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Creative Nonfiction and General Nonfiction Colorado Book Awards Finalists Read

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO

Creative Nonfiction and General Nonfiction Colorado Book Awards finalists will read in person Friday, May 27, 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/

Creative Nonfiction Finalists

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

Jim Davidson

A dramatic account of the deadly earthquake on Everest and a return to reach the summit, *The Next Everest* portrays the experience of living through the biggest disaster to ever hit the mountain. Davidson's background in geology and environmental science uniquely qualifies him to explain how this natural disaster unfolded and why the seismic threats lurking beneath Nepal are even greater today. Jim Davidson is an accomplished high-altitude climber, motivational speaker, and coauthor of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Ledge*. Along with his teammates, he has been commended twice by the U.S. National Park Service for volunteering on risky and remote mountain rescues. He has inspired audiences across the United States and internationally through his business, Speaking of Adventure. Jim lives in Fort Collins.

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

Susan J. Tweit

Susan and her economist-turned-sculptor husband had just settled into their version of a "good life" when Richard saw thousands of birds one day, harbingers of the brain cancer that would kill him two years later. This compelling and intimate memoir chronicles their journey into the end of his life, framed by their final trip together, a 4,000-mile-long delayed honeymoon road trip. Susan J. Tweit is a plant biologist who began her career studying wildfires, dissecting grizzly bear poop, and smashing sagebrush leaves to extract their aromatic

compounds. She turned to writing when she realized she loved telling the stories in the data. Her thirteen books and hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles have won the Colorado Book Award, the EDDIE (for magazine journalism), and Foreword Book of the Year. Her commentaries have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Denver Post*, and on regional public radio. Susan lives in Montrose.

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

This personal story of grief, motherhood, and return to the desert entwines with the story of America's mustangs as Wilder makes a home on the Colorado Plateau, her property bordering a mustang herd. *Desert Chrome* illuminates these controversial creatures' complex American history, their powerful presence on the landscape, and ways to help both horses and habitats stay wild in the arid West while celebrating the animal nature in us all. Kathryn Wilder's work, cited in *Best American Essays* and nominated for the Pushcart Prize, has appeared in such publications as *High Desert Journal*, *River Teeth*, *Fourth Genre*, *Sierra*, and many anthologies. A past finalist for the Ellen Meloy Fund Desert Writers Award and the Waterston Desert Writing Prize, Wilder holds an MA from Northern Arizona University and an MFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Kathryn lives in Dolores.

General Nonfiction Finalists

The Entrepreneur's Weekly Nietzsche: A Book for Disruptors
Dave Jilk and Brad Feld

In an unusual twist on the staid literature of business, Jilk and Feld employ brief quotes from the work of philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche as a launching pad for reflections on entrepreneurship. In 52 digestible and accessible "weekly" chapters, the reader is invited to join the authors and other entrepreneur contributors in thinking more deeply about the entrepreneurial journey, with topics like why hitting bottom might be the best thing that can happen, how a firm's artistic style can align its organization, and the role obsession plays in success and one's definition of it. Dave Jilk is a former serial entrepreneur and startup CEO in information technology. He now writes on entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence and dabbles in poetry and philosophy. Dave lives in Longmont. Brad Feld is an early-stage investor and entrepreneur who is a partner in the venture capital firm Foundry Group and a Co-founder of Techstars. He's written a number of books on entrepreneurship and venture capital, including *Venture Deals*, *Startup Communities*, *The Startup Community Way*, *Startup Life*, and *Startup Opportunities*. Brad lives in Boulder.

Breakthrough: How to Overcome Doubt, Fear, and Resistance to Be Your Ultimate Creative Self
Todd Mitchell

If you've ever struggled with doubt, fear, procrastination, or disappointment while trying to create, this book is for you. *Breakthrough* goes where no other books on creativity dare to tread, exposing the toxic success myths that hold people back and revealing radical, perspective-shifting solutions. Through concise, friendly chapters that weave together personal experiences with guidance from research and philosophical traditions, readers are given pragmatic ways to turn potential breakdowns into life-changing breakthroughs. Todd Mitchell is the author of several award-winning novels for young readers, teens, and adults including *The Last Panther*, *The Traitor King*, *The Secret to Lying*, and *Backwards*. His other recent book, *The Namer of Spirits*, is a middle grade novel that's been optioned for film/TV development. Currently, Todd directs the Beginning Creative Writing Teaching Program at Colorado State University and lives in Fort Collins.

The Holly
Julian Rubinstein

Much more than a crime story, this book is a multigenerational saga of race and politics that runs from the civil rights movement to Black Lives Matter. With a cast of billionaires, elected officials, cops, developers, and street kids, the book explores the porous boundaries between a city's elites and its most disadvantaged citizens. In a time of national reckoning over race, policing, and the uses and abuses of power, Rubinstein offers a dramatic and humane illumination of what's at stake. Julian Rubinstein is an award-winning, Denver-based journalist and the author of *Ballad of the Whiskey Robber*, a finalist for the Edgar Allan Poe Best Fact Crime award. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, as well as in *Best American Crime Writing*. He is a visiting professor of the practice of documentary journalism at the University of 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
(Erehwon 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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