

Contact  
Chris Goff  
[goff@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:goff@coloradohumanities.org)  
303.894.7951 x19, 303.882.4910 cell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Colorado Book Awards Finalists Online Readings May 1 & 2**

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO (April 21, 2020) Finalists in the Romance, Science Fiction/Fantasy Colorado Book Awards (CBA) categories will read and answer questions on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 7 p.m. in a Zoom and Facebook Live event (details at [coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org)). Participants may converse live with authors Lauren Connolly, K.L. McKee, Harper McDavid, Cate Glass, Warren Hammond, Claire L. Fishback and Mark Stevens (standing in for the late-Gary Reilly). Kevin Anderson, 2016 CBA winner in science fiction/fantasy, will MC. [Facebook Live](#) attendees can send in questions and comments. Books can be ordered online at [BookBar](#).

Then, on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 1 p.m., gather the children 'round the monitor to listen and watch as finalists in the Children's Literature category read, answer questions, and give live drawing demonstrations at a Zoom and Facebook Live event (details at [coloradohumanities.org](http://coloradohumanities.org)). Three-time CBA winner Denise Vega will MC. Zoom participants can interact live with authors Jean Reidy and Jessica Lanan, and illustrators Lucy Ruth Cummins and Ashley Crowley. [Facebook Live](#) attendees can send in questions and comments. Books can be ordered online at [BookBar](#).

### **Romance and Science Fiction/Fantasy Finalists**

**Lauren Connolly** will read from her romance novel ***Remembering a Witch***. Lauren Connolly crafts love stories set in the contemporary world, some grounded reality, while others play with the mystical. She lives in southern Colorado, outnumbered by her animals.

**K.L. McKee** will read from her romance novel ***Stolen Heart***. After working in the Reference Center of her local library for twenty-nine years, she went back to school and earned a B.A. in English from Regis University, renewing her desire to write faith-based stories. A member of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers and several local writing groups, she now resides with her husband in western Colorado and writes full time.

**Harper McDavid** will read from her romance novel ***Zapata***. After watching her mother ride the writing roller coaster, she swore she would never do it herself. But some things are just hardwired. Her gritty romantic suspense incorporates her in science and engineering background and her work along the border.

**Cate Glass** will read from her science fiction/fantasy novel ***An Illusion of Thieves***. The author of the fantasy adventure series *Chimera*, she has also written fifteen epic fantasy novels as Carol Berg, won numerous Colorado Book Awards, and earned national and international acclaim. Born and raised in Texas, she now resides in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies with her husband and three sons.

**Warren Hammond** will read from his science fiction/fantasy novel ***Denver Moon, Book II: The Saint of Mars***. The author of several science fiction novels, quite a few short stories and a graphic novel, his 2012 novel, *KOP Killer*, won the Colorado Book Award for best mystery. His latest series is co-written with Joshua Viola.

**Claire L. Fishback** will read from her science fiction/fantasy novel, ***The Blood of Seven***. An award-winning author, she writes horror novels and short stories. The author of *Lump: A Collection of Short Stories*, in her spare time she enjoys adding to her bone collection and poking dead things with sticks.

**Gary Reilly**, represented by publisher Mark Stevens, who will read from the late-Reilly's science fiction/fantasy novel, ***The Legend of Carl Draco***. Reilly only published one piece of writing in his lifetime, a short story published by the Iowa Writers Review and later picked up by the Pushcart Prize Anthology (1979). Since his death in 2011, Running Meter Press has published 13 of his novels, five of them Colorado Book Award finalists.

### **Children's Literature Finalists**

**Jean Reidy** will read from her novels, ***Pup 681: A Sea Otter Rescue Story*** and ***Truman***. She is a two-time winner of the Colorado Book Award, a Parent's Choice Gold Award Winner, a Charlotte Zolotow Honor winner, and recognized on "Best of" lists by *School Library Journal*, the *New York Times*, NPR, and Amazon.

**Ashley Crowley** will discuss his illustrations of the novel, ***Pup 681: A Sea Otter Rescue Story***. A former police officer, he found his passion in children's books. The author-illustrator of the Officer Panda books and the illustrator of *The Boy and the Blue Moon*, written by Sara O'Leary, Ashley lives with his son in Suffolk, UK.

**Lucy Ruth Cummins** will discuss her illustrations of the novel ***Truman***. An author, illustrator and art director of children's books, her debut picture book, *A Hungry Lion, or A Dwindling Assortment of Animals*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Award, an Irma Black Honor Book, and an ALA Notable Book. She is also the illustrator of *This Is Not a Valentine*, written by Carter Higgins.

**Jessica Lanan** will read from her book ***The Fisherman and the Whale***. Growing up surrounded by the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, she finds inspiration all around

her in the natural world. The illustrator of several books for children including *Out of School and Into Nature: The Anna Comstock Story* and *The Story I'll Tell. The Fisherman and the Whale* is the first book that she has both written and illustrated.

## **Colorado Book Awards Online Finalist Readings**

### **Romance, Science Fiction/Fantasy**

Friday, May 1  
7 p.m.

### **Children's Literature**

Saturday, May 2  
1 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](http://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](http://coloradohumanities.org) or call 303.894.7951.

**[end]**

For more information, author headshots, book covers, and interviews, please contact Colorado Book Awards Program Coordinator Chris Goff at [goff@coloradohumanities.org](mailto:goff@coloradohumanities.org) or 303.882.4910 cell