

Contact
Chris Goff
goff@coloradohumanities.org
303.894.7951 x19; 303.882.4910 cell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Book Awards Online Mystery and Thriller Readings

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO (April 14, 2020) Finalists in the Mystery and Thriller categories will read and answer questions at a Zoom and Facebook Live event hosted by Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 7 p.m. Zoom participants (details at coloradohumanities.org) may converse live with the authors. [Facebook Live](#) attendees can send in questions and comments. Books can be ordered online at [BookBar](#).

Dirk Cussler will read from his mystery novel ***Celtic Empire***. He is the coauthor with Clive Cussler of seven previous Dirk Pitt adventures. For the past several years, he has been an active participant and partner in his father's National Underwater and Marine Agency (NUMA) expeditions and has served as president of the NUMA advisory board of trustees. He lives in Arizona.

Emily Littlejohn will read from her mystery novel ***Lost Lake***. Born and raised in southern California, Emily is a former librarian. In addition to writing, she is raising a family and working in city government in the Denver metro area. *Inherit the Bones* was her acclaimed debut novel, followed by *A Season to Lie* and *Lost Lake*.

Margaret Mizushima will read from her mystery novel ***Tracking Game***. The author of the critically acclaimed Timber Creek K-9 mysteries, her first novel, *Killing Trail*, was named Debut Mystery of the Month by *Library Journal* and was an RT Reviewers' Choice Award nominee. She balances writing with assisting her husband with their veterinary clinic and Angus cattle herd.

Donnell Ann Bell will read from her thriller novel ***Black Pearl: A Cold Case Suspense***. She began her writing career at the *Colorado Springs Business Journal* and *Pikes Peak Parent Newsmagazine* before turning to fiction. An award-winning author, including a two-time Golden Heart finalist, her books have been Amazon digital bestsellers.

Carter Wilson will read from his thriller novel ***The Dead Girl in 2A***. A bestselling author of six critically acclaimed, standalone psychological thrillers, as well as numerous short stories and a three-time winner of the Colorado Book Award, his

novels have received multiple starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, and *Library Journal*.

Michael Laurence will read from his thriller novel ***The Extinction Agenda***. Born in Colorado Springs to an engineer and a teacher who kindled his passions for science and history, he studied biology and creative writing at the University of Colorado. Before becoming a full-time author, he worked as an x-ray/CT/MRI technologist and clinical instructor. He lives in suburban Denver with his wife and four children.

Colorado Book Awards Online Finalist Readings

Mystery, Thriller

Friday, April 24
7 p.m.

Romance, Science Fiction/Fantasy

Friday, May 1
7 p.m.

General Nonfiction, History, Pictorial

Friday, May 8
7 p.m.

Anthology, Creative Nonfiction, Short Story

Friday, May 15
7 p.m.

Please visit coloradohumanities.org and [@cohumanities](https://www.facebook.com/cohumanities) on Facebook and Twitter for updated invitations and details about how to join the readings and conversations and follow us on Instagram.

2020 Colorado Book Award Finalists

Anthology/Collection

All the Lives We Ever Lived: A Lighthouse Writers Workshop Community Anthology Vol. 1 edited by Dan Manzanares and Suzi Q. Smith (Lighthouse Writers Workshop)

Rise: An Anthology of Change edited by Northern Colorado Writers (Northern Colorado Writers, LLC)

Straight Outta Deadwood edited by David Boop (Baen Publishing Enterprises)

Children's Literature

Pup 681: A Sea Otter Rescue Story by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Ashley Crowley (Henry Holt and Company)

The Fisherman and the Whale by Jessica Lanan (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

Truman by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, Simon & Schuster)

Creative Nonfiction

Chronicles of the Forbidden: Essays of Shadow and Light by John Nizalowski (Irie Books)

Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country by Pam Houston (W.W. Norton & Company)

Soft Hearted Stories: Seeking Saviors, Cowboy Stylists, and Other Fallacies of Authoritarianism by Jenny Forrester (Lit Kit Collective)

The Lampblack Blue of Memory: My Mother Echoes by Sarah Adleman (Tolsun Books)

General Fiction

Girls on the Line by Aimie K. Runyan (Lake Union Publishing)

Light in the Shadows by Linda Lafferty and Andy Stone (Lake Union Publishing)

The Gifted School by Bruce Holsinger (Riverhead Books/Penguin Random House)

General Nonfiction

Good to Go: What the Athlete in All of Us Can Learn from the Strange Science of Recovery by Christie Aschwanden (W. W. Norton & Company)

Taste the Sweetness Later: Two Muslim Women in America by Connie Shoemaker (Amity Bridge Books)

