



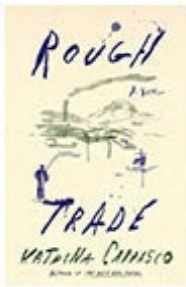
# The 3rd Degree

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

2025 EDGAR® WINNERS

## 2025 EDGAR ALLAN POE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

MWA is proud to announce the winners for the 2025 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, nonfiction and television published or produced in 2024. The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Edgar® Awards were celebrated on May 1, 2025 in New York City. **The winners are indicated in red text.**



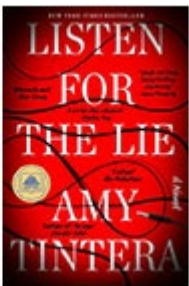
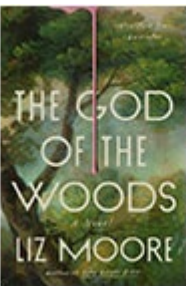
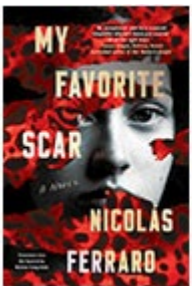
### BEST NOVEL NOMINEES

(full information on page 2)

*The Tainted Cup* by Robert Jackson Bennett

*Rough Trade* by Katrina Carrasco

*Things Don't Break on Their Own* by Sarah Easter Collins



*My Favorite Scar* by Nicolás Ferraro

*The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore

*Listen for the Lie* by Amy Tintera

*The In Crowd* by Charlotte Vassell

## INSIDE

### SPECIAL AWARDS

PAGES 8-10

#### GRAND MASTER

Laura Lippman

John Sandford

#### RAVEN AWARD

Face in a Book  
Bookstore & Gifts,  
El Dorado Hills, CA

#### ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

Peter Wolverton,  
St. Martin's Press



*continued on next page*



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## 2025 EDGAR® WINNERS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*

### BEST NOVEL

*The Tainted Cup* by Robert Jackson Bennett (Penguin Random House – Random House Worlds/Del Rey

*Rough Trade* by Katrina Carrasco (Farrar, Straus and Giroux – MCD)

*Things Don't Break on Their Own* by Sarah Easter Collins (Penguin Random House – Crown)

*My Favorite Scar* by Nicolás Ferraro (Soho Press – Soho Crime)

*The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore (Penguin Random House – Riverhead Books)

*Listen for the Lie* by Amy Tintera (Macmillan Publishers – Celadon Books)

*The In Crowd* by Charlotte Vassell (Penguin Random House – Doubleday)



### BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

*Twice the Trouble* by Ash Clifton (Crooked Lane Books)

*Cold to the Touch* by Kerri Hakoda (Crooked Lane Books)

*The Mechanics of Memory* by Audrey Lee (CamCat Books)

*A Jewel in the Crown* by David Lewis (Kensington Books – A John Scognamiglio Book)

*The President's Lawyer* by Lawrence Robbins (Simon & Schuster – Atria Books)

*Holy City* by Henry Wise (Grove Atlantic – Atlantic Monthly Press)

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NOMINEES AND THEIR WORKS BY FOLLOWING US ONLINE:

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## 2025 EDGAR® WINNERS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



### BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

*The Paris Widow* by Kimberly Belle (Harlequin Trade Publishing – Park Row Books)

*The Vacancy in Room 10* by Seraphina Nova Glass (Harlequin Trade Publishing – Graydon House)

*Shell Games* by Bonnie Kistler (HarperCollins – Harper Paperbacks)

*A Forgotten Kill* by Isabella Maldonado (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

*The Road to Heaven* by Alexis Stefanovich-Thomson (Dundurn Press Ltd.)



### BEST FACT CRIME

*Long Haul: Hunting the Highway Serial Killers* by Frank Figliuzzi (HarperCollins – Mariner Books)

*The Infernal Machine: A True Story of Dynamite, Terror, and the Rise of the Modern Detective* by Steven Johnson (Penguin Random House – Crown)

*A Devil Went Down to Georgia: Race, Power, Privilege, and the Murder of Lita McClinton* by Deb Miller Landau (Pegasus Books – Pegasus Crime)

*The Amish Wife: Unraveling the Lies, Secrets, and Conspiracy that Let a Killer Go Free* by Gregg Olsen (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

*Hell Put to Shame: The 1921 Murder Farm Massacre and the Horror of America's Second Slavery* by Earl Swift (HarperCollins – Mariner Books)

*The Bishop and the Butterfly: Murder, Politics, and the End of the Jazz Age* by Michael Wolraich (Union Square & Co.)

