



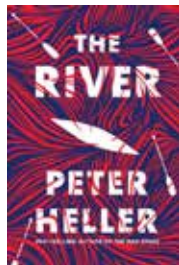
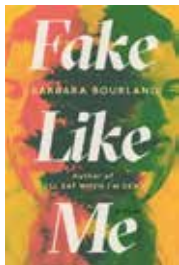
The 3rd Degree

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

EDGAR AWARDS 2020

2020 EDGAR® AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Mystery Writers of America is proud to announce, as we celebrate the 211th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, the Winners for the 2020 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television published or produced in 2019. The Edgar® Awards were presented via a live presentation on Twitter — <https://twitter.com/EdgarAwards> The winning speeches will be found on our YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/2020Edgars>
The winners are indicated below in red text.



BEST NOVEL

Fake Like Me by Barbara Bourland (Hachette Book Group – Grand Central Publishing)

The Stranger Diaries by Elly Griffiths (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

The River by Peter Heller (Penguin Random House – Alfred A. Knopf)

Smoke and Ashes by Abir Mukherjee (Pegasus Books)

Good Girl, Bad Girl by Michael Robotham (Simon & Schuster – Scribner)

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SEE THE WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS ON TWITTER



Visit us at www.mysterywriters.org

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2020 EDGAR® AWARD WINNERS, *continued from previous page*



BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

My Lovely Wife by Samantha Downing (Penguin Random House – Berkley)

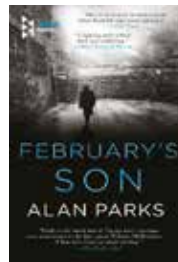
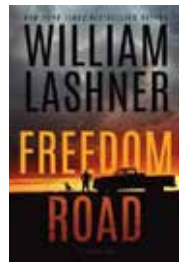
Miracle Creek by **Angie Kim** (Farrar Straus and Giroux – Sarah Crichton)

The Good Detective by John McMahon (Penguin Random House – G.P. Putnam's Sons)

The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott (Penguin Random House – Alfred A. Knopf)

Three-Fifths by John Vercher (Polis Books – Agora Books)

American Spy by Lauren Wilkinson (Penguin Random House – Random House)



BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Dread of Winter by Susan Alice Bickford (Kensington Publishing)

Freedom Road by William Lashner (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

Blood Relations by Jonathan Moore (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – Mariner Books)

February's Son by Alan Parks (Europa Editions – World Noir)

The Hotel Neversink by **Adam O'Fallon Price** (Tin House Books)

The Bird Boys by Lisa Sandlin (Cinco Puntos Press)

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MWA'S DIVERSITY/HARASSMENT POLICY MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA WELCOMES PEOPLE FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS, REGARDLESS OF RELIGION, RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR DISABILITY. WE DO NOT TOLERATE DISCRIMINATION OR ABUSE OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING ANY FORM OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT. WE SIMILARLY REQUIRE OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS TO COMPLY WITH THIS POLICY WHEN PARTICIPATING IN ANY MWA-SPONSORED EVENTS.



NATIONAL OFFICERS PRESIDENT, MEG GARDINER; EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, GREG HERREN; SECRETARY, ELIZABETH LITTLE; TREASURER, LAWRENCE LIGHT; PARLIAMENTARIAN, TED HERTEL
THE THIRD DEGREE STAFF EDITOR, BETH TINDALL; ASSOCIATE EDITOR, ANNIE CHERNOW **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR** ART TAYLOR

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Margaret Mizushima, Erica Obey, Alex Segura, Tom Straw, Maureen Walsh, Margery Flax, ex officio, Beth Tindall, ex officio

VITAL SIGNS, ADDRESS CHANGES AND MEMBERSHIP ISSUES: MARGERY FLAX Executive Director, Mystery Writers of America 1140 Broadway, Suite 1507 New York, NY 10001

