



The 3rd Degree

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

EDGAR NOMINATIONS 2023

2023 EDGAR ALLAN POE AWARD NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

MWA is proud to announce, as we celebrate the 214th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, the nominees for the 2023 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television published or produced in 2022. The 77th Annual Edgar® Awards will be celebrated on April 27, 2023, at the New York Marriott Marquis Times Square.



BEST NOVEL

- Devil House* by John Darnielle (Farrar, Straus and Giroux – MCD)
- Like a Sister* by Kellye Garrett (Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown & Co./Mulholland Books)
- Gangland* by Chuck Hogan (Hachette Book Group – Grand Central Publishing)
- The Devil Takes You Home* by Gabino Iglesias (Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown & Co./Mulholland Books)
- Notes on an Execution* by Danya Kukafka (HarperCollins – William Morrow)
- The Maid* by Nita Prose (Penguin Random House – Ballantine Books)

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BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

Jackal by Erin E. Adams (Penguin Random House - Bantam)

Don't Know Tough by Eli Cranor (Soho Press – Soho Crime)

Shutter by Ramona Emerson (Soho Press – Soho Crime)

More Than You'll Ever Know by Katie Gutierrez (HarperCollins – William Morrow)

Portrait of a Thief by Grace D. Li (Penguin Random House – Tiny Reparations Books)



BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Quarry's Blood by Max Allan Collins (Hard Case Crime)

On a Quiet Street by Seraphina Nova Glass (Harlequin Trade Publishing – Graydon House)

Or Else by Joe Hart (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

Cleopatra's Dagger by Carole Lawrence (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

A Familiar Stranger by A.R. Torre (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

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2023 EDGAR® AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



BEST FACT CRIME

Slenderman: Online Obsession, Mental Illness, and the Violent Crime of Two Midwestern Girls by Kathleen Hale (Grove Atlantic – Grove Press)

Tell Me Everything: The Story of a Private Investigation by Erika Krouse (Flatiron Books)

Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders by Kathryn Miles (Hachette Book Group – Workman Publishing – Algonquin Books)

American Caliph: The True Story of a Muslim Mystic, a Hollywood Epic, and the 1977 Siege of Washington, D.C. by Shahan Mufti (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

American Demon: Eliot Ness and the Hunt for America's Jack the Ripper by Daniel Stashower (Minotaur Books)



BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and Their Creators by Martin Edwards (HarperCollins – Collins Crime Club)

The Bloomsbury Handbook to Agatha Christie by Mary Anna Evans & J.C. Bernthal (Bloomsbury – Bloomsbury Academic)

The Crime World of Michael Connelly: A Study of His Works and Their Adaptations by David Geherin (McFarland)

The Woman Beyond the Attic: The V.C. Andrews Story by Andrew Neiderman (Simon & Schuster – Gallery Books)

Agatha Christie: An Elusive Woman by Lucy Worsley (Pegasus Books – Pegasus Crime)

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2023 EDGAR® AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



BEST SHORT STORY

“Red Flag,” *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* by Gregory Fallis (Dell Magazines)

“Backstory,” *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* by Charles John Harper (Dell Magazines)

“Locked-In,” *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* by William Burton McCormick (Dell Magazines)

“The Amnesty Box,” *Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms* by Tim McLoughlin (Akashic Books)

“First You Dream, Then You Die,” *Black is the Night* by Donna Moore (Titan Books)



BEST JUVENILE

The Swallowtail Legacy: Wreck at Ada's Reef by Michael D. Beil (Pixel+Ink)

The Area 51 Files by Julie Buxbaum (Random House Children's Books – Delacorte Press)

Aggie Morton Mystery Queen: The Seaside Corpse by Marthe Jocelyn (Penguin Random House Canada – Tundra Books)

Adventures on Trains: Murder on the Safari Star by M.G. Leonard & Sam Sedgman (Macmillan Children's Publishing – Feiwel & Friends)

Chester Keene Cracks the Code by Kekla Magoon (Random House Children's Books – Wendy Lamb Books)

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2023 EDGAR® AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



BEST YOUNG ADULT

Pretty Dead Queens by Alexa Donne (Random House Children's Books – Crown BFYR)

Frightmares by Eva V. Gibson (Random House Children's Books - Underlined)

The Black Girls Left Standing by Juliana Goodman (Macmillan Children's Books – Feiwel & Friends)

The Red Palace by June Hur (Macmillan Children's Books – Feiwel & Friends)

Lock the Doors by Vincent Ralph (Sourcebooks – Fire)



BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY

“One Mighty and Strong” – *Under the Banner of Heaven*, Written by Brandon Boyce (Hulu/FX)

“Episode 1” – *Magpie Murders*, Written by Anthony Horowitz (Masterpiece/PBS)

“Episode 1” – *Karen Pirie*, Written by Emer Kenny (BritBox)