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## 2025 EDGAR® WINNERS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



### BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

*James Sallis: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction* by Nathan Ashman (McFarland Publishing)

*American Noir Film: From The Maltese Falcon to Gone Girl* by M. Keith Booker (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers)

*Organized Crime on Page and Screen: Portrayals in Hit Novels, Films, and Television Shows* by David Geherin (McFarland Publishing)

*On Edge: Gender and Genre in the Work of Shirley Jackson, Patricia Highsmith, and Leigh Brackett* by Ashley Lawson (The Ohio State University Press)

*Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* by Nicholas Shakespeare (HarperCollins – Harper)



### BEST SHORT STORY

“Cut and Thirst,” *Amazon Original Stories* by Margaret Atwood (Amazon Publishing)

“Everywhere You Look,” *Amazon Original Stories* by Liv Constantine (Amazon Publishing)

“Eat My Moose,” *Conjunctions: 82, Works & Days* by Erika Krouse (Bard College)

“Barriers to Entry,” *Amazon Original Stories* by Ariel Lawhon (Amazon Publishing)

“The Art of Cruel Embroidery,” *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine* – July-August 2024 by Steven Sheil (Dell Magazine)

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## 2025 EDGAR® WINNERS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



### BEST JUVENILE

*The Beanstalk Murder* by P.G. Bell (Macmillan Publishers – Feiwel & Friends)

*Mystery of Mystic Mountain* by Janet Fox (Simon & Schuster BFYR)

*Mysteries of Trash and Treasure: The Stolen Key* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (HarperCollins – Quill Tree Books)

*The Spindle of Fate* by Aimee Lim (Macmillan Publishers – Feiwel & Friends)

*Find Her* by Ginger Reno (Holiday House)



### BEST YOUNG ADULT

*Looking for Smoke* by K.A. Cobell (HarperCollins – Heartdrum)

*The Bitter End* by Alexa Donne (Random House Books for Young Readers)

*A Crane Among Wolves* by June Hur (Macmillan Publishers – Feiwel & Friends)

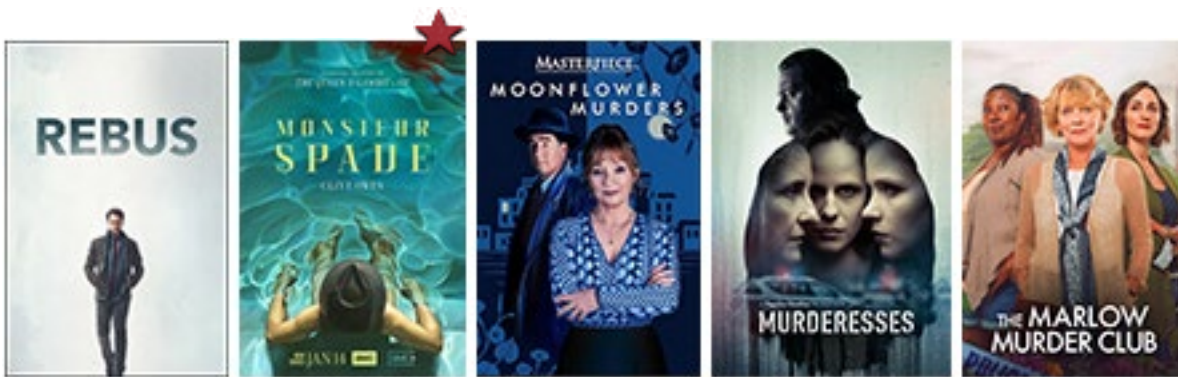
*Death at Morning House* by Maureen Johnson (HarperCollins Publishers – Harper Teen)

*49 Miles Alone* by Natalie D. Richards (Sourcebooks – Sourcebooks Fire)

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WERE YOU UNABLE TO JOIN US FOR THE BANQUET?  
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## 2025 EDGAR® WINNERS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



### BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY

“Episode Five” – **Rebus**, Written by Gregory Burke (Viaplay)

“Episode One” – **Monsieur Spade**, Written by Tom Fontana & Scott Frank (AMC)

“Episode One” – **Moonflower Murders**, Written by Anthony Horowitz (Masterpiece PBS)

“Mirror” – **Murderesses**, Written by Wiktor Piatkowski, Joanna Kozłowska, Katarzyna Kaczmarek (Viaplay)

“Episode Two” – **The Marlow Murder Club**, Written by Robert Thorogood (Masterpiece PBS)

### OUR OTHER AWARDS



**ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD** – Endowed by the family of Robert L. Fish.

“The Legend of Penny and the Luck of the Draw Casino,” *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, May-June 2024  
by Pat Gaudet (Dell Magazines)

“Head Start,” *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, September-October 2024 by Kai Lovelace (Dell Magazines)

“Murder Under Sedation,” *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, March-April 2024 by Lawrence Ong (Dell Magazines)

“The Jews on Elm Street,” *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, September-October 2024 by Anna Stolley Persky (Dell Magazines)