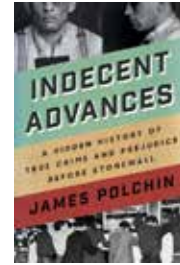
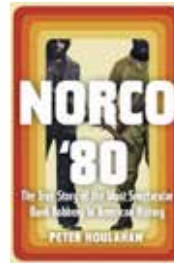
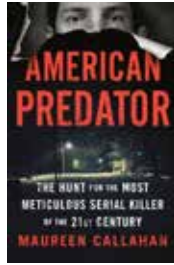
TEL: 212.888.8171 FAX: 212.888.8107 E-MAIL: mwa@mysterywriters.org WEB: www.mysterywriters.org FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mwanational/> TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/EdgarAwards>

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2020 EDGAR® AWARD WINNERS, *continued from previous page*



BEST FACT CRIME

The Ghosts of Eden Park: The Bootleg King, the Women Who Pursued Him, and the Murder that Shocked Jazz-Age America

by Karen Abbott (Penguin Random House – Crown)

The Less People Know About Us: A Mystery of Betrayal, Family Secrets, and Stolen Identity
by Axton Betz-Hamilton (Hachette Book Group – Grand Central Publishing)

American Predator: The Hunt for the Most Meticulous Serial Killer of the 21st Century

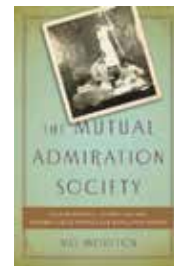
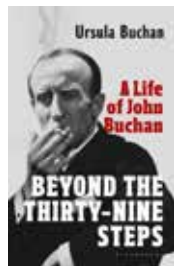
by Maureen Callahan (Penguin Random House – Viking)

Norco '80: The True Story of the Most Spectacular Bank Robbery in American History

by Peter Houlihan (Counterpoint Press)

Indecent Advances: A Hidden History of True Crime and Prejudice Before Stonewall

by James Polchin (Counterpoint Press)



BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

Hitchcock and the Censors by John Billheimer (University Press of Kentucky)

Beyond the Thirty-Nine Steps: A Life of John Buchan by Ursula Buchan (Bloomsbury Publishing)

The Hooded Gunman: An Illustrated History of Collins Crime Club

by John Curran (Collins Crime Club)

Medieval Crime Fiction: A Critical Overview by Anne McKendry (McFarland)

The Mutual Admiration Society: How Dorothy L. Sayers and her Oxford Circle

Remade the World for Women by Mo Moulton (Hachette Book Group – Basic Books)

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2020 EDGAR® AWARD WINNERS, *continued from previous page*

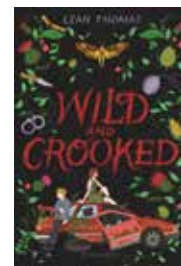
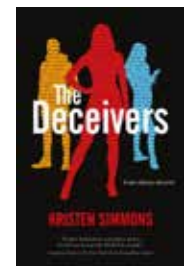
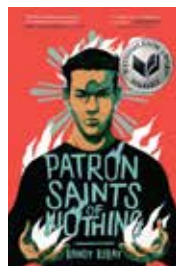
BEST SHORT STORY

- “**Turistas,**” from **Paque Tu Lo Sepas** by Hector Acosta (Down & Out Books)
 “**One of These Nights,**” from **Cutting Edge: New Stories of Mystery and Crime by Women Writers** by Livia Llewellyn (Akashic Books)
 “**The Passenger,**” from **Sydney Noir** by Kirsten Tranter (Akashic Books)
 “**Home at Last,**” from **Die Behind the Wheel: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Music of Steely Dan** by Sam Wiebe (Down & Out Books)
 “**Brother’s Keeper,**” from **Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine** by Dave Zeltserman (Dell Magazine)



BEST JUVENILE

- The Collected Works of Gretchen Oyster** by Cary Fagan
 (Penguin Random House Canada – Tundra Books)
Eventown by Corey Ann Haydu (HarperCollins Children’s Books – Katherine Tegen Books)
The Whispers by Greg Howard (Penguin Young Readers – G.P. Putnam’s Sons BFYR)
All the Greys on Greene Street by Laura Tucker (Penguin Young Readers – Viking BFYR)
Me and Sam-Sam Handle the Apocalypse by **Susan Vaught** (Simon & Schuster Children’s Books – Paula Wiseman Books)