The Land of Flickering Lights by Michael Bennet (Atlantic Monthly Press/Grove Atlantic)

History

Nighthawk Rising: A Biography of Accused Cattle Rustler Queen Ann Bassett of Brown's Park by Diana Allen Kouris (High Plains Press)

Scholars of Mayhem: My Father's Secret War in Nazi-Occupied France by Daniel C. Guiet and Timothy K. Smith (Penguin Press)

The Storm on Our Shores: One Island, Two Soldiers, and the Forgotten Battle of World War II by Mark Obmascik (Atria Books)

Juvenile Literature

Spotted Tail by David Heska Wanbli Weiden, illustrated by Jim Yellowhawk and Pat Kinsella (Reycraft Books)

Tree of Dreams by Laura Resau (Scholastic Press)

The Cryptid Keeper by Lija Fisher (Farrar Straus & Giroux)

Literary Fiction

Burn Fortune by Brandi Homan (CLASH Books)
If the Ice Had Held by Wendy J. Fox (Santa Fe Writers Project)
You Who Enter Here by Erika T. Wurth (Ecelsior Editions, State University of New York Press, Albany)

Mystery

Celtic Empire by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler (G.P. Putnam's Sons)
Lost Lake by Emily Littlejohn (Minotaur Books)
Tracking Game by Margaret Mizushima (Crooked Lane Books)

Pictorial

Bird Parade by Patrick Loehr (Centipede Press)
Flatland by Teague von Bohlen, photographer Britten Leigh Traugher (Bronze Man Books)
Hollywood: Her Story, An Illustrated History of Women and the Movies by Jill S. Tietjen and Barbara Bridges (Lyons Press)

Poetry

How To Dress a Fish by Abigail Chabitnoy (Wesleyan University Press)
My Brother's Keeper by David J. Rothman (Lithic Press)
Variations on Dawn and Dusk by Dan Beachy-Quick (Omnidawn Publishing)

Romance

Remembering a Witch by Lauren Connolly (Lauren Connolly)
Stolen Heart, Book 2: North Fork Series by K.L. McKee (Cameo Mountain Press)
Zapata, Book 1: The Border Series by Harper McDavid (Soul Mate Publishing)

Science Fiction/Fantasy

An Illusion of Thieves by Cate Glass (Tor Books)
Denver Moon, Book II: The Saint of Mars by Warren Hammond and Joshua Viola (Hex Publishers)
The Blood of Seven by Claire L. Fishback (Dark Doorways Press, LLC)
The Legend of Carl Draco by Gary Reilly (Running Meter Press)

Short Story Collection

April Warnings by Mark Pleiss (Veliz Books)
Not a Thing to Comfort You by Emily Wortman-Wunder (University of Iowa Press)
This. This. This. Is. Love. Love. Love. by Jennifer Wortman (Split Lip Press)

Thriller

Black Pearl, A Cold Case Suspense by Donnell Ann Bell (Bell Bridge Books, Belle Books)
The Extinction Agenda by Michael Laurence (St. Martin's Press)
The Dead Girl in 2A by Carter Wilson (Sourcebooks)

Young Adult Literature

Fake by Donna Cooner (Point, Scholastic, Inc.)

Merged by Jim Kroepfl and Stephanie Kroepfl (Month9Books)

There's Something About Sweetie by Sandhya Menon (Simon Pulse, Simon & Schuster Children's Division)

Winners will be announced and read briefly Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 4 p.m. at the historic Evans School, 1115 Acoma Street, Denver 80204. \$25 includes a finalist book signing and reception followed by the awards ceremony and dessert. Tickets can be purchased on our website. Outskirts Press, a longtime sponsor, will present at the ceremony. We also thank The Colorado Sun for their sponsorship of the 2020 Colorado Book Awards.

Colorado Humanities is the only Colorado organization exclusively dedicated to supporting humanities education for adults and children statewide. Celebrating its 46th year and its **16th year as host for the Colorado Center for the Book**, Colorado Humanities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Library of Congress Center for the Book, the Smithsonian Institution, and the national award-winning educational nonprofit Motherhead, Inc. With offices in the Denver Technological Center in Greenwood Village, Colorado Humanities works with 100 program partners throughout the state to design and implement programs that best meet each community's needs. Colorado Humanities' goals are to improve education, strengthen cultural institutions, and enrich community life by inspiring the people of Colorado to explore ideas and appreciate our diverse heritage. To learn more, visit coloradohumanities.org or call 303.894.7951.

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For more information, author headshots, book covers, and interviews, please contact Colorado Book Awards Program Coordinator Chris Goff at goff@coloradohumanities.org or 303.882-4910 cell