

CLAIRE SWINARSKI

Sammy Keyes series

WENDELIN VAN DRAANEN



The Sammy Keyes books by Wendelin Van Draanen were an essential part of my childhood reading experience. Sammy was irreverent, loyal, and hilarious—unlike any other girl I'd read about in books. She wore a skateboard, smack-talked bullies, and solved actual crimes. She

was simultaneously fearless and kindhearted. Sammy taught me that there were a lot of ways to be a girl, and Wendline Van Draanen taught me that there were a lot of ways to write about girlhood.

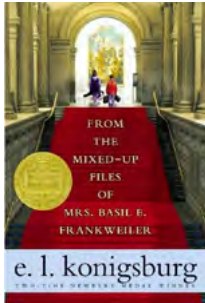
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

SUE GRAFTON AWARD NOMINEE

SARAH STEWART TAYLOR

From *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

E.L. KONIGSBURG



As a child, I was obsessed with secrets and adventures — and crime. The book that brought all of these together for me was E. L. Konigsburg's *From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. How I longed to be 12-year-old Claudia Kincaid as she and her younger brother Jamie (the money behind their run-away operation) took off for Manhattan, hiding out in the bathroom of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and using the landmark as their personal hotel. It's funny, but when I read the novel to my own kids, it was less of a crime novel than I remembered it being. But we all enjoyed the forbidden nature of Claudia and Jamie's adventure and it brought back the thrill of a book that treated children like real people, with dreams and secrets and flaws.

BEST CRITICAL/BIO NOMINEE

JAMES L. TRAYLOR

The Black Stallion

WALTER FARLEY



When I was about 10 years old, I read *The Black Stallion* by Walter Farley. I was captivated by the easy style of its author, not knowing he was just a teenager. The sweeping story began with young Alec Ramsay and the Arabian stallion the Black marooned after a storm at sea. After their rescue Alec was able to use the understanding between himself and the great black stallion to begin a series of highly enjoyable adventures including the famous match race which concludes the novel. I read all the Black Stallion books I could find. And then I discovered Perry Mason.



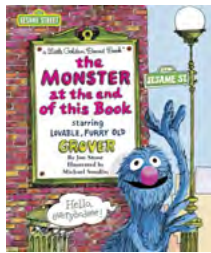
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST PBO NOMINEE

SCOTT VON DOVIAK

The Monster at the End of This Book, Starring Loveable, Furry Old Grover

JON STONE



Mystery writers know the power of a good twist to upend a reader's expectations. This was a lesson I learned early with perhaps the first book I ever read on my own, *The Monster at the End of This Book*. Throughout the story,

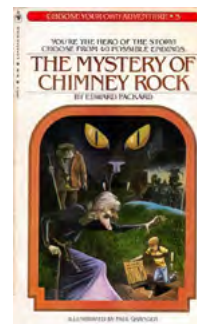
lovable Sesame Street character Grover, knowing that the monster awaits, begs the reader to stop turning the pages, only to learn at the end that he was the monster all along. Mind blown! This was a 4-year-old's introduction to existentialism, metafiction, and the reveal that changes everything.

MHC AWARD NOMINEE

MARY WINTERS

The Mystery at Chimney Rock

EDWARD PACKARD



When I was young, I was addicted to the Choose Your Own Adventure series. I grew up in a rural state, where nothing was an adventure, and I very much lived in my imagination. The series made me feel like a participant—an actor—in an exciting quest, and I loved the thrill of it. We didn't have a lot of books in my house at that time, so when the

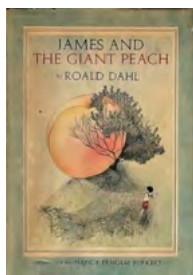
bookmobile came around, I could check out these books and read them again and again, taking new paths. It was a puzzle and a book, and maybe in some way, the books inspired me to write my own stories later in life. Despite having to stay where I was, I could have adventures. I still find that a compelling reason to write today.

LJB AWARD NOMINEE

MARK WADDELL

James and the Giant Peach

ROALD DAHL



As a child, I read *James and the Giant Peach* more times than I can count. It's dark and absurdist and sometimes scary, but as with so many of Roald Dahl's books, it also highlights the bravery and ingenuity of children. I wanted so badly to fly off into the sky in an enormous peach! The idea that you could escape your life and embark on a thrilling adventure utterly captivated me, and it's why I read so voraciously as a child. Each book was—and still is!—a new adventure.



