

The Independent Author Network 2021 Book of the Year Awards

Congratulations to all winners and finalists! Finalists are listed in random order.

GRAND PRIZE: 2021 BOOK OF THE YEAR

Joy: The story of a dolphin trainer, filmmaker, and cancer survivor
by Joy Clausen Soto

2021 FICTION BOOKS OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

General Jack and the Battle of the Five Kingdoms by David Bush

SECOND PLACE

Steel Trap by Geoffrey Saign

THIRD PLACE

Beneath the Flames by Gregory Lee Renz

2021 NON-FICTION BOOKS OF THE YEAR

FIRST PLACE

Brain Dance: My Journey with Invisible Illness, Second Chances, and the Wonders of Applied Neuroscience by Diane Wilson

SECOND PLACE

Ninety-Nine Fire Hoops: A Memoir by Allison Hong Merrill

THIRD PLACE

Finding the Missing Peace: A Healing Journey to Wholeness by Chris Duffy-Wentzel

FICTION: ACTION/ADVENTURE

Outstanding Action/Adventure

Taro: Legendary Boy Hero of Japan by Blue Spruell

Finalists

The Devil Take Tomorrow: A Thrilling Revolutionary War Adventure by Gretchen Jeannette

Steel Trap by Geoffrey Saign

Masters of the Broken Watches by Razi Imam

Hot Ice, Cold Blood by Holly Spofford

Swarm: Artificial Intelligence Decodes End Time Prophecies by Guy Morris

The Tree of Knowledge by Daniel G. Miller

FICTION: CHRISTIAN/RELIGIOUS

Outstanding Christian/Religious Fiction

I Never Knew You by Patrick Higgins

Finalists

Close to the Soul by Mary Jo Thayer

Save Him by William M Hayes

Gus Busbi by Jim Sano

Living Water by Allison Wells

General Jack and the Battle of the Five Kingdoms by David Bush

The 4th Watch: The Assignment by RS Newman

Where Daffodils Bloom: Based on the True Story of a WWII War Bride by Leya Delray

FICTION: FANTASY

Outstanding Fantasy

Anchored by Bridget E. Baker

Finalists

Sanctum: Sands of Setesh by C.S. Kading and Tony Fuentes

A Light in the Sky by Shina Reynolds

Druid Quest: Maegics Heir by GL Cramb

Hall of Skulls by Jamie Eubanks

Clarissa Hedgestone and the Blood Moon by C. Jill Hefte

General Jack and the Battle of the Five Kingdoms by David Bush

Taro: Legendary Boy Hero of Japan by Blue Spruell

FICTION: SHORT STORY COLLECTION

Outstanding Short Story Collection

On Traigh Lar Beach by Dianne Ebertt Beeaff

Finalists

In the Shadow of Green Bamboos by C. L. Hoang

Driftwood by Anthony Lee Head

Lost Girls by Ellen Birkett Morris

The Trail Back Out by Jadi Campbell

Ekleipsis by Tamel Wino

Lost Creatures by S.G. Browne

FIRST NOVEL (50,000 to 80,000 Words)

Outstanding First Novel (50,000 to 80,000 Words)

The Sound of Violet by Allen Wolf

Finalists

Death's Legacy by Dennis Crosby

The Book of Hannah: A Tragicomedy in Three Trimesters by Ellen Gelerman

Emilie: The Journey Begins by Ingrid Ramsdale

Who Rescued Who? Ocean Pals Book #1 by Jamie Mitchell Hadzick

The Collection by Trisha Hasbrouck

There Seemed A River by Brian David Cinadr

Mandala Mandela by R.J. Myles

FIRST NOVEL (Over 80,000 Words)

***Outstanding First Novel (Over 80,000 Words)**

Beneath the Flames by Gregory Lee Renz

Finalists

Southside Gothic: A Jordan Bell Novel by J. E. Staab

Once upon a Mulberry Field by C. L. Hoang

Evening in the Yellow

Wood by Laura Kemp

Up for Air by Christina Berry

Eden by C J Singh

The Last Lumenian by S.G. Blaise

FICTION: HISTORICAL

Outstanding Historical

Chateau Laux: A Story of Colonial America by David Loux

Finalists

Where Butterflies Go by Debra Doxer

A Bend in The River: 2 Sisters Struggle to Survive the Vietnam War by Libby Fischer Hellmann

