



2012 Royal Palm Literary Awards



PUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR

Ordinary People: Extraordinary Heroes by Will G. Merrill Jr. (History)

During the First Battle in the War against Terror, ordinary New Yorkers became extraordinary heroes.

Will G. Merrill Jr. graduated from West Point in 1958. He served 31 years in the Army, including in Germany, Vietnam, Korea and Greece. In writing this book he interviewed sixty firefighters, police officers and civilians directly involved with 9/11.

UNPUBLISHED BOOK OF THE YEAR

The Cold Season by William C. Walker (Romance)

A woman's journey of discovery and redemption.

William C. Walker started his writing career as a columnist for a regional newspaper. During a thirty-five year span as a military pilot and commercial airline captain he began writing short stories and novels. He lives on Florida's Treasure Coast with his wife and a fluff dog that likes him.

THE DAHRIS CLAIR MEMORIAL AWARD

Kidnapped by Maria Hammarblad (Screen Play)

Patricia is abducted by mistake. Lost in space, she must use every ounce of her humanity to find the way home.

Originally born in Sweden, Maria moved to Florida late 2008. Today, she lives in the Tampa Bay area with her husband Mike and three rescue dogs. She is most known for writing science fiction romance, but also produces romantic thrillers.

Book-Length Fiction

Historical Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The French Teacher* by William C. Walker.** An American woman in war-torn France.

Historical Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***The Lantern* by Joanne Lewis.** A Renaissance mystery, takes the reader along two continents and over five hundred years as a 21st century American woman searches to learn the truth about the 15th century mysterious Italian girl who dared to compete with the most famous artists of the Renaissance..

SECOND PLACE

***Nisei* by John J. White.** A few months before his death in 1953, Hideo “Bobby” Takahashi, dictates his memoir to his lovely companion.

THIRD PLACE

***In the Hands of the Wolf* by Raymond Gustavson.** Set in Clarksville, TN, and Washington, DC, this historical novel covers the highly traumatic period February through May 1865.

Humor / Satire [Fiction] (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Never Bet Your Future on a Guy Called Weasel* by Ann Meier.** A young woman returns to her hometown to settle an estate, but finds her attorney murdered and lying on a yearbook picture of her best friend.

Mainstream (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***The Bully Route Home* by D. L. Havlin.** The struggles of a young boy to avoid the bullying of a dominant antagonist, sets off a chain of events culminating in explosive racial tension in the rural South of the 40’s...and teaches him the value of every human being.

SECOND PLACE

***Andrew Comes Home* by Philip L. Levin.** A family shattered is by the death of the teenage daughter. The father and son move from Chicago to the Mississippi coast seeking healing while adjusting to the Southern culture shock.

THIRD PLACE

***Nam World* by Jeff Boyle.** The story of a theme park and the real and imaginary world of a Vietnam veteran struggling against demons to follow his heart.

Mystery (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***The Gift* by Bruce H. Kubec.** After his own computer system is hacked, a businessman uncovers an embezzlement scheme targeting the nation’s largest banks. Is it acceptable to do bad for a good reason?

Mystery (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***The Edge of Normal* by Carla Norton.** She made headlines when she was kidnapped at 12 and again when she was rescued at 16, but now Reeve LeClaire guards her privacy and lives alone, a damaged young woman of 22 who has a new job, a new name, and an excellent psychiatrist.

SECOND PLACE

***Deadly Sacrifices* by Bridges DelPonte.** When a soccer mom is brutally murdered in a suburban Boston church, new homicide prosecutor Marguerite “Monty” Montez risks her career and her life trying to prove that police nabbed the wrong man.

THIRD PLACE

***Judas Kisses* by Laurie Solheim.** Someone intends to make Beth Stanton’s life miserable when Wall Street greed breeds revenge.

Romance (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***The Cold Season* by William C. Walker.** A woman’s journey of discovery and redemption.

Science Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Stone Perfect* by Chris Coward.** With the help of two small stones, an emotionally battered wife finds the “easy” way to the life—and love—of her dreams.

Thriller / Suspense (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Tiger Paw* by Charles A. Cornell.** FBI agent Scott Forrester must make a deal with the Devil to thwart the plans of a demonic East Indian cult as it unleashes an elusive assassin to dismantle a corrupt Wall Street empire, one body at a time.