BEST YOUNG ADULT

- Catfishing on CatNet** by **Naomi Kritzer** (Tom Doherty Associates – Tor Teen)
Killing November by Adriana Mather (Random House Children’s Books – Alfred A. Knopf BFYR)
Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay (Penguin Young Readers – Kokila)
The Deceivers by Kristen Simmons (Tom Doherty Associates – Tor Teen)
Wild and Crooked by Leah Thomas (Bloomsbury Publishing)

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2020 EDGAR® AWARD WINNERS, *continued from previous page*

BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY

- “Season 5, Episode 3” – **Line of Duty**, Teleplay by Jed Mercurio (Acorn TV)
 “Season 5, Episode 4” – **Line of Duty**, Teleplay by Jed Mercurio (Acorn TV)
 “Episode 1” – **Dublin Murders**, Teleplay by Sarah Phelps (STARZ)
 “Episode 1” – **Manhunt**, Teleplay by Ed Whitmore (Acorn TV)
 “Episode 1” – **Wisting**, Teleplay by Kathrine Valen Zeiner & Trygve Allister Diesen
 (Sundance Now)

ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD

- “There’s a Riot Goin’ On,” from **Milwaukee Noir** by Derrick Harriell (Akashic Books)



THE SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD

- The Night Visitors** by **Carol Goodman** (HarperCollins – William Morrow)
One Night Gone by Tara Laskowski (Harlequin – Graydon House)
Strangers at the Gate by Catriona McPherson (Minotaur Books)
Where the Missing Go by Emma Rowley (Kensington Publishing)
The Murder List by Hank Phillippi Ryan (Tom Doherty Associates – Forge Books)



THE G.P. PUTNAM’S SONS SUE GRAFTON MEMORIAL AWARD

- Shamed** by Linda Castillo (Minotaur Books)
Borrowed Time by **Tracy Clark** (Kensington Publishing)
The Missing Ones by Edwin Hill (Kensington Publishing)
The Satapur Moonstone by Sujata Massey (Soho Crime)
The Alchemist’s Illusion by Gigi Pandian (Midnight Ink)
Girl Gone Missing by Marcie R. Rendon (Cincos Puntos Press)

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

BY GREG HERREN
MWA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

When I took over from my predecessor, the incomparable and unflappable Donna Andrews, I knew that, in some ways, my tenure as Executive Vice-President was breaking new ground. In all its 75-year history, MWA had never had an openly gay author of books with openly gay characters and themes at the rudder — and I had no idea, as I teased Donna about all the free time she was about to start enjoying, that I'd be steering the ship through uncharted waters and through a societal and cultural upheaval that would have been unimaginable back in January.

Who knew our 75th year would include a global pandemic and the effective shuttering of the world?

As the news began to grow grimmer and grimmer, and the possibility of having to cancel the banquet went from unthinkable to distinct possibility, I couldn't help but think about our patron saint's story, "The Masque of the Red Death," and its theme: the futility of avoiding death. Holding the banquet seemed to mirror the story, with crime fiction's best and brightest dressed to the nines and locked away from a pandemic riddled world, celebrating... but with Death already there, walking amongst us unnoticed at first.

Canceling the Edgar Award banquet was ultimately a no-brainer, but it was still heartbreaking.

My term as EVP, apparently, was destined to break new ground practically every month. I can only hope that history will be kind.

The challenge of celebrating our nominees and winners in a way that was appropriate in a time of crisis was daunting. An Edgar nomination — let alone the win — is something everyone in our genre aspires to; I cannot imagine having such an incredible career accomplishment be so clouded and torn away by a world-wide crisis. Was it appropriate to even try to celebrate in a time when jobs are being lost and people are getting sick and dying?



But no matter what else is going on in the world, our finalists deserve their spot in the sun and their time to shine. A pandemic doesn't take away what they have achieved: recognition by their peers as being at the top of their game. By the time you are holding this in your hands, the announcements have been made, and nothing will ever rob our winners and finalists of their achievement.