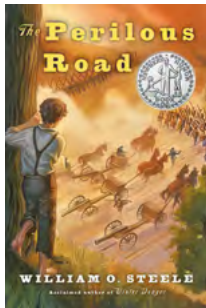
My Favorite Book as a Kid...

BEST TV EPISODE NOMINEE

JOHN WIRTH

The Perilous Road

WILLIAM O. STEELE



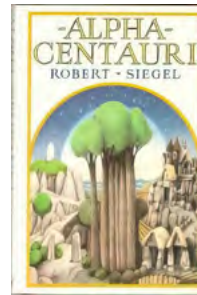
The book that made me a reader was *The Perilous Road* by William O. Steele. I read it in 4th grade. It kicked off a lifetime of adventures in books for me. Senior year, Mrs. Sadler, my English teacher, dropped *The Godfather* on my desk, said, “Read this, you’ll like it.” I decided I wanted to be a writer after the first page. Also, the girl who sat in front of me introduced me to her best friend, who I’m still married to 42 years later. So, you know, things worked out...

BEST YOUNG ADULT NOMINEE

LAURA ZIMMERMAN

Alpha Centauri

ROBERT SIEGEL



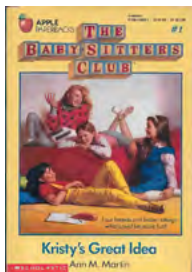
An accidental portal to another world, magical creatures, epic battles, good vs. evil, a hero’s journey. No, not Narnia (though who among us doesn’t occasionally tap the back of the closet, just in case?). It was *Alpha Centauri* by Robert Siegel that I loved to tatters, because in this book, the hero was a girl. A girl who saved the entire population of centaurs from extinction. A girl who opened a Path to the Stars. And no one even knew she’d been gone.

BEST YOUNG ADULT NOMINEE

YVONNE WOON

The Baby Sitters Club series

ANN M. MARTIN



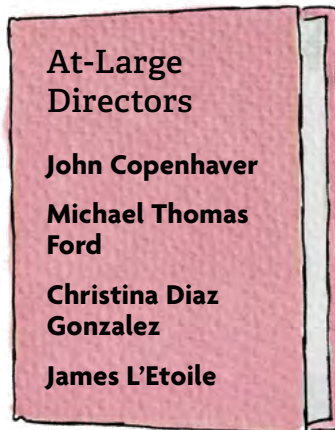
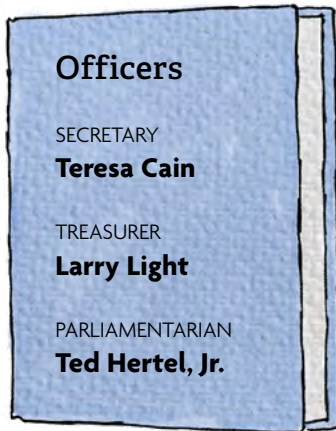
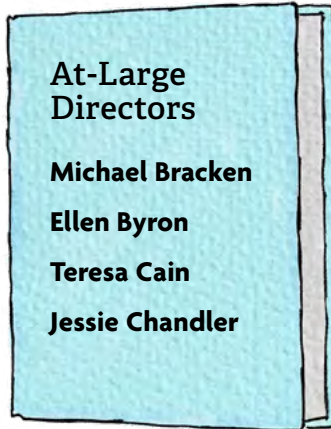
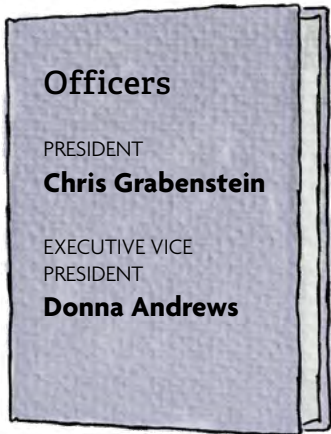
I can’t remember any of the plots of these books, despite having read them until their spines wore out. All I remember is Claudia Kishi. I can picture her in complete detail—long black hair, wacky earrings, thrown-together outfits that always looked amazing. She was the first Asian American character I encountered in a book who was defined by her personality before her race. Reading about her and her friends, whose lives looked like a more exciting version of mine, made me feel like I could both be a main character in my life and write main characters who looked like I did.