The Lost Symphony: A historical mystery action adventure by Gabriel Farago

Taro: Legendary Boy Hero of Japan by Blue Spruell

Brothers of War: The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg by Michael Eisenhut

The Devil Take Tomorrow: A Thrilling Revolutionary War Adventure by Gretchen Jeannette

FICTION: HORROR

Outstanding Horror

Soul Seeker by Kaylin McFarren

Finalists

The Mummy of Monte Cristo by J. Trevor Robinson

King of the Nine Hells by Dean Klein

Shattered Lives: A DCI Gerald Croft Thriller by Sarah Stuart

Deification by Brooklynn Dean

Goddess of Everything: A Blood-Curdling Tale of Truth, Freedom, and Love by Paul DeBlassie III

Within the Fog by Chuck Welch

FICTION AND NON-FICTION: HUMOR/COMEDY/SATIRE

Outstanding Humor/Comedy/Satire

Life in the Chastity Zone by Holly Brandon

Finalists

Get Idiota by Nate Granzow

Some Assembly Required: An Organ Transplant Love Story by TJ Condon

Welcome To the Swamp: An Illustrated Journey Into The Deplorable World of Donald J. Trump by Tim Doyle and Swampy Don

The Love Hex or Nicest Flings in Mexico by Mike Meier

Dispatches from the Swinging Door Saloon by Randall McNair

FICTION: LITERARY/GENERAL FICTION

Outstanding Literary General Fiction

Dad by Bob Seay

Finalists

Beneath the Flames by Gregory Lee Renz

There Seemed A River by Brian David Cinadr

To The Stars: A Novel by Shannon Bradley-Colleary

The Clovis Dig by Teri Fink

The Solitude of Guilt by Sebastian Mathew

The Wilderness Between Us by Penny Haw

FICTION: MYSTERY

Outstanding Mystery

The Lost Symphony: A historical mystery action adventure by Gabriel Farago

Finalists

Death by Arrangement by Kathleen Torian Taylor

Game of Bones by Geraldine Evans

Unfinished Business by Tony Tedeschi

Death By Chaos by Renaii West

Sun Valley Serenade by M. Bryce Ternet

A Just Reckoning: A Tess Alexander Mystery by Joan Merriam

FICTION: PARANORMAL/SUPERNATURAL

Outstanding Paranormal/Supernatural

Death's Legacy by Dennis Crosby

Finalists

To Reap the Spirit by Sarah Lampkin

Evening in the Yellow Wood by Laura Kemp

Stealing Embers by Julie Hall

Everlong by R. Raeta

Gods In the Ruins: A Vatican Archives Thriller by E.R. Barr

Outfoxed by R.J. Blain

FICTION: ROMANCE

Outstanding Romance

Alaska Spark: A Friends to Lovers Workplace Romance by LoLo Paige

Finalists

Turn Back Time by Annette G. Anders

Everlong by R. Raeta

The Past Love: A MacLeod Time-Travel Rom Com by J.G. MacLeod

Life in the Chastity Zone by Holly Brandon

Up for Air by Christina Berry

False Front by Debbie Baldwin

FICTION: SCIENCE FICTION

Outstanding Science Fiction

Masters Of the Broken Watches by Razi Imam

Finalists

Save Him by William M Hayes

The Exodus by David Fairchild

The Patriot's Grill by Steven Day

The Last Lumenian by S.G. Blaise

Hall of Skulls by Jamie Eubanks

The Destroyer of Worlds by Steven Seril

Eden by C J Singh

FICTION: NOVELLA

Outstanding Novella

The Sasquatch of Jackson Farm by Christine Kezelos

Finalists

The Summer of 1957: Secrets Left in the Basement by Judith E. Powell

Shift by Kimber Ireland

Blood and Silver by Vali Benson

The Serpent and the Swan: A Grimm-Dark Fairy Tale by Ashland Pym

Hobson's Mischief by Caitlin Decatur

Work in Progress by Susan Jean Ricci

FICTION: THRILLER/SUSPENSE

Outstanding Thriller/Suspense

Steel Trap by Geoffrey Saign

Finalists

The Lost Symphony: A historical mystery action adventure by Gabriel Farago

Gods In the Ruins: A Vatican Archives Thriller by E.R. Barr

Swarm: Artificial Intelligence Decodes End Time Prophecies by Guy Morris

Persist: The Evangeline Series by Astrid Aurelius

