



## PRESS RELEASE

**March 31, 2020**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Virtual Colorado Book Award Finalist Readings Begin with Juvenile and Young Adult Literature

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO (March 31, 2020) Colorado Book Awards is going virtual. On Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 4 p.m., finalists in the Juvenile Literature and Young Adult Literature categories will read and answer questions at a Zoom and Facebook Live event hosted by Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book [@cohumanities](https://www.facebook.com/cohumanities).

The first 100 to join the Zoom meeting (details at [coloradohumanities.org](https://www.coloradohumanities.org)) may converse live with the author. [Facebook Live](https://www.facebook.com/cohumanities) attendees can send in questions and comments. Books can be ordered online at [BookBar](https://www.bookbar.com).

**Lija Fisher** will read from her juvenile literature novel *The Cryptid Keeper*. She has performed on stages across New York, California, Florida, Colorado and Alaska. In 2017 she was the Writer in Residence with Aspen Words. Prior to becoming an author, she trained for a while (a very short while) to be a Hollywood stunt person.

**Laura Resau** will read from her juvenile literature novel *Tree of Dreams*. An award-winning author of nine highly acclaimed young adult and children's novels set in Latin America and Europe, her books are inspired by her time abroad as a cultural anthropologist, ESL teacher, and student. She lives with her family in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**David Heska Wanbli Weiden** will read from his juvenile literature novel *Spotted Tail*. An enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota nation, Weiden's upcoming novel, *Winter Counts*, has been chosen as one of 2020's most anticipated books by *Library Journal*. He's published in magazines, is the fiction editor for *Anomaly*, a journal of international literature and arts, and teaches writing at the Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver.

**Jim and Stephanie Kroepfl** are a husband-and-wife team who write YA novels and stories of mystery and adventure from their cabin in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Their stories and articles have been published in literary journals in the US and England. Jim and Stephanie are world travelers who seek out crop circles, obscure historical sites, and mysterious ruins. *Merged* is their debut YA science fiction novel.

**Sandhya Menon** will read from her young adult literature novel *There's Something About Sweetie*. The *New York Times* bestselling author of several novels with lots of kissing, girl power, and swoony boys. Menon's books have been featured in several cool places, including on *The Today Show*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Teen Vogue*, *NPR*, *Seventeen*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *Buzzfeed*. Her first novel, *When Dimple Met Rishi*, won the 2018 Colorado Book Award in Young Adult Literature.

## **Online Colorado Book Awards Finalist Readings and conversations with the authors**

### **Juvenile Literature, Young Adult Literature**

Thursday, April 9  
4 p.m.

### **General Fiction, Literary Fiction, Poetry**

Friday, April 17  
7 p.m.

### **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](http://coloradohumanities.org) and @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 Traughber (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.

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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](mailto:goff@coloradohumanities.org) or 303.894.7951 x19.