



The 3rd Degree

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

2026 EDGAR NOMINATIONS

2026 EDGAR® AWARD NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

MWA is proud to announce, as we celebrate the 217th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, the nominees for the 2026 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, nonfiction and television published or produced in 2025. The 80th Annual Edgar® Awards will be celebrated on April 29, 2026 at the Marriott Marquis Times Square.



BEST NOVEL

The Big Empty by Robert Crais (Penguin Random House – G.P. Putnam's Sons)

Fagin the Thief by Allison Epstein (Penguin Random House – Doubleday)

The Dream Hotel by Laila Lalami (Penguin Random House – Pantheon Books)

Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy (Macmillan Publishers – Flatiron Books)

Hard Town by Adam Plantinga (Hachette Book Group – Grand Central Publishing)

The Inheritance by Trisha Sakhlecha (Penguin Random House – Pamela Dorman Books)

Presumed Guilty by Scott Turow (Hachette Book Group – Grand Central Publishing)

JOIN US
APRIL 29, 2026
FOR THE
EDGAR AWARDS
BANQUET

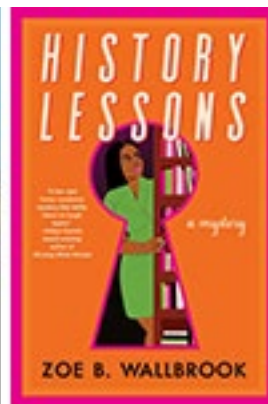
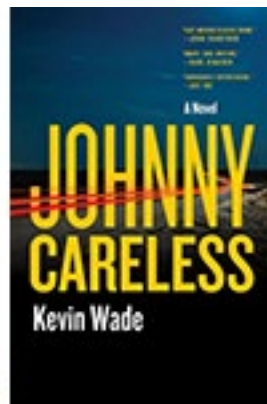
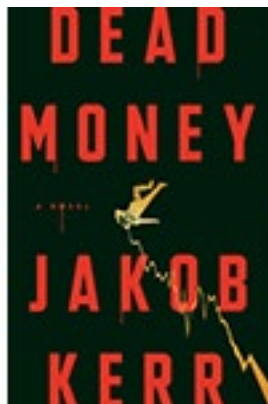


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EDGAR AWARD® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

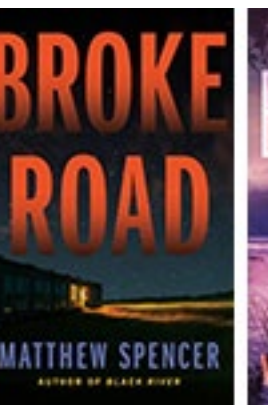
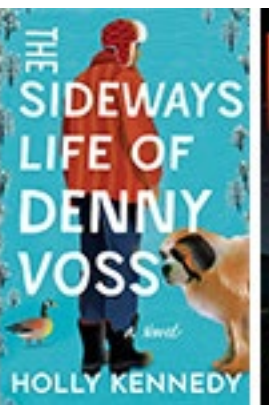
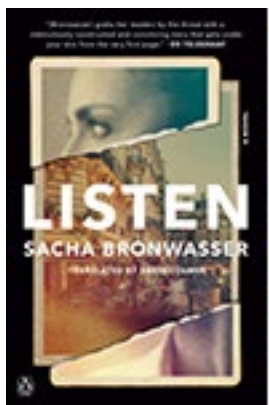
Killer Potential by Hannah Deitch (HarperCollins – William Morrow)

All the Other Mothers Hate Me by Sarah Harman (Penguin Random House – G.P. Putnam's Sons)

Dead Money by Jakob Kerr (Penguin Random House – Bantam Books)

Johnny Careless by Kevin Wade (Macmillan Publishers – Celadon Books)

History Lessons by Zoe B. Wallbrook (Soho Press – Soho Crime)



BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

Listen by Sacha Bronwasser (Penguin Random House – Penguin Books)

The Sideways Life of Denny Voss by Holly Kennedy (Amazon Publishing – Lake Union)

Broke Road by Matthew Spencer (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