The Spy Devils by Joe Goldberg

The Lambda Factor by Dimple Patel Desai

FICTION: WOMEN'S FICTION

Outstanding Women's Fiction

The Exit Strategy by Lainey Cameron

Finalists

In Due Time by Annette G. Anders

All 4 Love by Sharain Hemingway

Life in the Chastity Zone by Holly Brandon

First Course by Jenn Bouchard

Lady Be Good: The Life and Times of Dorothy Hale by Pamela Hamilton

After Happily Ever After by Leslie A. Rasmussen

FICTION AND NON-FICTION LGBTQ

Outstanding LGBTQ

Don't Mind Me, I'm Just Having a Bad Life by Lewis Kempfer

Finalists

The Pebble Champion by A. D. Pritchard

The Sting of Victory: A Dark Fantasy Lesbian Romance by S D Simper

My Father's Indian: How a Butterfly Split the Oak by Eric Dorsey

The Coldness of Objects by Panayotis Cacoyannis

The Love Factor by Quinn Ivins

Callisto 2.0: A novel of the future by Susan English

FICTION: YOUNG ADULT/TEEN/NEW ADULT

Outstanding Young Adult/Teen/New Adult

General Jack and the Battle of the Five Kingdoms by David Bush

Finalists

Eden by C J Singh

Ski Weekend by Rektok Ross

Druid Quest: Maegics Heir by GL Cramb

The Scarlet Queen by Mitch Reinhardt

If Everyone Knew Every Plant and Tree by Julia Johnston

Scaled by J.T. Ashmore

FICTION: CHILDREN'S/JUVENILE

Outstanding Children's/Juvenile Fiction

But i don't want to say GOODBYE! A Child's Journey Through Grief by Ta'Shay Mason

Finalists

The Adventures of Charlie Marley: Midnight's Moment In Time by Andrew Luria

The Children of Horseshoe Hideout by Rebecca Vorkapich

Big Change, Better You, Beautiful World by Lindsey J Frank

Kara Koala and Her Kaleidoscope of Feelings by Kara Marziali

Skylar Robbins: The Mystery of the Hidden Jewels by Carrie Cross

Let's talk! A story of Autism and Friendship by Lisa Jacovsky

Big Little Voice: Colours the Grey by Maria Vaciago

FICTION: CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED

Outstanding Children's Fiction Illustrated (Tie)

Because You Are Here by Dr. Yasmin Salleh

A Dinosaur Made Me Sneeze: A Rock Cycle Adventure by Carla Mae Jansen

Finalists

Magical Mia: Kindness is Contagious by Julie Cassetta

When The Sky Roars by Katie Weaver

Jake the Growling Dog Goes to Doggy Daycare by Samantha Shannon

I Am a Triathlete by Mrs Nia Obotette

Together by Heather Stricker

Ruby and Alfie Don't Push that Button by Gibb Hil

NON-FICTION: CHILDREN'S/JUVENILE/YOUNG ADULT

Outstanding Children's/Juvenile/Young Adult Non-Fiction

Moment: Inspiring Our Youth to be Active Global Citizens by Robert Abad

Finalists

Monologues for Kids and Tweens II: 100 New Comedy and Drama Monologues for Young Actors by Mike Kimmel

Little Miss HISTORY Travels to The Battleship IOWA by Barbara Ann Mojica

Let's Learn about Chemistry by Stephanie Ryan

Why We Wear a Mask: How a squirrel family is helping to stop the spread of Covid-19 by Lieve Snellings

Simple Activities for Toddlers: A Practical Play-At-Home Handbook for Parents by Lisa Forsythe

The Rules of a Little Boss: A book of self-love by Haelee Moone

NON-FICTION: TRUE STORY/DRAMA

Outstanding True Story/Drama

Brain Dance: My Journey with Invisible Illness, Second Chances, and the Wonders of Applied Neuroscience by Diane Grimard Wilson

Finalists

Choose Your Friends, Choose Your Life by Debbie Mancuso and Preston Young

Words Whispered in Water: Why the Levees Broke in Hurricane Katrina by Sandy Rosenthal

The Lies I Told Myself by Emma Foster

Down the Rabbit Hole: A Memoir of Abuse, Addiction and Recovery by Kate Russell

Sammy: Hero at Age Five by M. Schmidt and Gene D. Donley

Dancing With Life: A Young Woman's Quest for Art, Love, and Freedom by Dhyanis Carniglia

