

Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



July 2017

AGATHA AWARDS

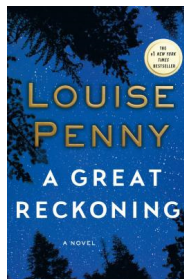


Awarded by Malice Domestic in May, the Agatha Awards honor the "traditional mystery." That is to say, books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie as well as others. Here is a list of this year's winners and finalists available at the Ridgefield Library.

2016 Winner

A Great Reckoning by Louise Penny

An old map leads the former Chief of Homicide for the Sûreté du Québec Armand Gamache to places even he is afraid to go, and he finds four young cadets in the Sûreté academy, and a dead professor with a copy of the old map. One of the cadets Amelia Choquet a protégée of the murdered professor is guarded and angry. The focus of the investigation soon turns to Gamache himself and his mysterious relationship with Amelia, and his possible involvement in the crime. This is the 12th entry in Penny's popular series.



Other Finalists:

Body on the Bayou by Ellen Byron

Quiet Neighbors by Catriona McPherson

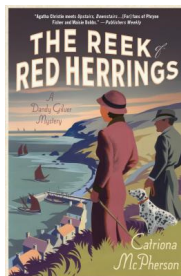
Say No More by Hank Phillippi Ryan

Best Historical Novel

The Reek of Red Herring

by Catriona McPherson

On the rain-drenched, wave-lashed, wind-battered Banffshire coast, tiny fishing villages perch on ledges that would make a seagull think twice, and crumbly mansions cling to crumblier cliff tops. It's nowhere for a child of gentle Northamptonshire to spend Christmas, but when odd things start to turn up in barrels of fish—with a strong whiff of murder most foul—that's exactly where Dandy Gilver finds herself.



Other Finalists:

Whispers Beyond the Veil by Jessica Estevao

Delivering the Truth by Edith Maxwell

Murder in Morningside Heights by Victoria Thompson

THE EDGARS

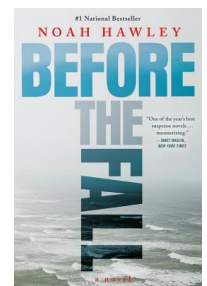


The Edgar Awards are given annually by the Mystery Writers of America to honor the best in mystery writing. Here are this year's winners and nominees for best novel:

Best Novel

Before the Fall by Noah Hawley

The stories of ten wealthy victims of a plane crash intertwine with those of a down-on-his-luck painter and a four-year-old boy, the tragedy's only survivors, as odd coincidences surrounding the crash point to a possible conspiracy.



Other Finalists:

The Ex by Alafair Burke

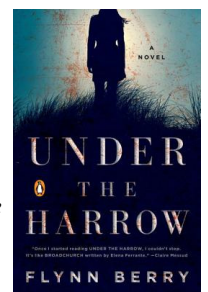
Jane Steele by Lyndsay Faye

What Remains of Me by Alison Gaylin

Best First Novel

Under the Harrow by Flynn Berry

A riveting psychological thriller and a haunting exploration of the fierce love between two sisters, the distortions of grief, and the terrifying power of the past, *Under the Harrow* marks the debut of an extraordinary new writer.



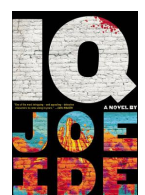
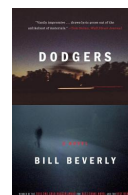
Other Finalists:

Dodgers by Bill Beverly

IQ by Joe Ide

Dancing with the Tiger by Lili Wright

The Lost Girls by Heather Young



NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)



Kiss Carlo by Adriana Trigiani.

Establishing a stable home and Western Union Telegraph Office in post-World War II Philadelphia, the hardworking Palazzini family is shattered by their nephew's epiphany in the wake of a telegram that changes everything for the citizens of a small Italian-American village.

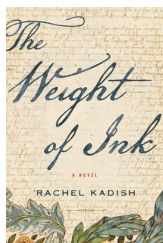
Before Everything by Victoria Redel.

This novel is a celebration of friendship and love between a group of women who have known one another since they were girls. They've faced everything together, from youthful sprees and scrapes to mid-life turning points. Now, as Anna, the group's trailblazer and brightest spark, enters hospice, they gather to do what they've always done --talk and laugh and help each other.