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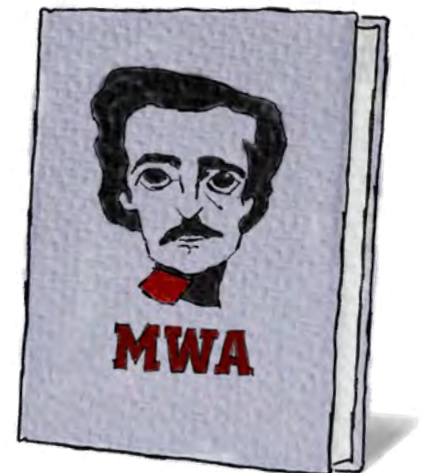
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2024 Edgar® Award Judges

Best Novel

Beth Terrell *(Chair)*

Kathleen Barber
 Kent Braithwaite
 Heather Graham
 Renee James
 David Schlosser

Best First Novel

Louise Ure *(Chair)*

L. Alison Heller
 Harry Hunsicker
 Rob Osler
 Gary Earl Ross
 Elizabeth Sims
 Elaine Viets

**Best PBO/
E-Book**

Claire Johnson *(Chair)*

Christopher Chambers
 Jessie Chandler
 Gail Oust
 Manual Ramos
 Peggy Rothschild
 Ryan Silbert

Best Fact Crime

Lisa Black *(Chair)*

Joanna Elm
 Brenda Frisch
 Edward Humes
 Allen Wyler

**Best Critical/
Biographical**

Debra Goldstein *(Chair)*

Valerie Burns
 Bruce Robert Coffin
 Elizabeth Mannion
 Rita Rippetoe

Best Short Story

Angela Crider Neary *(Chair)*

Sharon Love Cook
 Robert Goldsborough
 Dean James
 Mary Stanton

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Yasmin Angoe *(Chair)*

Mysti Berry
 Dori Hillestad Butler
 Matthew Clemens
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Beth McMullen
 Fred Rexroad
 Brian Thornton

Sue Grafton Memorial Award

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Jeannie Holmes
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 Nancy Cole Silverman
 Morley Swingle

Mary Higgins Clark Award

Kaira Rouda *(Chair)*

David Bell
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 Mary Keliikoa

Lilian Jackson Braun Memorial Award

Neil Placky *(Chair)*

Anita Carter
 Mary-Jane Deeb
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Best Teleplay for Series Episode

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In Memoriam 2023

Carole Berry

Author of the Bonnie Indermill series. Bonnie was an office temp and there were eight books in the series.

David Bordwell

2024 Edgar Nominee—Best Critical/Biographical for *Perplexing Plots: Popular Storytelling and the Poetics of Murder* published by Columbia University Press. He was a well-known film historian.

Andre Braugher

Best known for the roles of Detective Frank Pembleton (*Homicide: Life on the Streets*) and Captain Raymond Holt (*Brooklyn Nine-Nine*).

Janice Young Brooks

(aka Jill Churchill)

As Jill Churchill, she was the creator of two very popular series—Jane Jeffry and the Grace and Favor books.

Eve Bunting

Prolific juvenile/young adult author. She won the Best Juvenile Edgar Award in 1992 for *Coffin on the Case!*

Carol Higgins Clark

She was the author of the Regan Reilly series. In addition, she wrote many Christmas mystery novels with Mary Higgins Clark.

Jerome Coopersmith

Two-time Edgar nominee for Best Television Episode—1974 for “Here Today, Gone Tonight,” from *Hawaii Five-O* and in 1978 for “In the Event of My Death,” from *The Andros Targets*. He was also the author of the play *Baker Street*.

Tim Dorsey

Prolific author of the Serge A. Storms mystery series. Serge is a mentally disturbed vigilante antihero who rampages across Florida enforcing his own moral code against a variety of low-life criminals

John Dunning

Three-time Edgar Award nominee: 1981—Best Paperback Original for *Looking for Ginger North*; in 1982 for Best Paperback Original for *Deadline*; and in 1996—Best Novel for *The Bookman’s Wake*.

Peter S. Fischer

Co-creator of *Murder She Wrote*, writer on *Columbo*, *Baretta*, *Elery Queen Mysteries*. He won the 1985 Best TV Episode Edgar Award for “Deadly Lady” from *Murder, She Wrote*.

Julie Garwood

Long-time member of MWA, she was a prolific romantic suspense author. Among her many series, a well-known was her FBI series.

Dan Greenburg

A well-known non-fiction writer, he also published four series of children’s books, *The Zack Files*, *Secrets of Dripping Fang*, *Maximum Boy*, and *Weird Planet*.

James Hayman

He was the *New York Times* best-selling author of the McCabe and Savage thrillers *The Cutting*, *The Chill of Night*, *Darkness First*, and *The Girl in the Glass*.