NON-FICTION: BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Outstanding Biography/Autobiography

Hiding in Plain Sight: My Life and Adventures Protecting Celebrities by Thomas LeBrun

Finalists

Brain Dance: My Journey with Invisible Illness, Second Chances, and the Wonders of Applied Neuroscience by Diane Wilson

Surgeon In the Raw: A Memoir by David Jackson

Playing Soldier by F Scott Service

Little Wing: The Jimmy McCulloch Story by Paul Salley

Chatter Box: My Life with Autism A Mother and Sons Perspective by Martin Slyngstad

Viking Voyager: An Icelandic Memoir by Sverrir Sigurdsson and Veronica Li

NON-FICTION: BUSINESS/SALES/FINANCE

Outstanding Business/Sales/Finance

Your Next Big Idea: Improve Your Creativity and Problem-Solving by Samuel Sanders

Finalists

Rebel Leadership: How to Thrive in Uncertain Times by Larry Robertson

Personal Brand Clarity: Identify, Define, & Align to What You Want to be Known For by Suzanne Tulien

The Death of Content as King: How a Data Democracy Has Revolutionized Marketing by Jon Hinderliter

Survive and Thrive: How to Build a Profitable Business in Any Economy by John Meese

The Noble Edge: Reclaiming an Ethical World One Choice at a Time by Christopher Gilbert, PhD

Winning Digital Customers: The Antidote to Irrelevance by Howard Tiersky

NON-FICTION: CAREER/OCCUPATIONAL

Outstanding Career/Occupational

Rebel Leadership: How to Thrive in Uncertain Times by Larry Robertson

Finalists

Your Next Big Idea: Improve Your Creativity and Problem-Solving by Samuel Sanders

Self-Publish & Succeed: The No Boring Books Way to Writing a Non-Fiction Book that Sells by Julie Broad

Hello Career: What You Need to Know to Be Successful in Your First Job by Ed Bray

The Career Toolkit: Essential Skills for Success That No One Taught You by Mark A. Herschberg

Take Charge: The Skills That Drive Professional Success by Norman Bacal

Surviving the Horror of Online Meetings: How to Facilitate Good Virtual Meetings & Manage Meeting

Monsters by Brian Tarallo

NON-FICTION: GRIEF/HARDSHIP

Outstanding Grief/Hardship

Health, Healing, and Wholeness: Devotions of Hope in the Midst of Illness by Tracy Crump

Finalists

Butterfly Awakens: A Memoir of Transformation Through Grief by Meg Nocero

Voices from the Fallen: True Stories of Addiction, Grief, Recovery, and Courage by Michael Tourville

Heartbroken: Grief and Hope Inside the Opioid Crisis by Ellen Krohne

Boldly into the Darkness: Living with Loss, Growing with Grief and Holding on to Happiness by Autumn Toelle-Jackson

Love, a Tiara, and a Cupcake: Three Secrets to Finding Happy by Susan Sparks

Learning to Dance in the Rain II: Surviving Grief, Internet Dating and Romance Scams! by Shelby Wagner

Surfing the Waves of Alzheimer's: Principles of Caregiving That Kept Me Upright by Renee Harmon MD

FIRST NON-FICTION

Outstanding First Non-Fiction

Joy: The story of a dolphin trainer, filmmaker, and cancer survivor by Joy Clausen Soto

Finalists

We Lost Her: Seven young siblings' emotional and spiritual real-life grief journey after their mother's tragic death by Ellen Krohne

Finding the Missing Peace: A Healing Journey to Wholeness by Chris Duffy-Wentzel

A Gay Man's Guide to Life: Get Real, Stand Tall, and Take Your Place by Britt East

Your Next Big Idea: Improve Your Creativity and Problem-Solving by Samuel Sanders

The Hidden Gospel of Thomas: Commentaries on the Non-Dual Sayings of Jesus by William Duffy

Postcards to the Universe: Harness the Universe's Power and Manifest Your Dreams by Melisa Caprio

GENERAL NON-FICTION

Outstanding General Non-Fiction

Exit the Maze: One Addiction, One Cause, One Cure by Dr. Donna Marks

Finalists

Carl Barks: Paintings and Drawings 1966 - 1971 by John Garvin

Voices from the Fallen: True Stories of Addiction, Grief, Recovery, and Courage by Michael Tourville