“When Harry Met Fergus” – *Harry Wild*, Written by David Logan (Acorn TV)

“The Reagan Way” – *Blue Bloods*, Written by Siobhan Byrne O'Connor (CBS)

“Eighteen Wheels A Predator” – *Law & Order: SVU*, Written by Brianna Yellen, Kathy Dobie, and Monet Hurt-Mendoza (NBC Universal)

ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD

“Dogs in the Canyon” – *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* by Mark Harrison (Dell Magazines)

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2023 EDGAR® AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



THE SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD

Because I Could Not Stop for Death by Amanda Flower (Penguin Random House – Berkley)

The Woman in the Library by Sulari Gentill (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

The Disinvited Guest by Carol Goodman (HarperCollins – William Morrow)

A Dreadful Splendor by B.R. Myers (HarperCollins – William Morrow)

Never Name the Dead by D.M. Rowell (Crooked Lane Books)



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

Secret Lives by Mark de Castrique (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

An Unforgiving Place by Claire Kells (Crooked Lane Books)

Hideout by Louisa Luna (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group – Doubleday)

Behind the Lie by Emilyya Naymark (Crooked Lane Books)

Secrets Typed in Blood by Stephen Spotswood (Knopf Doubleday Publishing – Doubleday)

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2023 EDGAR® AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



THE LILIAN JACKSON BRAUN MEMORIAL AWARD

The Shadow of Memory by Connie Berry (Crooked Lane Books)

Buried in a Good Book by Tamara Berry (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

Smile Beach Murder by Alicia Besette (Penguin Random House – Berkley)

Desert Getaway by Michael Craft (Brash Books)

The Marlow Murder Club by Robert Thorogood (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

The Edgar Awards, or “Edgars,” as they are commonly known, are named after MWA’s patron saint Edgar Allan Poe and are presented to authors of distinguished work in various categories. MWA is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime-writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre. The organization encompasses some 3,000 members including authors of fiction and non-fiction books, screen and television writers, as well as publishers, editors, and literary agents.

Mystery Writers of America would like to emphasize our commitment to diversity and fairness in the judging of the Edgar Awards. Judges are selected from every region of the country, from every sub-category of our genre, and from every demographic to ensure fairness and impartiality.

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THE 77TH ANNUAL EDGAR® AWARDS
 APRIL 27, 2023
 AT THE NEW YORK
 MARRIOTT MARQUIS TIMES SQUARE

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MWA ANNOUNCES 2023 SPECIAL EDGAR AWARDS

credit: Mark DeLong Photography



2023
GRAND
MASTERS

MICHAEL
CONNELLY

JOANNE
FLUKE



The MWA board has chosen [MICHAEL CONNELLY](#) and [JOANNE FLUKE](#) as the 2023 Grand Masters, the 2023 Raven Award recipients are [CRIME WRITERS OF COLOR](#) and [EDDIE MULLER](#). [THE STRAND MAGAZINE](#) will receive the Ellery Queen Award. They will accept their awards at the 77th Annual Edgar Awards Ceremony, which will be held on April 27, 2023 at the Marriott Marquis Times Square in New York City.

“Mystery Writers of America is thrilled to announce the recipients of our special awards for 2023. It’s always such a joy to recognize deserving individuals for their outstanding contributions to our genre. Michael Connelly and Joanne Fluke have contributed so much to the genre through their hard work and amazing careers, and they will continue to influence and inspire future generations of writers long after they receive their awards,” said MWA Executive Vice President Greg Herren.

The [GRAND MASTER AWARD](#) represents the pinnacle of achievement in mystery writing and was established to acknowledge important contributions to the genre, as well as for a body of work that is both significant and of consistent high quality.

MICHAEL CONNELLY, GRAND MASTER

Connelly’s nomination cited Bosch’s mantra from the first in the series, *The Black Echo*, to the present day also sums up Connelly’s approach to his craft: “*Everybody counts or nobody counts*,” adding “What those five words have meant to the readers of mystery fiction in the past 37 years can’t be overstated.”

On being notified of the honor, Connelly said, “All I can say is I’m overwhelmed. When you look at the list of previous Grand Masters, you see every writer that ever inspired you. So overwhelming. I first got published 30 years ago and I remember everything about it. To think that that guy of 30 years ago would end up with this honor is really quite amazing. I am truly honored.”

Connelly is the author of 31 novels, including multiple *#1 New York Times* bestsellers. His books, which include the Harry Bosch series and Lincoln Lawyer series, have sold more than 74 million copies worldwide. Connelly is a former newspaper reporter who has won numerous awards for his journalism and his novels and is the executive producer of both *Bosch* TV series and *The Lincoln Lawyer*. He spends his time in California and Florida.

