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May 6, 2022

Anthology and General Fiction Colorado Book Awards Finalists Read

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO

Anthology and General Fiction Colorado Book Awards finalists will read in person Friday, May 20, 2022 at 7 p.m. MT at BookBar in Denver. Attendees can pose questions and talk with the finalists and finalist books will be available for purchase. Register for this free event and view the full finalists list and reading schedule at Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book's website, coloradohumanities.org/programs/colorado-book-awards/

Anthology Finalists

All the Lives We Ever Lived, Volume 2
Manuel Aragon and Roxanne Banks Malia

A community has a voice, a shared language only spoken between one another; shorthand and phrases that communicate a history. The community has spoken, shared their stories, and here they are in a collection of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. Manuel Aragon is a Latinx writer, director, and filmmaker whose work has appeared in *ANMLY*, and his short story, "A Violent Noise," was nominated for the 2020 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. He is a Periplus Collective Fellow and lives in Denver. Roxanne Banks Malia oversees the Lighthouse Writers Workshop youth and community programs and also serves as the Colorado Poetry Out Loud State Coordinator. She has taught creative writing and literature in a variety of settings and her poetry and essays have appeared in *Coldfront Magazine*, *Copper Nickel*, *CutBank*, *DIAGRAM*, and elsewhere.

Shadow Atlas: Dark Landscapes of the Americas
Carina Bissett, Hillary Dodge, Joshua Viola, and Aaron Lovett

Believing the ancient peoples knew some lands were given over to shadow and spirit, the Umbra Arca Society, a centuries-old private league of explorers, dedicated their lives to uncovering the oldest mysteries of the Americas. *The Shadow Atlas* collects their adventures. Carina Bissett is a writer, poet, and educator working primarily in the fields of dark fiction and fabulism. Her short fiction and poetry have been published in multiple journals and anthologies, and she lives in Colorado Springs. Hillary Dodge is the author of several speculative short fictions as well as three nonfiction books, including *Gather Round the Table*:

Food Literacy Programs, Resources, and Ideas for Libraries. She has been published in online magazines, podcasts, and print anthologies, including *Pseudopod*, *Space Squid*, Hellbound Books, and Hex Publishers, and she lives in Colorado Springs. Joshua Viola is a Denver Post bestselling author, five-time Colorado Book Award finalist, and the owner of Hex Publishers. He lives in Westminster. Aaron Lovett is a mixed-heritage Asian American artist who has been published by AfterShock Comics, Tor.com, *The Denver Post*, and *Spectrum Fantastic Art 22 & 24*. His *Nightmares Unhinged* cover art was licensed by AMC for their hit TV show "Fear the Walking Dead." Aaron lives in Westminster.

Tell It Slant: An Anthology of Creative Nonfiction by Writers from Colorado's Prisons
Elijah Null, Julie Rada, and Suzi Q. Smith

In a time of unprecedented isolation, the stories we tell ourselves and each other create a sense of community, of belonging. The writings in this anthology come from a correspondence course, *Tell It Slant: Reading & Writing Creative Nonfiction*, that the University of Denver Prison Arts Initiative offered in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Corrections at nine state facilities. Elijah Null is completing his PhD in Literary Studies at the University of Denver. He has taught ESL, English, and humanities at the high school and college levels and taught courses with the Prison Arts Initiative at DU. Julie Rada is a theatre maker, educator, and scholar who has toured nationally and internationally and has published on prison arts practice in multiple journals. Julie is currently affiliate faculty at MSU Denver and lives in Denver. Suzi Q. Smith is an award-winning artist, organizer, and educator who has created, curated, coached, and taught in Denver for over 20 years. She is the author of poetry collections *Poems for the End of the World*, *A Gospel of Bones*, and *Thirteen Descansos*. She is Affiliate Faculty with Regis University's Mile High MFA, Lighthouse Writers Workshop, and DU's Prison Arts Initiative, as well as the [margins.] Conference Director for The Word. Suzi lives in Denver.

General Fiction Finalists

The Night of Many Endings
Melissa Payne

Orphaned at a young age and witness to her brother's decline into addiction, Nora Martinez has every excuse to question the fairness of life. Instead, the openhearted librarian in the small Colorado community of Silver Ridge sees only promise. As a winter storm buries Silver Ridge, a collection of lonely hearts takes shelter in the library. No matter how stranded in life they feel, this fateful night could be the new beginning they didn't think was possible. Melissa Payne is the bestselling and award-winning author of *The Secrets of Lost Stones* and *Memories in the Drift*. Melissa has long been telling stories in one form or another, from high school newspaper articles to a graduate thesis to blogging about marriage and motherhood. Melissa lives in Conifer.

The Boundaries of Their Dwelling

Blake Sanz

Moving between the American South and Mexico, these stories explore how immigrant and native characters are shaped by absent family and geography. This collection tracks the emotional journeys of characters seeking love and redemption beyond the barriers of their homes and cultures. Originally from Louisiana, Blake Sanz has published fiction in *Ecotone*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Fifth Wednesday Journal*, and elsewhere. His writing has garnered recognition from Zoetrope: All-Story, the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sozopol Fiction Seminars in Bulgaria, and other conferences and residencies. Blake lives in Denver and teaches writing at the University of Denver.

Mixed Company

Jenny Shank

In this book the author reveals moments of grace and connection between people of her hometown, Denver, through stories that contrast the city during its oil-bust era of economic troubles and court-ordered crosstown busing for racial desegregation with the burgeoning and gentrifying city of recent years. Jenny Shank's novel *The Ringer* won the High Plains Book Award. Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, the *Los Angeles Times* and *McSweeney's*. Her work has been honorably mentioned by Best American Essays, the Pushcart Prize, and her mother. She teaches in the Mile High MFA program at Regis University and the Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver. Jenny lives in Denver.