The Gentleman's Guide to Cooking by Randy Motilall

The Anthropologist's Dilemma: Studying Chimpanzees, Teaching Evolution, and the Intersections of Faith and Science by Devyn Carter

Brothers in Arms: Remembering Brothers Buried Side by Side in American World War II Cemeteries by Kevin M. Callahan

Think Right or Wrong, Not Left or Right: A 21st Century Citizen Guide by Anders Ingemarson

NON-FICTION: HISTORY

Outstanding History

Brothers in Arms: Remembering Brothers Buried Side by Side in American World War II Cemeteries by Kevin M. Callahan

Finalists

The Zodiac Revisited, Volume 1: The Facts of the Case by Michael Cole

The Radical Declaration: An Enlightened American Idea by Byron Williams

Alfred: The Quiet History of a World War II Infantryman by Louise Endres Moore

Merg: The TRUE story of a WWII soldier's selfless act of valor and sacrifice that one town never forgot by Peter Lion

South Korea: The Price of Efficiency and Success by John Gonzalez and Young Lee

Intellectuals and Fascism in Interwar Romania by Cristina A. Bejan

NON-FICTION: EDUCATION/REFERENCE

Outstanding Education/Reference

All Kids Can Thrive: A Holistic Education Resource for a Successful and Conscious Classroom by Sheena Smith

Finalists

Sing Like Never Before: A Creative Look at Vocal Technique & Pedagogy for Singers & Voice Teachers by Justin Stoney

The Eight Crafts of Writing: The Map of Storytelling by Stefan Emunds

Six Critical Essays on Film: A College Guide for Film Appreciation by Mike Kimmel

Peak Brain Plasticity: Remember What You Want to Remember and Forget What You Can't Forget by Said Hasyim

Young, Broke, and Educated: A Discussion of Millennials, Finance, Economics and Poverty by Alexander Baima

Battle Carried: Imperial Japanese Tiger Art Good Luck Flags of World War Two by Michael A. Bortner

NON-FICTION: HEALTH/MEDICINE

Outstanding Health/Medicine

Finding the Missing Peace: A Healing Journey to Wholeness by Chris Duffy-Wentzel

Finalists

How My Brain Works: A Guide to Understanding It Better and Keeping It Healthy by Barbara Kotulska-Haskin

Combating Dementia in Thirty Days: Everything You Must Know to Keep Your Brain Sharp and Plan Your Future Right by Dr. Dee Gaines

Surfing the Waves of Alzheimer's: Principles of Caregiving That Kept Me Upright by Renée Brown Harmon MD

Autism Lite: Leading Our Child Off the Spectrum by Kathryn Tucker

Lean and Strong: Eating Skills, Psychology, and Workouts by Josh Hillis

Healing: Beyond Pills & Potions: Core Principles for Helpers & Healers by Steve Bierman M.D.

NON-FICTION: MEMOIR

Outstanding Memoir (Tie)

Ninety-Nine Fire Hoops: A Memoir by Allison Hong Merrill

Joy: The story of a dolphin trainer, filmmaker, and cancer survivor by Joy Clausen Soto

Finalists

Brain Dance: My Journey with Invisible Illness, Second Chances, and the Wonders of Applied Neuroscience by Diane Wilson

The Absent Mother: Memoir of a Foster Child by Paula Shaffer

I See Old People: A True Story About How Small Acts of Kindness Lead Us to Extraordinary Love and Connections that Defy Our Wildest Dreams by Jeanne Corvese Hussin

When She Comes Back by Ronit Plank

100 Days in Vietnam: A Memoir of Love, War, and Survival by Lt. Col. Joseph F. Tallon and Matthew A. Tallon

The Angle of Flickering Light by Gina Troisi

The Butterfly Promise: A Memoir by Kristin Joy Lavin

NON-FICTION: PARENTING/FAMILY/RELATIONSHIPS

Outstanding Parenting/Family/Relationships

The 10 Greatest Gifts We Give Each Other: A Memoir on the Magic of Marriage Vows by Barbara Lynn-Vannoy

Finalists

Help! My Toddler Is Not Eating: A 30-Day Plan to Get Your Picky Eater To Enjoy New Food by Dr. Elizabeth Roberts

Finding the Missing Peace: A Healing Journey to Wholeness by Chris Duffy-Wentzel

Combative to Collaborative: The Co-parenting Code by Teresa Harlow

Family Redefined: Childhood Reflections on the Impact of Divorce by Kimberly Ewertz