And as we face an uncertain future, unsure of what is just around the corner, I do know this: Mystery Writers of America will go on. We will endure, and we will always be here for the benefit of our membership. How that will look may change — nothing at the time of this writing is predictable — but we will adapt. We will fight, for our members and our genre, and continue to advocate for them and our genre to be paid and treated fairly and well.

We're not going anywhere.

Here's to another seventy-five years!

SAVE THE DATE:
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDGAR AWARDS APRIL 29, 2021

GRAND MASTER NEELY HONORED

“My suspicion with the first publisher, and I think the suspicion may have been based on some things that were said, was that you know, well, we’ve got Walter Mosley, it’s almost like we’ve got Fred Astaire, let’s see if we can find Ginger Rogers.”
— Barbara Neely in Los Angeles Review of Books, “It’s Up to Us: A Roundtable Discussion.”

BY KELLYE GARRETT

Barbara Neely first waltzed onto the literary stage with short stories found in publications like *Essence*, the preeminent magazine for black women. She balanced writing with her work as an activist. Her background included a masters in urban planning, stints as a journalist and radio talk show host, and even as the designer of Pennsylvania’s first community-based women’s correctional facility.

She never intended to be a mystery writer. After one of her short stories was published, she was contacted by both an agent and publisher asking if she had anything longer. Her original plan was to publish the great African-American novel, but they were more interested in something else she was working on — a story about a woman named Blanche White, a dark-skinned, big-boned black maid who used her invisibility as a domestic to her advantage when it came to solving crimes.

At the time, there was a boom in black contemporary fiction. Terry McMillan had gone from putting on her own thirty-nine-city book tour for her debut in 1986, to a 25,000-copy first printing and being optioned by TriStar for her second book in 1989. A year later, a one-time computer programmer published *Devil In A Blue Dress* and crime fiction would never be the same.

Suddenly, publishers realized that books by and about black people would be read by everyone from suburban housewives to presidents of the United States. And when it came time to finding someone who could meld the #blackgirlmagic found in Terry McMillan’s books and crime fiction told from a unique black experience as Walter Mosley does so well, they turned to Barbara Neely. For Barbara, it was important to use her time in the spotlight to talk about the same things she’d focused on her entire life.

“My major goal with the four Blanche books really was to write about something that I wanted people to know or read about, that is one or more of my subjects being race, class, and gender,” she said during our Los Angeles Review of Books Black Author Roundtable discussion. “So my goal was to couch information about one of those subjects in a story that folks wanted to read bad enough to know how it ended and therefore would read about this other thing that I wanted them to read about.”

Her work didn’t just land, it got a standing ovation, making her the first black woman to win the Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity awards for her 1992 debut, *Blanche on the Lam*. Over the next eight years, that novel was followed by three more: *Blanche Among the Talented Tenth* (1994), *Blanche Cleans Up* (1998) and *Blanche Passes Go* (2000).

Though *Blanche Passes Go* would be her final public performance, she never stopped dancing. As she told Walter Mosley during our LARB discussion, “Well, I am writing, but I’m not trying to publish.”

His response? That it was a loss to our world.

And now that we’ve lost her as well, it’s up to us to keep dancing for her through our reading lists, our books, and our organizations.



Kellye Garrett's Hollywood Homicide, about a semi-famous, mega-broke black actress, won the Anthony, Agatha, and Lefty for best first novel. The second, Hollywood Ending, was featured on the Today Show's Best Summer Reads of 2019 and was nominated for both Anthony and Lefty awards. The New Jersey native is a co-founder of Crime Writers of Color.

EDGAR WINNERS SHARE THEIR THANKS

BEST NOVEL: ELLY GRIFFITHS

I'm beyond delighted to win this award. I had hoped to be there with you tonight, but I still feel connected to you all through the wonderful world of books. It would take more than a global pandemic to break the writing community.