The Backwater by Vikki Wakefield (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

One Death at a Time by Abbi Waxman (Penguin Random House - Berkley)

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NATIONAL OFFICERS PRESIDENT, LISA SCOTTLIN; EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, JAMES L'ETOILE; SECRETARY, TERESA CAIN; TREASURER, LAWRENCE LIGHT; PARLIAMENTARIAN, TED HERTEL
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EDGAR AWARD® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



BEST FACT CRIME

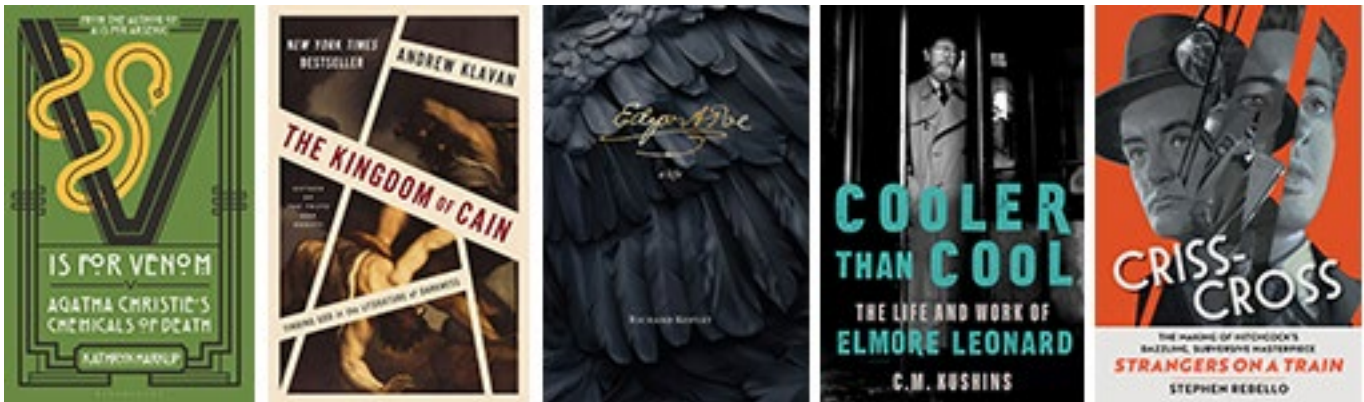
They Poisoned the World: Life and Death in the Age of Forever Chemicals by Mariah Blake (Penguin Random House - Crown)

Blood and the Badge: The Mafia, Two Killer Cops, and a Scandal That Shocked the Nation by Michael Cannell (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

Murderland: Crime and Bloodlust in the Time of Serial Killers by Caroline Fraser (Penguin Random House – Penguin Press)

Out of the Woods: A Girl, a Killer, and a Lifelong Struggle to Find the Way Home by Gregg Olsen (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

Story of a Murder: The Wives, the Mistress, and Dr. Crippen by Hallie Rubenhold (Penguin Random House - Dutton)



BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL

V is for Venom: Agatha Christie's Chemicals of Death by Kathryn Harkup (Bloomsbury - Sigma)

The Kingdom of Cain: Finding God in the Literature of Darkness by Andrew Klavan (HarperCollins Christian {Publishing - Zondervan)

Edgar Allan Poe: A Life by Richard Kopley (University of Virginia Press)

Cooler Than Cool: The Life and Work of Elmore Leonard by C.M. Kushins (HarperCollins Publishers – Mariner Books)

Criss-Cross: The Making of Hitchcock's Dazzling, Subversive Masterpiece Strangers on a Train by Stephen Rebello (Hachette Book Group – Running Press)

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EDGAR AWARD® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



BEST SHORT STORY

“Reading at Night,” *The Strand Magazine* by Graham Greene (*The Strand Magazine*)

“The One That Got Away,” *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* – **January-February 2025** by Charlaine Harris (*Must Read Books Publishing*)

“Orphan X: A Mysterious Profile,” by Gregg Hurwitz (*Penzler Publishers* – *Mysterious Press*)