The Addicted Child: A Parent's Guide to Adolescent Substance Abuse by Richard Capriola

Shlok's Dad: A Father's Perspective of Parenthood by Vivek Sharma

Bent Pages by Anne Hope

NON-FICTION: RELIGION/CHRISTIAN

Outstanding Religion/Christian

Generations Deep: Unmasking Inherited Dysfunction and Trauma to Rewrite Our Stories Through Faith and Therapy by Gina Birkemeier

Finalists

Love, a Tiara, and a Cupcake: Three Secrets to Finding Happy by Susan Sparks

Thrive: Allow Jesus to move you from ordinary to extraordinary in every area of your life by Timothy Jemly

Pandemic Devotionals: How the World Overcame Fear with Faith by Alisa Hope Wagner and Holly Smith

Reaching for God's Hand: 40 Reflections to Deepen Your Faith Journey by Lisa Are Wulf

Redefining Normal: How Two Foster Kids Beat the Odds and Discovered Healing, Happiness and Love by Alexis Black and Justin Black

The Hidden Gospel of Thomas: Commentaries on the Non-Dual Sayings of Jesus by William Duffy

NON-FICTION: SELF-HELP/HOW-TO

Outstanding Self-Help/How-To

A Gay Man's Guide to Life: Get Real, Stand Tall, and Take Your Place by Britt East

Finalists

We Re-Do: Our Journey to Rediscovery & Recommitment by Edward Gowens and Stacia Gowens

Smile More Stress Less: A Playful Method to End Anxiety, Be Calm & Achieve Happiness with Awareness by Geoffrey Saign

Apotheosis Now: Rabbit Hole to the Beyond by Yanhao Huang

Thriving After Sexual Abuse: Break Your Bondage to the Past and Live a Life You Love by Denise Bossarte

The Noble Edge: Reclaiming an Ethical World One Choice at a Time by Christopher Gilbert, PhD

Learn to Love: Guide to Healing Your Disappointing Love Life by Thomas Jordan, Ph.D.

Exit the Maze: One Addiction, One Cause, One Cure by Dr. Donna Marks

NON-FICTION: SPIRITUAL/INSPIRATIONAL

Outstanding Spiritual/Inspirational

Love, a Tiara, and a Cupcake: Three Secrets to Finding Happy by Susan Sparks

Finalists

Redefining Normal: How Two Foster Kids Beat the Odds and Discovered Healing, Happiness and Love by Alexis Black and Justin Black

Leave Your Light On: The Musical Mantra Left Behind by an Illuminating Spirit by Shelley Buck and Kathy Curtis

The Little Book of Greatness: A Parable About Unlocking Your Destiny by Ari Gunzburg

Multicultural Mindfulness: Nourishing the Soul by Nora D'Ecclesis

One Hit Away: A Memoir of Recovery by Jordan Barnes

Boldly into the Darkness: Living with Loss, Growing with Grief & Holding on to Happiness by Autumn Toelle-Jackson

NON-FICTION: TRAVEL/NATURE

Outstanding Travel/Nature

Honoring The Legacy: A Guide of African-American Monuments and Statues by Tammy Gibson

Finalists

The Weight of Empathy by Lucas Spiegel

Images of Cuba by Wayne Gerard Trotman

Stories from Ecuador by Tyrel Nelson

My Life with Ndoto: Exploring Africa in a Forty-Year-Old Land Rover by Teresa O'Kane

Hits, Heathens, and Hippos: Stories from an Agent, Activist, and Adventurer by Marty Essen

Crimson Arrows: A Bowhunting Odyssey by Eyad H Yehyaw

NON-FICTION: SOCIAL ISSUES

Outstanding Social Issues

Voices from the Fallen: True Stories of Addiction, Grief, Recovery, and Courage by Michael Tourville

Finalists

Hyphenated-Nation: Don't Check the Box by Nicole Draffen

American OZ: An Astonishing Year Inside Traveling Carnivals at State Fairs & Festivals: Hitchhiking from California to New York, Alaska to Mexico by Michael Sean Comerford

How to Heal Our Divides: A Practical Guide by Brian Allain and Adam Thomas

Moment by Robert Abad

Surrender: A Memoir of Nature, Nurture, and Love by Marylee MacDonald

Think Right or Wrong, Not Left or Right: A 21st Century Citizen Guide by Anders Ingemarson