First I'd like to thank Mystery Writers of America. I am just thrilled to be part of such a prestigious organisation and to receive an award named after one of my literary heroes. *The Stranger Diaries* is very different from my other books and I'd like to thank my publishers and agents for believing in it from the beginning. Thank you to everyone at HMH, especially Naomi Gibbs and Michelle Bonanno-Triant. Thank you to my agents Kirby Kim in the US and Rebecca Carter in the UK. Thank you to all the American readers, reviewers and bloggers who have made me feel so welcome.

It's an honour to be nominated alongside so many wonderful writers. I salute you all.

We'll meet again.

Thank you

Elly



BEST FIRST NOVEL: ANGIE KIM

When I was 11, I moved from Seoul to Baltimore and brought my Korean set of mystery books — Dashiell Hammett, Agatha Christie, and of course, Edgar Allan Poe. That year, before I learned English, those were the only books I could read, and reading them again and again helped me through a really difficult time. When everything was foreign and disorienting, I took refuge in the books' soothing familiarity, their ordered logic. I fell in love with mysteries.

It's now forty years later, and I can't believe I've written a mystery of my own, and it's received this amazing honor, especially being nominated alongside extraordinary books. Lara Prescott, Lauren Wilkinson, Samantha Downing, John Vercher, and John McMahon, I've loved getting to know you and your work. This mystery writing community has been so warm and welcoming, and on behalf of us debuts, thank you, Mystery Writers of America.



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EDGAR WINNER THANK YOUS, *continued from previous page*

ANGIE KIM, CONTINUED

Susan Golomb, my literary agent, picked my book from the slush pile and held my hand through everything, good and (especially) bad. Sarah Crichton, my brilliant editor, knew exactly what the book needed and pushed and pushed until we got there, together, with my team at FSG and Kimberly Burns. Finally, my family, for love and support and understanding — Um-ma and Ap-bah, my three boys, and especially, most of all, Jim. I couldn't have done any of this, including taping this message, without you, literally.

Thank you!

BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL: ADAM O'FALLON PRICE

I grew up in a house filled with mysteries. My parents were omnivorous readers of the genre, from golden-age detective classics to Nordic thrillers, and the houses of my childhood were stuffed floor-to-ceiling with mystery novels. At a young age, I was as familiar with the names Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle as I was with Roald Dahl and Shel Silverstein. And from the covers of some of these books, I was also aware of the Edgar Award before I was aware of any other awards people could win for anything.

Which is just to say how truly meaningful it is for me for *The Hotel Neversink* to win the Edgar Award for Best Paperback Original. Needless to say, for anyone, it is a great and humbling honor to be included in the long-distinguished lineage of Edgar Award winners. I would like to thank my wonderful agent, Samantha Shea, at the Georges Borchardt Agency, my incredible editor Masie Cochran, and the entire talented team at Tin House Books. Thanks also to my good friends and fellow writers who assisted in providing notes for *The Hotel Neversink*, including J. Robert Lennon, Lauren Schenkman, Ben Felton, and my wife, Elizabeth Watkins Price. And finally, thanks to my parents, Bill and Pat Price, for their love and support, and for those stacks of mysteries.



BEST FACT CRIME: AXTON BETZ-HAMILTON

I am both surprised and deeply honored to receive this award. This would not have been possible without the support of many individuals and different groups. First, I would like to thank Mystery Writers of America and the judges. I would also like to thank the incredible team at Grand Central, including my editor, Gretchen Young; my publicist, Linda Duggins; my agent, Lauren Sharp, and, also, Ashley Stimpson. I would also like to thank my colleagues at South Dakota State University for their support while I was writing the book and, most importantly, I would like to thank my family for not only their support, but for their insights and contributions to the book as well. So once again, I am very surprised and deeply honored to receive this award. Thank you very much.