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2023 SPECIAL EDGAR AWARDS, *continued from previous page*

credit: Turner Classic Movies



2023 RAVEN AWARDS
CRIME WRITERS OF COLOR
EDDIE MULLER

ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

THE STRAND MAGAZINE



JOANNE FLUKE, GRAND MASTER

Fluke launched her series 21 years ago with *Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder* (2001). Since then, she has written 30 Hannah Swenson Mysteries, the most recent being 2022's *Caramel Pecan Roll Murder*. The series also has the distinction of being turned into five hugely successful Murder, She Baked films for the Hallmark Channel. Fluke has also written suspense, thriller, and romance novels under her own name and pseudonyms. Like Hannah Swensen, she was born and raised in a small town in rural Minnesota, but now lives in sunny Southern California.

On learning of the honor, Fluke said, "I am very grateful to be mentioned in the same breath as such legends as Agatha Christie, Ellery Queen and John le Carré . . . Speaking of breathing, I'm very glad I still am!"

The **RAVEN AWARD** recognizes outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing. For 2023, Mystery Writers of America selected **Crime Writers of Color** (CWoC), "an association of authors seeking to present a strong and united voice for members who self-identify as crime/mystery writers from traditionally underrepresented racial, cultural and ethnic backgrounds," and **Eddie Muller**, host of the Turner Classic Movies series *Noir Alley* and founder and president of the [Film Noir Foundation](#).

CRIME WRITERS OF COLOR, RAVEN AWARD

Speaking for CWoC, cofounders **Gigi Pandian**, **Kellye Garrett**, and **Walter Mosley** wrote, "When we first started talking about the idea that became [Crime Writers of Color](#), we never imagined the small informal group would become such a big and thriving community in just a few years. Our goal was always to create a safe and supportive space for fellow writers of color to network and thrive. So, to know that the group is making a positive impact in the mystery community as a whole is so gratifying, and to be recognized by MWA in our fifth year is such an honor! We thank you on behalf of all our 350-plus members who are in all stages of their career."

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2023 SPECIAL EDGAR AWARDS, *continued from previous page*

EDDIE MULLER, RAVEN AWARD

Muller is best known as the host of the Turner Classic Movies series *Noir Alley*, a weekly showcase for the best of crime cinema and for his lively, erudite intros and outros to these movies, in which he always foregrounds writers — novelists and screenwriters both — in the conversation. At the Film Noir Foundation (FNF), which makes restoring and preserving films from around the globe a priority, Muller has personally saved many motion pictures from disappearing, among them acclaimed titles like *The Prowler*, written by blacklisted screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, and *Too Late for Tears*.

In response to learning he would receive the Raven Award, Muller wrote, “I was completely surprised! The crime and mystery fiction community — writers, editors, booksellers, and readers — is a wonderfully warm, supportive, and generous tribe and I’m happy to have been a small part of it for the past 20 years. Having my eclectic endeavors rate a Raven — what a delightful surprise, and what an honor! I’m extremely grateful to MWA.”

The **ELLERY QUEEN AWARD** was established in 1983 to honor “outstanding writing teams and outstanding people in the mystery-publishing industry.” This year the Board chose to honor *The Strand Magazine*, a bimonthly periodical known as much for its incisive articles about the mystery world and its practitioners and penetrating interviews with top authors like James Patterson and Lee Child, as for unearthing lost short stories penned by now-dead literary greats, such as a 600-word short story by Raymond Chandler, written in the 1950s toward the end of his life, as well as the forgotten fiction of such giants as Dashiell Hammett, William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams and H.G. Wells.

THE STRAND MAGAZINE, ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

On learning they would receive the Ellery Queen Award, managing editor **Andrew Gulli** said, “When *The Strand* started 25 years ago, we had no idea how big it would get. So, it’s great to see *The Strand* being honored with the Ellery Queen Award from Mystery Writers of America. MWA has always felt more like a community — one in which I’ve formed strong friendships and where *The Strand* has found some of its best authors. As a print publication with a strong online presence, *The Strand* has had to continuously adapt to an ever-changing industry and being honored with the Ellery Queen Award from MWA serves as definite proof that print is not only alive but kicking! Here’s to another 25 years!”

“Eddie Muller’s dedication to preserving the marvelous legacy of noir and crime films by bringing classics to new generations of viewers through his work with TCM and his foundation is more than worthy of recognition,” Herren said. “*The Strand Magazine*’s legacy of quality has never faltered and remains a must-read for crime fans. The impact of Crime Writers of Color, not only in crime fiction but across the board in publishing, may not be quantifiable, but can be seen at every conference, awards ceremony, and bestseller list. It’s an incredible list of honorees. We are in a golden age of crime fiction, and it’s very exciting to see.”

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE NOMINEES
AND
A VERY BIG *THANK YOU* TO ALL OF THE
HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEER JUDGES!



2023 EDGAR AWARDS BEST NOVEL NOMINEES