“Lucky Heart,” *Blood on the Bayou* – **Case Closed** by Tim Maleeny (*Down & Out Books*)

“The Kill Clause,” *Amazon Original Stories* by Lisa Unger (*Amazon Publishing*)

“Julius Katz Draws a Straight Flush,” *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* – **September-October 2025** by Dave Zeltserman (*Must Read Books Publishing*)



BEST JUVENILE

Montgomery Bonbon: Murder at the Museum by Alasdair Beckett-King (*Candlewick Press*)

What Happened Then by Erin Soderberg Downing (*Scholastic Press*)

A Study in Secrets by Debbi Michiko Florence (*Simon & Schuster* – *Aladdin*)

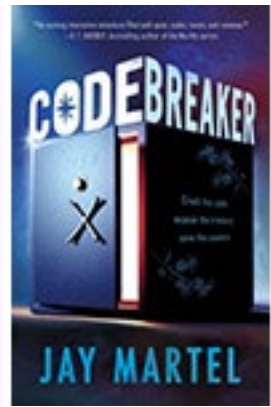
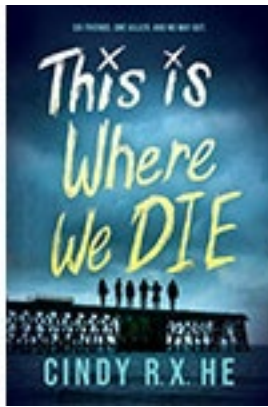
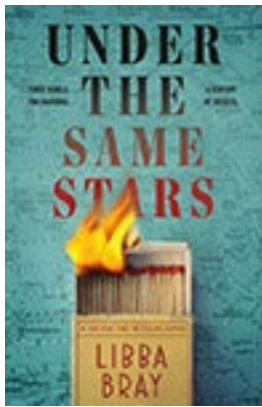
Blood in the Water by Tiffany D. Jackson (*Scholastic Press*)

The Midwatch Institute for Wayward Girls by Judith Rossell (*Penguin Young Readers* – *Dial*)

Mystery James Digs Her Own Grave by Ally Russell (*Random House Children's Books* – *Delacorte Press*)

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EDGAR AWARD® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



BEST YOUNG ADULT

Under the Same Stars by Libba Bray (Macmillan Publishers – Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR)

Catch Your Death by Ravena Guron (Sourcebooks – Sourcebooks Fire)

This is Where We Die by Cindy R.X. He (Sourcebooks – Sourcebooks Fire)

The Scammer by Tiffany D. Jackson (HarperCollins Children's Books – Quill Tree Books)

Codebreaker by Jay Martel (St. Martin's Publishing Group – Wednesday Books)



BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY

"End of the Line" – **Ballard**, Written by Michael Alaimo & Kendall Sherwood (Amazon/Fabel)

"Pilot" – **Paradise**, Written by Dan Fogelman (Hulu)

"Episode 101" – **The Lowdown**, Written by Sterlin Harjo (FX on Hulu)

"These Girls" – **Long Bright River**, Written by Nikki Toscano & Liz Moore (Peacock)

"Ye'iitsoh (Big Monster)" – **Dark Winds**, Written by John Wirth & Steven Paul Judd (AMC)

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EDGAR AWARD® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*

OUR OTHER AWARDS



ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD – Endowed by the family of Robert L. Fish.

“A Textbook Example,” **Sacramento Noir** by Luis Avalos (Akashic Books)

“How It Happened,” **Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, July-August 2025** by Billie Kay Fern (Must Read Books Publishing)

“Baggage,” **Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, January-February 2025** by Rick Marcou (Must Read Books Publishing)

“Bloodsurf,” **Hollywood Kills** by Tiffany D. Plunkett (Level Best Books – Level Short)

“Grand Theft Auto in the Heart of Screenland,” **Hollywood Kills** by Robert Rotstein (Level Best Books – Level Short)



THE SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD – Presented on behalf of Simon & Schuster.