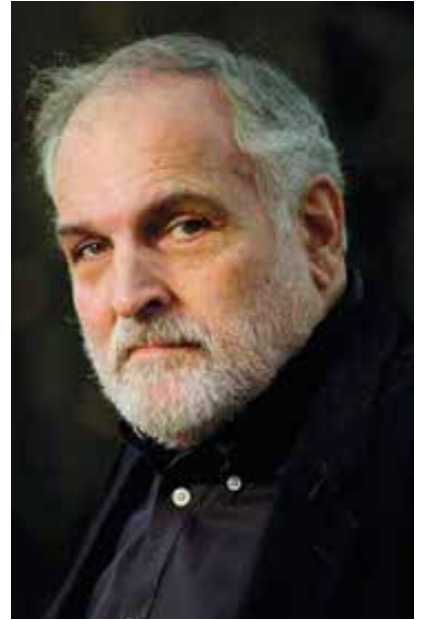
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EDGAR WINNER THANK YOUs, *continued from previous page*

BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL: JOHN BILLHEIMER

Many people deserve recognition for this honor. First, my wife, Carolyn, who encouraged me to keep on augmenting my engineering education with courses when our mailbox was overflowing with rejection letters from literary journals. I also need to thank my writing group, which keeps me supplied with monthly deadlines, criticism, and enough wine to dull the criticism. I particularly need to single out Sheila York, who introduced me to the Margaret Herrick Library in Beverly Hills, which provided access to the reams of correspondence between the censors and Hitchcock that fueled the bulk of my book.

I came late enough to the writing business to know I wasn't much of a joiner, so I was quite skeptical when asked to join MWA. But I soon found its individual members to be supportive, talented, and genuinely delightful company. I was so pleased to be in their company that I proudly displayed my membership card right next to my driver's license in my wallet. So anyone asking to see my ID got a dual display of my driver's license and my MWA membership card. Over the past twenty years, however, not one Highway Patrolman or Transportation Security Agent has ever looked at this dual display and said, "Oh WOW, you're a mystery writer!" On receiving this Edgar Award, though, I feel that a group I'm inordinately proud to be a member of has collectively said, "Oh, WOW, you're a mystery writer!" And I thank you for it.



BEST SHORT STORY: LIVIA LLEWELLYN

I don't like writing acceptance speeches in advance — I'm highly superstitious and consider this a jinx. Therefore, I'm writing this with the assumption that this year's award has gone to someone else. However, as I subscribe to the Many Universes theory, on behalf of a Livia Llewellyn on Another Earth, I'm thrilled to have won!

I'd like to thank the Edgar Award judges, who read hundreds of very worthy stories for this category — as a two-time judge for the Shirley Jackson Awards, I know how difficult and important their task was, and that so many more stories could have easily made the final list of nominees.

I'd also like to thank Joyce Carol Oates for asking me to contribute a story to the Akashic Noir anthology *Cutting Edge*, and for her very gentle yet firm encouragement and insistence that I not give up on finishing it — which I did several times. She is more than welcome to lord it over me that in many respects, she won this award for me by refusing to let me give up. Lesson learned! And, thanks to the amazing people at Akashic Books: Ibrahim Ahmad, Johanna Ingalls, Susannah Lawrence, Aaron Petrovich, and Johnny Temple. I'm thrilled that I could be a part of their iconic Noir anthology series.

Finally, eternal gratitude, and love from all the Livias in all the Many Universes to my best friend and work husband, Robert Levy, who has been a champion of my writing for almost two decades. This win is yours, too.



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EDGAR WINNER THANK YOUs, *continued from previous page*

BEST JUVENILE: SUSAN VAUGHT

I was asked to make a video during quarantine, in a quiet location, despite the fact that I live on a bird farm during breeding season, and I have four dogs, five cats, a parrot, and other people who live in this house. THAT was a tall order, but I've done my best.

I want to thank the Edgars committee for recognizing a book that is probably the closest to my heart of any book I have ever written. *Me and Sam-Sam Handle the Apocalypse* brings to life what it is like being person with autistic features trying to exist in a world that doesn't really make any room for us. I greatly appreciate their attention to the story that I told, and for helping that character to find a wider audience.

I want to thank my agent Erin Murphy for taking a chance on me 20 years ago, and helping me to transition into writing Middle Grade fiction. I especially want to thank my editor Sylvie Frank for making this the strongest story it could be, and I want to thank Paula Wiseman at Simon and Schuster's Paula Wiseman Books for continuing to take chances on my work.

Also, I would like to thank Sam-Sam for being the BEST DOG IN THE ENTIRE WORLD. Come here, Sam. Say hi to everybody!