SECOND PLACE

***The Hitman’s Lover* by Richard Newell Smith.** After his Aunt Maude guns down a policeman, Jack Scully finds himself up against crooked cops and a crime boss – but nothing as beguiling and dangerous as Angela D’Annunzio.

Thriller / Suspense (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

Place of Fear by Ken Pelham. Deep in the rainforest, a prisoner languishes in a lightless cell, the clock ticking toward his execution. His friends mount a desperate rescue, but will it be too late?

SECOND PLACE

Francis' Flowers by D. L. Havlin. A rural Georgia community braces for the suspected arrival of a serial killer unaware a more sinister danger already lives among them.

THIRD PLACE

Grind His Bones by Richard Newell Smith. For Jack Scully, pit bulls and sociopaths aren't half as noxious as his cousin Hughie. Now he's risking his life to save Hughie from being framed for a double murder.

JUVENILE FICTION

Children's Picture Books (Published)

FIRST PLACE

The King of Fish by Darrell House. Young Ray dreams of fishing. In this catch & release story, told in verse, our wheelchair bound hero comes face to face with the King of Fish; displaying the wisdom and strength found in the heart of a child.

Children's Picture Books (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

Suki Saluki: Horse Farm Hero by M. R. Street. Suki is a Saluki dog living on a racehorse training farm. Although she has a very important job – taking care of three orphan kittens – she wants a bigger job.

SECOND PLACE

Rectangle Jangle by Gayle Swift. Poetry and geometry pair in an unusual picture book from the "Shape of Discovery" series. "Rectangles are sturdy, reliable shapes.

THIRD PLACE

Dragonella's Striped Umbrella at the Playground by Gayle Swift. In the midst of an unexpected playground storm, Dragonella and Jollette share a sheltered spot. They trade the loneliness of one to forge a friendship that blooms like a garden in the sun.

Chapter Book (Published)

FIRST PLACE

Hildy by Millie Richmond A nine-year-old girl is losing her hearing but she doesn't tell anyone. The longer she keeps this secret, the more problems she encounters.

Middle-Grade Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

Rise and Shine Rosie by Mary Kay Pyles. Deanna Rose "Rosie" Blakely, a determined, courageous eleven-year old, struggles to provide food, clothing, supervision, and stability for her brothers and sister during their drug-addicted mother's frequent absences.

Young Adult (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

The Rules of Lying by Linda Kelley. Dark passages sparked with humor draw the reader into Peter Whistler's world where a little luck, a knack for lying, and a dash of Cajun crazy can steer even an ordinary orphan to an extraordinary life.

SECOND PLACE

Shedim: The Secret of Gems by K. M. Smith. Life heats up on Annabel Island for twin sisters Ruby and Pearl Pryce as they discover a long-hidden relative, powerful family secrets, and, possibly, their hearts' desires.

THIRD PLACE

An Angel Torched My Homework and Other Lie by Carol Sipes. Sixteen-year-old Carrie loves attending the nation's first high school to admit angels, zombies, werewolves, and vampires—until a mysterious attack makes her question whether they're as harmless as she believes

Screenplay (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

Kidnapped by Maria Hammarblad. Patricia is abducted by mistake. Lost in space, she must use every ounce of her humanity to find the way home

SHORT FICTION

Flash Fiction (Published)

FIRST PLACE

Distorted Reflections by Amber Garr. A young girl's struggle with self-image is captured in her reflection.

SECOND PLACE

100 Needles by Paige L. Scott. The elders of a fishing village fashion their life stories into a quilt...and lose a little bit of themselves in the process.

THIRD PLACE

A Leap of Faith by Amber Garr. A young girl misjudges the extent of her boyfriend's commitment to forever.

Flash Fiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

Dial Tone by Gayle Swift. A divorce hearing derails when the spouse is a "no show." When his daughter telephones, his threat of violence is punctuated by the ominous drone of a dial tone.

SECOND PLACE

One Last Time by Jan Evans. A P-38 pilot is saved by a mysterious woman. Or maybe it was only a dream.

THIRD PLACE

An Accidental Death by Phyllis Smallman. A P-38 pilot is saved by a mysterious woman. Or maybe it was only a dream.

Short Story (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Jesus or Juju* by Roger Poppen.** Sometimes, miracles do happen.

SECOND PLACE

***Jack Daniels And Tea* by Phyllis Smallman.** One night in a bar things get out of control for bartender Sherri Travis and she finds when there's money at stake no one can be trusted.