2022 Colorado Book Awards Finalists

Anthology

All the Lives We Ever Lived, Volume 2

edited by Manuel Aragon and Roxanne Banks Malia
(Lighthouse Writers Workshop)

Shadow Atlas: Dark Landscapes of the Americas

edited by Carina Bissett, Hillary Dodge, and Joshua Viola and illustrated by Aaron Lovett
(Hex Publishers)

Tell It Slant: An Anthology of Creative Nonfiction by Writers from Colorado's Prisons

edited by Elijah Null, Julie Rada, and Suzie Q. Smith
(University of Denver Prison Arts Initiative – LuxLit Press)

Biography

The Girl Who Dared to Defy: Jane Street and the Rebel Maids of Denver

by Jane Little Botkin

(University of Oklahoma Press)

Alpha: Eddie Gallagher and the War for the Soul of the Navy Seals

by David Philipps

(Penguin Random House)

Borderlands Curanderos: The Worlds of Santa Teresa Urrea and Don Pedrito Jaramillo

by Jennifer Koshatka Seman

(University of Texas Press)

Children's Literature

Read Island

by Nicole Magistro and illustrated by Alice Feagan

(Read Island LLC)

The Beak Book

by Robin Page

(Simon & Schuster)

Hugsby

by Dow Phumiruk

(Penguin Random House)

Creative Nonfiction

The Next Everest: Surviving the Mountain's Deadliest Day and Finding the Resilience to Climb Again

by Jim Davidson

(St. Martin's Press)

Bless the Birds: Living with Love in a Time of Dying

by Susan J. Tweit

(She Writes Press)

Desert Chrome: Water, a Woman, and Wild Horses in the West

by Kathryn Wilder

(Torrey House Press)

General Fiction

The Night of Many Endings

by Melissa Payne

(Lake Union Publishing)

Mixed Company
by Jenny Shank
(Texas Review Press)

The Boundaries of Their Dwelling
by Blake Sanz
(University of Iowa Press)

General Nonfiction

The Entrepreneur's Weekly Nietzsche: A Book for Disruptors
by Dave Jilk and Brad Feld
(Lioncrest Publishing)

Breakthrough: How to Overcome Doubt, Fear, and Resistance to Be Your Ultimate Creative Self
by Todd Mitchell
(Owl Hollow Press)

The Holly: Five Bullets, One Gun, and the Struggle to Save an American Neighborhood
by Julian Rubinstein
(Farrar, Straus, and Giroux)

Historical Fiction

Luther, Wyoming
by Tomas Alamilla and Mario Acevedo
(Five Star Publishing)

Chloe's Mistigri
by Thomas L. Hall
(NoCo Publishing)

The Cape Doctor
by E.J. Levy
(Little, Brown and Company)

History

Queen City: A Brief History and Illustrated Architecture New and Old of Denver, Colorado
by Karl Christian Krumpholz

(Tinto Press)

Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue

by Adrian Miller

(The University of North Carolina Press)

Going to Trinidad: A Doctor, a Colorado Town, and Stories from an Unlikely Gender

Crossroads

by Martin J. Smith

(Bower House)

Juvenile Literature

Noah McNichol and the Backstage Ghost

by Martha Freeman

(Simon & Schuster)

Alone

by Megan E. Freeman

(Simon & Schuster)

Bats, Bandits, and Buggies: A Ruby and Maude Adventure

by Nancy Oswald

(Burro Books)

Literary Fiction

Site Fidelity: Stories

by Claire Boyles

(W. W. Norton & Company)

What If We Were Somewhere Else

by Wendy J. Fox

(Santa Fe Writers Project)

Jeremy Bannister, or The Ups and Downs of an Aspiring Novelist

by Gary Reilly (posthumously by Mark Stevens)

(Running Meter Press)

Mystery

Red Rabbit on the Run

by Jodi Bowersox

(JB Artistry)

Canyonlands Carnage: A National Park Mystery

by Scott Graham

(Torrey House Press)

Break Bone Fever: A Finnerty and Liccione Mystery

by Wanda Venters and Mary Rae

(Written Dreams Publishing)

Poetry

Barefoot and Running

by Morgan Liphart

(Morgan Liphart)

We the Jury

by Wayne Miller

(Milkweed Editions)

Convergences

by Ruth Obee

(Ruth Obee)

White Lung

by Kimberly O'Connor

(Saturnalia Books)

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Khyven the Unkillable

by Todd Fahnestock

(New Mythology Press)

The Reincarnationist Papers

by D. Eric Maikranz

(Blackstone Publishing)

Magic and Misrule

by KM Merritt

(Blue Fyre Press)

Thriller

My Heart is a Chainsaw
by Stephen Graham Jones
(Simon & Schuster)

The Secret Next Door: A Novel
by Rebecca Taylor
(Sourcebooks)

The Dead Husband: A Novel
by Carter Wilson
(Sourcebooks)

Young Adult Literature

To Break a Covenant
by Alison Ames
(Page Street Publishing)

Rise of the Red Hand
by Olivia Chadha
(Erewhon Books)

Girl on the Ferris Wheel
by Julie Halpern and Len Vlahos
(Macmillan Publishing)

Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book joins with hundreds of program partners statewide to design and provide education resources and programs in history, reading, and writing, as well as offering opportunities for conversations about challenging questions.

Learn more at coloradohumanities.org, or call 303.894.7951.

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