Every awards show should feature heroic Pomeranians, and maybe also cute grandsons who try to teach them (endlessly) about Pokémon characters.



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EDGAR WINNER THANK YOUs, *continued from previous page*

BEST YOUNG ADULT: NAOMI KRITZER

Thank you all so much for this honor. *Catfishing on the CatNet* is a story about the power of online friendship — about how online friends *are* real friends, and the virtual world is a real place that can provide kindness, support, love, meaning, and understanding. We've all been exploring the possibilities of connecting in virtual space, and I hope that everyone watching this has a clowder of their own that gives them the love, support, and connection they need.

In addition to MWA, I would like to thank my editor, Susan Chang; my agent, Nell Pierce and my former, now-retired agent, Martha Mallard; all the members of my writers' group, the Wyrdsmiths; and my husband, Ed, and children, Molly and Kiera. Thank you all so much for your help and support.



BEST TV EPISODE TELEPLAY: JED MERCURIO

I'm incredibly honoured to be recognised by an organisation as prestigious as Mystery Writers of America. As a TV writer, although I write the screenplays alone, I'm grateful for the creative input of producers, directors and cast. We started 9 years ago as a little show on a niche network — and all of us who've been involved in *Line of Duty* salute our fans who've helped the series grow. It's such a great pity we can't all celebrate together, but the most important thing is for everyone to stay safe and stay well. Unfortunately for me and the whole cast and crew, we've been forced to shut down production of *Line of Duty*. Now I've got even more reason to be jealous of those of you who've proved yet again it's smarter to write books!



WATCH VIDEOS FROM THE 2020 EDGAR AWARD WINNERS, AND SEE
MWA PRESIDENT MEG GARDINER'S REMARKS ON THE MWA YOUTUBE CHANNEL:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2020EDGARS](https://tinyurl.com/2020edgars)

SEE THE ORIGINAL WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS ON TWITTER

[HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/EDGARAWARDS](https://twitter.com/edgarawards)

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EDGAR WINNER THANK YOUs, *continued from previous page*

SPECIAL AWARDS:

SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY HIGGINS CLARK: CAROL GOODMAN

If you're watching/reading this it must mean I've won the Mary Higgins Clark Award. I'm amazed! It's been a rollercoaster ride these last few months, getting the nomination, celebrating via e-mails with my amazing fellow nominees, planning to celebrate together at the Edgar Awards, and then mourning together when we learned of the passing of Mary Higgins Clark.

Then we found out we wouldn't be celebrating together at the Awards. I want to thank my fellow nominees for their company through these times, and MWA for coming up with clever ways of connecting us from our separate homes.

I'd like to thank, too, my wonderful agent, Robin Rue of Writers House, and her assistant Beth Miller, my editor Kate Nintzel at William Morrow, and all the people at William Morrow who made *The Night Visitors* possible.

I'm grateful to my family, Lee, Maggie, Nora, and Jeremy, for always supporting me, to Mary Higgins Clark, for her inspiration and example of kindness and generosity, and to the community of writers and readers who have made the last weeks of isolation less lonely. Books are truly a comfort in difficult times. I'm honored to be part of this community and to win this award.



G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS: TRACY CLARK

It's such an honor to receive the Sue Grafton Memorial Award. I'd like to humbly thank the nominating committee and judges for selecting *Borrowed Time* as this year's winner. Sue Grafton was one of my writing heroes. I can't tell you how special this is. I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge my fellow nominees — Linda Castillo, Edwin Hill, Sujata Massey, Gigi Pandian and Marcie Rendon. Talented writers all. I am proud to be in their company.

Writers don't stand on award stages having gotten there on their own. Family, friends, mentors, fellow writers — even a few detractors — were there to offer encouragement, advice and direction, constructive (or nonconstructive) criticism, a gentle push. These people kept you going, cheered your successes, commiserated with you when you failed, they made a way for you.