THIRD PLACE

***T-Patrol* by Mary Lois Sanders.** If Mel jumps, "her brother Dave says, "it's a tarantula." So true. So why does she join the Patrol in her neighborhood? To belong? Okay, but mostly to challenge her fear! But does she really want to poke a tarantula hole with a broom straw?

Short Story (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***A Flutter of Wings* by Victor DiGenti.** Life seems terribly unfair to a boy of seven after his mother leaves. But little things —like a simple feather — can lead to understanding and redemption.

SECOND PLACE

***A Shadow the Length of a Lifetime* by John J. White.** A nine-year-old boy learns a harsh lesson about life while adjusting to a new home, a new school, and new friends.

THIRD PLACE

***Rosabelle, Believe* by Mark McWaters.** Eric White has been a "magic man" his entire life; from magic shows he staged as a kid through his mega productions the world sees today. His ultimate illusion brings the ultimate magic man, Harry Houdini, back from the grave – or does it?

Novella (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Restoration* by Laura Pelter McCarthy.** Against the backdrop of the 1980 Mariel boatlift and the rebirth of Miami Beach's Art Deco District, a gentle, diffident Midwestern architect and a free-spirited Miami radio host engage in a correspondence of increasing intimacy and growing self-knowledge.

SECOND PLACE

***Solitary* by Bradette Michel.** Long-time criminal offender Jack Henderson gets a second chance when he is unexpectedly released from prison. Ruthie, his six-year old niece, helps him find the redemption that has always eluded him.

BOOK-LENGTH NONFICTION

Autobiography / Memoir (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***Life in the Land of IS* by Bette Lee Crosby.** In this amazing memoir, Lani Deauville, the world's longest living quadriplegic proves that the worst handicap you can have is a lack of belief in yourself.

SECOND PLACE

***Baseball's Finest Moments* by Jack L. Hayes.** He didn't even remotely know anyone connected with major league baseball. Yet this fourteen-year-old had a dream and on Opening Day, 1953, that dream transformed into an almost unbelievable story as he trotted onto the baseball field wearing the batboy uniform of the world-champion New York Yankees.

Autobiography / Memoir (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Hardship Post* by Robert J. Taylor.** With terrorism on the rise and his marriage on the ropes, an American moves to Pakistan to work for the Aga Khan.

Educational / Informational (Published)

FIRST PLACE

***You Have to Say the Words* by Kathy Ryan.** This step-by-step guide for managers and HR professionals is packed with easy to implement tools, practical advice and real-world stories to help you provide impactful performance feedback and take the fear out of tough conversations.

HISTORY (PUBLISHED)

FIRST PLACE

***Ordinary People: Extraordinary Heroes* by Will G. Merrill Jr.** During the First Battle in the War against Terror, ordinary New Yorkers became extraordinary heroes.

SHORT NONFICTION

Creative Nonfiction (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Palladium Nights* by Beda Kantarjian.** For over thirty years an elderly friend repeatedly requested the author write her haunting past love story. On reading it, with tears in her eyes, the friend said, "It's perfect."

SECOND PLACE

***To the Top* by Joan Levy.** A father takes his family to the Empire state building to fulfill a promise requested on a postcard. But odd circumstances and the determination of three year-old child seem to derail the promise and visit.

THIRD PLACE

***Snowball* by Joan Levy.** A first grader steals a doll from her classroom dollhouse. Decades later she discovers why.

Essay (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Quibbles 'n Bits* by Barbara Samuels.** This author believes there should be distinct names for people and pets. Join the movement to stop calling our dogs, Bill and our children, Fifi.

SECOND PLACE

***Arguing with E.B.B.* by Judy Weber.** The writer's nostalgic look back on years past is far different in perspective than that of Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

POETRY

Poetry (Unpublished)

FIRST PLACE

***Change* by Robin Thomas.** Some call it fear of settling down; some call it wanderlust; some call it exciting. I call it a way of life.

SECOND PLACE

***Petal Fists* by Donna S. Fernandez.** The poem is from a collection of poems and essays on the marvels and mysteries of South Florida's natural world observed from the poet's canal-backed home.

THIRD PLACE

***Greedy* by Maxie Steer.** A child who, upon overhearing arguments, learns hurtful words and adds them to his vocabulary but soon realizes his limited understanding and shame in eavesdropping.