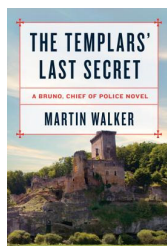
The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish.

Set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, this sophisticated historical novel is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history.



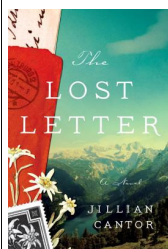
The Templars' Last Secret by Martin Walker.

Investigating the death of a woman found at the foot of a cliff where the long-ago Knights Templar stronghold stands, Bruno, assisted by Haitian newcomer Amelie, learns that the victim was searching for a religious artifact of incredible importance. This is the newest entry in this popular mystery series.



STAFF PICKS

Dorothy's Picks



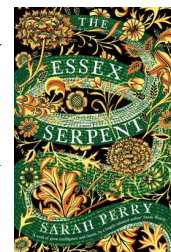
The Lost Letter by Jillian Cantor.

In an effort to raise money for her father's Alzheimer's care, Katie Nelson contemplates selling his prized stamp collection. Appraiser Benjamin Grossman discovers an unusual find – an undelivered letter with a unique stamp dating from World War II German-occupied Austria. As Kate and Benjamin begin a quest to discover the provenance of the letter, the novel alternates

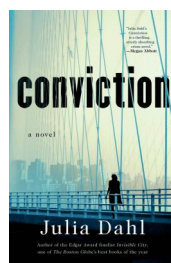
between 1989 California and 1938 Austria, where master engraver Frederick Faber designs stamps with the help of his young apprentice Kristoff. After Kristallnacht, Kristoff and Frederick's daughter Elena use their engraving skills to help Jews escape their native land. This is both a fascinating historical novel about Austria under German occupation and a moving story about the power of love to endure the ravages of war and time.

The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry.

In Cora Seaborne acclaimed British author Sarah Perry makes her American debut with a female protagonist who can take her place among our most intriguing literary heroines. In late 19th century England, Cora finds herself a young widow, free from the bonds of an abusive husband, and able to pursue her own passions. An ardent amateur naturalist, she escapes London for the Essex countryside where she becomes intrigued by rumors of a mythical serpent that has terrorized locals and starts a complicated relationship with the town vicar and his wife. *The New York Times* called this totally engrossing novel, "part ghost story and part natural history lesson, part romance and part feminist parable."



Elise's Picks

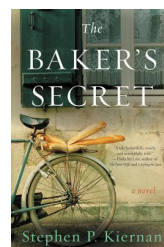


Conviction by Julia Dahl.

Despite having solved a sensitive murder case in the Hasidic community, tough but idealistic reporter Rebekah Roberts is still confined to working as a freelancer for a New York tabloid. Desperate for more meaningful assignments, she volunteers to work on a non-profit's wrongful convictions project. Pouring through letters from prisoners claiming their innocence, she chooses a notorious decades-old murder case from the summer of 1992. In the aftermath of riots between African American and Jewish neighbors in Crown Heights, a black teenager was arrested and quickly convicted of murdering his foster parents. As she reinvestigates the case twenty years later, Rebekah uncovers missing evidence, an eyewitness who says she lied, and a disturbing connection to an old police force friend who was a liaison to the Jewish community. The third entry in a fascinating series that provides insight into the cloistered Hasidic community, *Conviction* is a thought-provoking thriller that raises troubling questions about the pressures of even the best-intentioned community policing and the fairness of our justice system.

The Baker's Secret Stephen P. Kiernan.

A small coastal village in Normandy is able to survive the seemingly endless Nazi occupation because of the resourcefulness and cunning of a young woman baker. Ordered by the German commandant to supply him with twelve baguettes a day, Emmanuelle's first act of rebellion is to stretch her flour rations and bake extra loaves for her hungriest neighbors. As she secretly dispenses her contraband bread around town, people come to rely on her bartering skills, and Emma finds herself enmeshed in a "network of need," helping trade fuel for fish, tobacco for lightbulbs, and providing hope for her beleaguered village although herself despairing that the allies will ever come. While La Resistance is present in the background, this moving historical novel celebrates instead the small, incredibly courageous acts of defiance that everyday townspeople risked during the cruel years of Nazi occupation.



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