Thank-you to my family of talented word warriors in Crime Writers of Color, Mystery Writers of America



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EDGAR WINNER THANK YOUs, *continued from previous page*

TRACY CLARK, CONTINUED

and Sisters in Crime for their unflagging support, advocacy and fraternity. Thank you also to the reviewers, podcasters and bloggers who have been so kind to me, highlighting my work, giving it a platform, boosting new releases, lifting me up.

And, finally, to the readers (those ferocious lovers of fiction), thank you. Thank you for reading my work, thank you for passing the word along for others to read it. Thank you for returning for each new adventure. Thank you for finding a place on your shelves for Cass Raines and her crew. I wouldn't be here without you.

ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD: DERRICK HARRIELL

I want to first thank Tim Hennessy and Akashic Books for the *Milwaukee Noir* anthology. Tim was an amazing editor who walked me through my first fiction piece with such grace and keen attention to detail. I want to thank the Edgar Awards and Margery for acknowledging this year's winners remotely. In a time of such chaos and calamity, it's comforting to be recognize for the work we've put our all into. Lastly, I want to thank my brilliant colleagues for always creating inspiring work that pushes me to demand more of myself. I'm honored to receive this award.



RAVEN AWARD: LEFT COAST CRIME

All of us at Left Coast Crime are thrilled to receive the 2020 Raven Award. Thank you to Mystery Writers of America for this great honor, from the LCC Permanent Committee — Bill & Toby Gottfried, Janet Rudolph, Lucinda Surber, Stan Ulrich — our members-at-large Les & Leslie Blatt, and convention representatives Colleen Glynn, Kim Keeline, and Linda McNab. LCC wouldn't be here today without the efforts of our Emeritus members Bryan Barrett, Tom Shantz, Thom Walls, and those who have left us too early: Noemi Levine and Enid Shantz. Enid's left hand served as the model for the first Lefty Award given in 1996 for the Best Humorous Mystery.

Founded in 1991, Left Coast Crime is an annual mystery convention sponsored by mystery fans, both readers and authors, held during the first quarter of the year in Western North America: the Left Coast. The 30th Annual Left Coast Crime Convention was just held in San Diego — our best one-day convention in history!

Each Left Coast Crime Convention raises money to support a local literacy organization with funds collected through silent and live auctions, and the annual Quilt Raffle. We also offer



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EDGAR WINNER THANK YOUs, *continued from previous page*

LEFT COAST CRIME, CONTINUED

yearly scholarships to encourage fandom and talent in crime writing of all types, providing financial assistance to attend the convention.

Our thanks to the entire Left Coast Crime family for their support throughout the years: the yearly convention chairs, all the volunteers who help run the conventions, and the authors and fans who gather to make each convention a celebration of the genre we all love.

We look forward to seeing you all at a future Left Coast Crime convention.

ELLERY QUEEN AWARD: KELLEY RAGLAND

Hi, everyone — thanks first to MWA for this honor. Months after Donna Andrews called me with the news, I remain gobsmacked about it. Mostly because I feel so lucky to have found my tribe so easily, here, in the best corner of book publishing; that MWA wants to thank *me* for anything feels pretty backwards to me. It truly is a huge honor for me — and one that I treasure. I especially want to thank them for co-sponsoring our first novel competition for going on twelve years, we really appreciate their support of new writers. I also want to thank all of the authors and agents I've worked with — it's been a privilege to be trusted with your work.

Finally I want to thank a few people individually — for the pleasure of their company along the way. First and foremost, my compatriots for the last several years at Minotaur Books. The dream team of Hector DeJean, Sarah Melnyk, Paul Hochman, Martin Quinn and now Catherine Richards, and in particular Andy Martin — I can't say enough about what a pleasure it is to work with people who care so much and make it fun at the same time. I also want to thank my parents, who made me a reader, and the best lockdown companions, my family, Owen and Eddy. And lastly I have to mention the late and great Hope Dellon, who first hired me at St. Martin's Press and who was a teacher and a mentor and later a colleague — I was so lucky to benefit from her knowledge and her example. Thanks again, and stay well.



SAVE THE DATE:
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDGAR AWARDS
APRIL 29, 2021



EDDIE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS...



1952



1962



1964

1970



1980



2004



2015