Five Found Dead by Sulari Gentill (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes by Sandra Jackson-Opoku (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

No Comfort for the Dead by R.P. O'Donnell (Crooked Lane Books)

All This Could Be Yours by Hank Phillippi Ryan (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

Last Dance Before Dawn by Katharine Schellman (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

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EDGAR AWARD® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



THE G.P. PUTNAM'S SONS SUE GRAFTON MEMORIAL AWARD – Presented on behalf of G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Cold as Hell by Kelley Armstrong (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

Rage: A Novel by Linda Castillo (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

Fallen Star by Lee Goldberg (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)

The Red Letter by Daniel G. Miller (Sourcebooks – Poisoned Pen Press)

Gone in the Night by Joanna Schaffhausen (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)



THE LILIAN JACKSON BRAUN MEMORIAL AWARD – Endowed by the estate of Lilian Jackson Braun.

Mrs. Christie at the Mystery Guild Library by Amanda Chapman (Penguin Random House - Berkley)

A Senior Citizen's Guide to Life on the Run by Gwen Florio (Severn House)

The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective by Jo Nichols (Macmillan Publishers – Minotaur Books)

Murder Two Doors Down by Chuck Storla (Crooked Lane Books)

Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping (On a Dead Man) by Jesse Q. Sutanto (Penguin Random House - Berkley)

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EDGAR AWARD® NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*

SPECIAL AWARDS

GRAND MASTER

Donna Andrews

Lee Child

RAVEN AWARD

Book Passage, Corte Madera CA

ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

John Scognamiglio, Kensington Books



GRAND MASTER
DONNA ANDREWS



GRAND MASTER
LEE CHILD

Child photo © Sigrid Evers



BOOK PASSAGE
RAVEN AWARD



JOHN SCOGNAMIGLIO
ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED
ON JANUARY 13, 2026

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 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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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.

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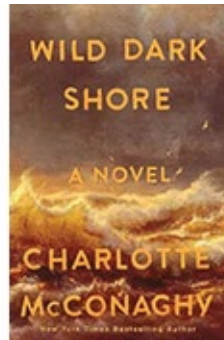
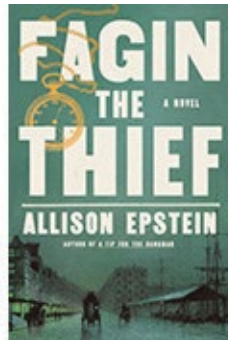
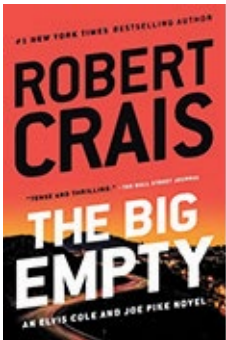


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EDGAR NOMINATIONS 2026

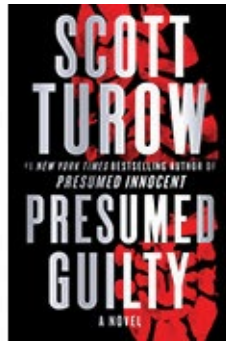
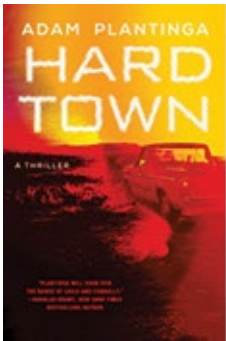


PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 80TH ANNUAL EDGAR AWARDS CEREMONY,
APRIL 29, 2026, AT THE MARRIOTT MARQUIS TIMES SQUARE IN NEW YORK CITY.
MORE INFORMATION TO COME ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM, BANQUET, DISCOUNTED HOTEL ROOMS...

BEST NOVEL NOMINEES *(details on page 1)*



CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF THE
2026 EDGAR AWARD
NOMINEES



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NOMINATED AUTHORS AND
THEIR WORKS ON MWA'S SOCIAL MEDIA:

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- [X/TWITTER](#)
- [FACEBOOK](#)
- [BLUESKY](#)

MWA WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEER JUDGES WHO WORKED SO HARD
TO READ ALL OF THE SUBMISSIONS, AND TO CHOOSE THE FINAL EDGAR® AWARD NOMINATIONS.