“Sparrow Maker,” *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, November-December 2024 by Jake Stein (Dell Magazines)

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## 2025 EDGAR® WINNERS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



### THE SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD – *Presented on behalf of Simon & Schuster.*

*The Rose Arbor* by Rhys Bowen (Amazon Publishing – Lake Union)

*The Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco* by Michelle Chouinard (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

*The Mystery Writer* by Sulari Gentill (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

*Return to Wyldcliffe Heights* by Carol Goodman (HarperCollins – William Morrow Paperbacks)

*Death in the Details* by Katie Tietjen (Crooked Lane Books)



### THE G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS SUE GRAFTON MEMORIAL AWARD – *Presented on behalf of G.P. Putnam's Sons.*

*Disturbing the Dead* by Kelley Armstrong (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

*A Game of Lies* by Clare Mackintosh (Sourcebooks – Sourcebooks Landmark)

*Proof* by Beverley McLachlin (Simon & Schuster Canada – Simon & Schuster)

*A World of Hurt* by Mindy Mejia (Grove Atlantic – Atlantic Monthly Press)

*All the Way Gone* by Joanna Schaffhausen (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

*The Comfort of Ghosts* by Jacqueline Winspear (Soho Press – Soho Crime)

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CURIOUS ABOUT PREVIOUS EDGAR AWARD NOMINEES AND WINNERS?

SEARCH THE DATABASE AT [WWW.EDGARAWARDS.COM](http://WWW.EDGARAWARDS.COM)

## 2025 EDGAR® WINNERS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



**THE LILIAN JACKSON BRAUN MEMORIAL AWARD** – *Endowed by the estate of Lilian Jackson Braun.*

*The Murders in Great Diddling* by Katarina Bivald (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

*Death and Fromage* by Ian Moore (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

*Booked for Murder* by P.J. Nelson (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

*Murder on Devil's Pond* by Ayla Rose (Crooked Lane Books)

*The Treasure Hunters Club* by Tom Ryan (Grove Atlantic – Atlantic Monthly Press)

## SPECIAL AWARDS

### GRAND MASTER

Laura Lippman

John Sandford

### RAVEN AWARD

Face in a Book Bookstore & Gifts, El Dorado Hills, CA

### ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

Peter Wolverton, St. Martin's Press

The Edgar Awards, or “Edgars,” as they are commonly known, are named after MWA’s patron saint Edgar Allan Poe and are presented to authors of distinguished work in various categories. MWA is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime-writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre. The organization encompasses some 3,000 members including authors of fiction and non-fiction books, screen and television writers, as well as publishers, editors, and literary agents.

Mystery Writers of America would like to emphasize our commitment to diversity and fairness in the judging of the Edgar Awards. Judges are selected from every region of the country, from every sub-category of our genre, and from every demographic to ensure fairness and impartiality.

###

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## 2025 GRAND MASTERS, RAVEN, ELLERY QUEEN AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

MWA announces the recipients of its special awards. The board chose **Laura Lippman** and **John Sandford** as the 2025 Grand Masters, the 2025 Raven Award recipient is **Face in a Book Bookstore & Gifts**, and **Peter Wolverton of St. Martin's Publishing Group** will receive the Ellery Queen Award. They will accept their awards at the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Edgar Awards Ceremony, which will be held May 1, 2025, at the Marriott Marquis Times Square in New York City.

### GRAND MASTER LAURA LIPPMAN

“Laura Lippman’s contributions to the mystery genre — as a writer, a teacher, and a role model for aspiring writers — especially women writers — make her a wonderful choice for Mystery Writers of America’s Grand Master,” said MWA Executive Vice President Donna Andrews. “And, as someone who’s been a fan of John Sandford since the first few pages of *Rules of Prey*, I’m overjoyed to see him getting the well-deserved recognition of being named MWA Grand Master.”

MWA’s **Grand Master Award** represents the pinnacle of achievement in mystery writing and was established to acknowledge important contributions to this genre, as well as for a body of work that is both significant and of consistent high quality.

On being notified of the honor, **Laura Lippman** said, “It was a little humbling how many clichés rushed into my brain when I found out I was to be named a Grand Master by Mystery Writers of America. Things like ‘This is a dream come true!’ and ‘I can’t believe this is happening!’ were, alas, my initial responses. And even now that I’ve been given some time to absorb the news — it still feels like a dream come true. I have always been proud to be associated with the crime-writing community and MWA, both of which have given me so much over the past three decades. Truly — obviously — words fail me.”

Lippman is a *New York Times* bestselling novelist who has been named one of the “essential” crime writers of the last 100 years. She has published 25 novels, two short story collections, a book of essays, and one children’s book. Her work has won or been shortlisted for every major prize given to crime novelists working in English. A limited series, based on her 2019 novel *Lady in the Lake*, aired on AppleTV in 2024. She lives in Baltimore and New Orleans.