Norman Jewison

One of the best directors of his generation, he may be best known as the director of *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *In the Heat of the Night*, ...*And Justice for All*, *A Soldier’s Story*, *Agnes of God*, and so many other films.

Jonathon King

Winner of the 2003 Best First Novel Edgar Award for *The Blue Edge of Midnight*.

With special thanks to Jiro Kimura, The Gumshoe website

Marvin Lachman

Winner of the 1977 Best Critical/Biographical Edgar Award for *Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* with Otto Penzler, Chris Steinbrunner, and Charles Shibuk; nominated for the 1994 Best Critical/Biographical Edgar Award for *A Reader's Guide to the American Novel of Detection*. And, in 1997 he was awarded the Raven Award for his contribution to the genre.

David McCallum

Illya Kuryakin (*The Man From Uncle*) and Dr. Donald ("Duckie") Mallard (*NCIS*). He was also the author *Once a Crooked Man* published by Minotaur Books.

Cormac McCarthy

He was an American writer who authored twelve novels, two plays, five screenplays, and three short stories, spanning the Western and postapocalyptic genres. His works often included graphic depictions of violence. He may be best known for *No Country for Old Men* and *The Road*.

Maxine O'Callaghan

She began her writing career with short stories, including one to *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine* about a private detective named Delilah West, which predates both Marcia Muller and Sue Grafton's entry into the female PI genre. She published thirteen novels and a collection of short stories. She has been nominated for both the Anthony and Bram Stoker award. Her novels and short fiction featuring Delilah West were honored by the Private Eye Writers of America with their lifetime achievement award, The Eye, for her contribution to the field.

Justin Peacock

Nominated for the 2009 Best First Novel Edgar Award for *A Cure for Night*.

Anne Perry

An extremely prolific author, she was the creator of the Thomas Pitt series; the William Monk series and many others. She was nominated for the 1997 Best Novel Edgar Award for *Pentecost Alley* and won the 2000 Best Short Story Edgar Award for "Heroes," *Murder and Obsession*. She was also the editor of MWA's Anthology *Odd Partners*, published in 2019.

Tom Savage

A long-time member of MWA as well as a former Board member, Tom Savage was the USA Today bestselling author of *A Penny for the Hangman*, the Nora Baron series, and many other novels and short stories. His books have been published in 15 countries, and his bestselling novel, *Valentine*, was made into a Warner Bros. film. His short stories have appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, and anthologies edited by Lawrence Block, Harlan Coben, and Michael Connelly.

Mary Willis Walker

She was nominated for the 1992 Best First Novel Edgar Award for *Zero at the Bone* and won the 1995 Best Novel Edgar Award for *The Red Scream*.



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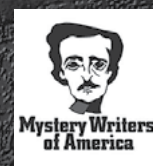
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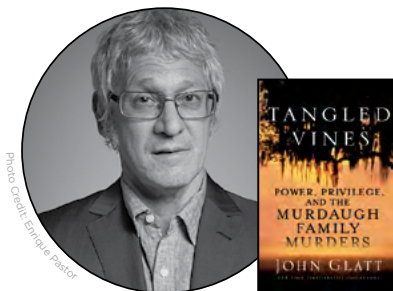
Congratulate Our Nominees for

Best First Novel By
An American Author



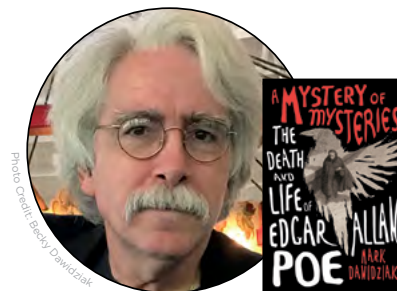
THE GOLDEN GATE
by Amy Chua

Best Fact Crime



TANGLED VINES
by John Glatt

Best Critical/Biographical



A MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES
by Mark Dawidziak

Best Short Story



HALLOWED GROUND
by Linda Castillo

The Simon & Schuster Mary
Higgins Clark Award



OF MANNERS AND MURDER
by Anastasia Hastings

The Lilian Jackson Braun
Memorial Award



MISFORTUNE COOKIE
by Vivien Chien

The G. P. Putnam's Sons
Sue Grafton Memorial Award



HARD RAIN
by Samantha Jayne Allen

The G. P. Putnam's Sons
Sue Grafton Memorial Award



A STOLEN CHILD
by Sarah Stewart Taylor

The G. P. Putnam's Sons
Sue Grafton Memorial Award



AN EVIL HEART
by Linda Castillo