



For Immediate Release

Contact: Margery Flax at [mwa@mysterywriters.org](mailto:mwa@mysterywriters.org)  
Kathy Daneman at [Kathy@kathydaneman.com](mailto:Kathy@kathydaneman.com)

### **Mystery Writers of America Announces 2021 Edgar Allan Poe Award Nominations**

January 25, 2021, New York, NY - **Mystery Writers of America** is proud to announce, as we celebrate the 212<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, the nominees for the 2021 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television published or produced in 2020. The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Edgar® Awards will be celebrated on April 29, 2021.

#### **BEST NOVEL**

**Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line** by Deepa Anappara (Penguin Random House – Random House)  
**Before She Was Helen** by Caroline B. Cooney (Poisoned Pen Press)  
**Thursday Murder Club** by Richard Osman (Penguin Random House - Pamela Dorman Books)  
**These Women** by Ivy Pochoda (HarperCollins Publishers - Ecco)  
**The Missing American** by Kwei Quartey (Soho Press – Soho Crime)  
**The Distant Dead** by Heather Young (HarperCollins Publishers - William Morrow)

#### **BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR**

**Murder in Old Bombay** by Nev March (Minotaur Books)  
**Please See Us** by Caitlin Mullen (Simon & Schuster – Gallery Books)  
**Catherine House** by Elisabeth Thomas (HarperCollins Publishers – William Morrow)  
**Winter Counts** by David Heska Wanbli Weiden (HarperCollins Publishers - Ecco)  
**Darling Rose Gold** by Stephanie Wrobel (Penguin Random House - Berkley)

#### **BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL**

**When No One is Watching** by Alyssa Cole (HarperCollins Publishers - William Morrow)  
**The Deep, Deep Snow** by Brian Freeman (Blackstone Publishing)  
**Unspeakable Things** by Jess Lourey (Amazon Publishing – Thomas & Mercer)  
**The Keeper** by Jessica Moor (Penguin Random House - Penguin Books)  
**East of Hounslow** by Khurram Rahman (HarperCollins Publishers - Harper 360)

## **BEST FACT CRIME**

**Blood Runs Coal: The Yablonski Murders and the Battle for the United Mine Workers of America** by Mark A. Bradley (W.W. Norton & Company)

**The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia** by Emma Copley Eisenberg (Hachette Book Group – Hachette Books)

**Death in Mud Lick: A Coal Country Fight Against the Drug Companies that Delivered the Opioid Epidemic** by Eric Eyre (Simon & Schuster - Scribner)

**Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country** by Sierra Crane Murdoch (Penguin Random House – Random House)

**Veritas: A Harvard Professor, a Con Man, and the Gospel of Jesus's Wife** by Ariel Sabar (Penguin Random House - Doubleday)

## **BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL**

**Howdunit: A Masterclass in Crime Writing by Members of the Detection Club** edited by Martin Edwards (HarperCollins Publishers – Harper360/Collins Crime Club)

**Phantom Lady: Hollywood Producer Joan Harrison, the Forgotten Woman Behind Hitchcock** by Christina Lane (Chicago Review Press)

**Ian Rankin: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction** by Erin E. MacDonald (McFarland)

**Guilt Rules All: Irish Mystery, Detective, and Crime Fiction** by Elizabeth Mannion & Brian Cliff (Syracuse University Press)

**This Time Next Year We'll be Laughing** by Jacqueline Winspear (Soho Press)

## **BEST SHORT STORY**

**"The Summer Uncle Cat Came to Stay," Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine** by Leslie Elman (Dell Magazines)

**"Dust, Ash, Flight," Addis Ababa Noir** by Maaza Mengiste (Akashic Books)

**"Etta at the End of the World," Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine** by Joseph S. Walker (Dell Magazines)

**"The Twenty-Five Year Engagement," In League with Sherlock Holmes** by James W. Ziskin (Pegasus Books – Pegasus Crime)

## BEST JUVENILE

**Premeditated Myrtle** by Elizabeth C. Bunce (Workman Publishing - Algonquin Young Readers)  
**Me and Banksy** by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (Penguin Random House Canada - Puffin Canada)  
**From the Desk of Zoe Washington** by Janae Marks (HarperCollins Children's Books - Katherine Tegen Books)  
**Ikenga** by Nnedi Okorafor (Penguin Young Readers – Viking BFYR)  
**Nessie Quest** by Melissa Savage (Random House Children's Books - Crown BFYR)  
**Coop Knows the Scoop** by Taryn Souders (Sourcebooks Young Readers)

## BEST YOUNG ADULT

**The Companion** by Katie Alender (Penguin Young Readers – G.P. Putnam's Sons BFYR)  
**The Inheritance Games** by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown BFYR)  
**They Went Left** by Monica Hesse (Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown BFYR)  
**Silence of Bones** by June Hur (Macmillan Children's Books – Feiwel & Friends)  
**The Cousins** by Karen M. McManus (Penguin Random House – Delacorte Press)

## BEST TELEVISION EPISODE TELEPLAY

**“Episode 1, The Stranger”** – Harlan Coben's **The Stranger**, Written by Danny Brocklehurst (Netflix)  
**“Episode 1, Open Water”** – **The Sounds**, Written by Sarah-Kate Lynch (Acorn TV)  
**“Episode 1, Photochemistry”** – **Dead Still**, Written by John Morton (Acorn TV)  
**“Episode 1” - Des**, Written by Luke Neal (Sundance Now)  
**“What I Know”** – **The Boys**, Written by Rebecca Sonnenshine, based on the comic by Garth Ennis and Darick Robertson (Amazon)

## ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD

**"The Bite," Tampa Bay Noir** by Colette Bancroft (Akashic Books)

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## THE SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD

**Death of an American Beauty** by Mariah Fredericks (Minotaur Books)  
**The Cabinets of Barnaby Mayne** by Elsa Hart (Minotaur Books)  
**The Lucky One** by Lori Rader-Day (HarperCollins Publishers – William Morrow)  
**The First to Lie** by Hank Phillippi Ryan (Forge Books)  
**Cold Wind** by Paige Shelton (Minotaur Books)

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

**The Burn** by Kathleen Kent (Hachette Book Group – Mulholland Books)  
**Riviera Gold** by Laurie R. King (Penguin Random House – Ballantine Books)  
**Vera Kelly is Not a Mystery** by Rosalie Knecht (Tin House Books)  
**Dead Land** by Sara Paretsky (HarperCollins Publishers – William Morrow)  
**The Sleeping Nymph** by Ilaria Tuti (Soho Press – Soho Crime)  
**Turn to Stone** by James W. Ziskin (Start Publishing – Seventh Street Books)

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## SPECIAL AWARDS

### GRAND MASTER

Jeffery Deaver  
Charlaine Harris

### RAVEN AWARD

Malice Domestic

### ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

Reagan Arthur, Publisher – Alfred A. Knopf

We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Ellery Queen award is Reagan Arthur. She is currently the publisher at Alfred A. Knopf, after a lengthy career in editorial and editorial development. Amongst the authors she has worked with over the years include names like Michael Connelly and Kate Atkinson, and also the enormously successful *Catch and Kill* by Ronan Farrow. When informed of her selection as recipient of the Ellery Queen Award, Ms. Arthur commented, "Crime fiction has always been an important part of my life as a reader and as an editor. So it's a great honor to join the illustrious list of recipients of the Ellery Queen Award, and to be selected by the MWA, an organization that has done so much on behalf of writers, booksellers, and readers."

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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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