### GRAND MASTER JOHN SANDFORD

Sandford is the pseudonym for the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist John Camp. He is the author of 35 *Prey* novels, the Kidd novels, the Virgil Flowers novels, and six other books, including three YA novels co-authored with his wife Michele Cook. Camp won the Pulitzer Prize in journalism in 1986 and was one of four finalists for the prize in 1980. He also was the winner of the Distinguished Writing Award of the American Society of Newspaper Editors for 1985.

On learning of the honor, Sandford said, “Believe me when I say I’m extremely flattered to be included in the company of so many great storytellers, people I’ve read and admired for years. My thanks to the MWA and all its members.”

Previous Grand Masters include Katherine Hall Page, R.L. Stine, Michael Connelly, Joanne Fluke, Laurie R. King, Charlaine Harris, Jeffery Deaver, Barbara Neely, Martin Cruz Smith, William Link, Peter Lovesey, Walter Mosley, Lois Duncan, James Ellroy, Robert Crais, Ken Follett, Sara Paretsky, James Lee Burke, Sue Grafton, Stephen King, Ira Levin, Mary Higgins Clark, Lawrence Sanders, P.D. James, Ellery Queen, Daphne du Maurier, Alfred Hitchcock, Graham Greene, and Agatha Christie, to name a few.



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## GRAND MASTERS, RAVEN, ELLERY QUEEN AWARDS, *continued from previous page*

### RAVEN AWARD **FACE IN A BOOK** BOOKSTORE AND GIFTS

The **Raven Award** recognizes outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing. For 2025, Mystery Writers of America selected **Face in a Book** in El Dorado Hills, CA.

“We are utterly shocked, humbled and delighted to learn that Face in a Book is receiving the Raven Award from the Mystery Writers of America,” Tina Ferguson, store owner, said. “Face in a Book is proud to celebrate over a decade of dedicated service to the literary community. Since opening its doors in 2012, the bookstore has worked tirelessly to create a vibrant, welcoming space for both mystery writers and readers. Through special events, author signings, and a curated selection of mystery novels, Face in a Book has become a hub for fans of the genre to connect, discover, and dive deep into the thrilling world of whodunits, exotic locations, and complex characters.”

Previous Raven Award recipients include Crime Writers of Color, Eddie Muller, Lesa Holstine, Malice Domestic, Left Coast Crime, Marilyn Stasio, The Raven Bookstore, BOLO Books, Dru Ann Love, Sisters in Crime, and Oline Cogdill.



### ELLERY QUEEN AWARD **PETER WOLVERTON**

The **Ellery Queen Award** was established in 1983 to honor “outstanding writing teams and outstanding people in the mystery-publishing industry.” This year the Board chose to honor **Peter Wolverton**, who began his career 35 years ago at St. Martin’s Press. In that time, Wolverton has held many roles — from Editor to Associate Publisher to Editorial Director and now Executive Editor and Vice President — publishing many amazing authors such as John Hart, Donna Andrews, Arnaldur Indridason, Julia Spencer-Fleming and many, many more.

On learning he would receive the Ellery Queen Award, Wolverton said, “Mysteries have been a part of my publishing career from the first day I joined St. Martin’s and I was blessed to have Ruth Cavin and Tom Dunne as mentors. 35 years later it’s amazing to me that I’m joining Ruth and my great colleague Kelley Ragland as a recipient of the Ellery Queen Award. Mysteries forever!”

Previous Ellery Queen Award winners include Michaela Hamilton, *The Strand Magazine*, Juliet Grames, Reagan Arthur, Kelley Ragland, Linda Landrigan, Neil Nyren, Charles Ardai, and Janet Hutchings.

“Working with Pete Wolverton for nearly twenty years has given me a deep appreciation for his skill as an editor and his passion for the crime fiction genre,” Andrews said. “How lovely to see him recognized with the Ellery Queen Award.”

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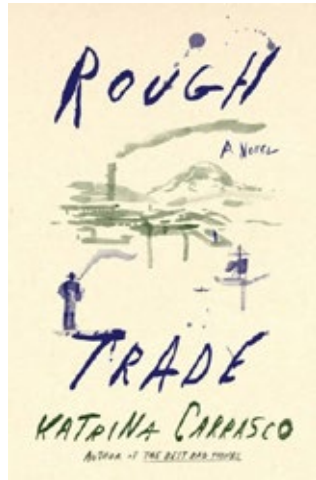
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## THANK YOU, JUDGES

A VERY GRATEFUL THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE EDGAR AWARD JUDGES, WHO VOLUNTEERED MANY HOURS TO READING AND RANKING ALL OF THE NOMINATED WORKS! THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE EDGAR AWARD WINNERS AND NOMINEES



BEST  
NOVEL  
NOMINEES

