

# IRDA 2026: Complete List of Winners

OVERALL FICTION

FIRST PLACE: [THE TALE OF THE ENGLISH TEMPLAR](#) by Helena P. Schrader

SECOND PLACE: [THE WIRE-WALKER](#) by James Janko

THIRD PLACE: [THE LOST SEIGNEUR](#) by David Loux

OVERALL NONFICTION

FIRST PLACE: [THE SPARKLE TRAP: Recognizing, Escaping, and Healing from Narcissistic Abuse in LGBTQ+ Love](#) by Daniel de Llano

SECOND PLACE: [WHAT IF I'M ENOUGH?: Confronting the Reflection. Releasing the Fear. Owning the Story](#) by Teron Buford

THIRD PLACE: [SHINE ON: Raising Our Kids with Disabilities to Lead Bright, Happy Lives](#) by Cynthia Schulz

BEST FIRST BOOK: FICTION

[IRON ROSE](#) by Abigail O'Bryan

BEST FIRST BOOK: NONFICTION

[STAND UP SPEAK UP: How Survivors Created a Movement to End Sexual Violence](#) by Tim Lennon

BEST COVER: FICTION

[THE MOON COULD ONLY WEEP \(Spent Spindle Book 1\)](#) by Rara Hope, Cover by Rena Violet

BEST COVER: NONFICTION

[TRANSIENT ANCHORS: From Refugee Tents to Research Towers](#) by Libère J. Ndacayisaba, Cover by DesignDusk and Arslan

## FICTION SUB-CATEGORIES

- ACTION/ADVENTURE:** [ESCALA'S WISH \(Tales of Valla Book 1\)](#) by David James
- AUDIOBOOK:** [CETUS FINALIS: A Gray Whale Odyssey](#) by Suhail Rafidi, narrated by Ryan Hurtgen
- CHICK-LIT:** [FOLLOW YOU DOWN](#) by Katie Walsh
- CHILDREN'S (BOARD BOOKS AND PRE-READING):** [WORDS](#) by Katherine Davis-Gibbon
- CHILDREN'S (EARLY TO INTERMEDIATE):** [JIBBERJACK, FIBBERJACK: A Made-Up Monster Mystery](#) by Stefanie Gamarra
- COMING OF AGE:** [MARGARET OF THIBODAUX](#) by Jo Taylor
- DARK FANTASY:** [BLOODY BLACK](#) by Rhiannon Hargadon
- DYSTOPIAN:** [THE DISRUPTION](#) by W.H. Hilf
- EROTICA:** [HOOKUPS, HICCUPS, AND HAPPENSTANCES](#) by Sam L. Feldman
- FANTASY:** [THE SOURCE OF STORMS \(The Stormbound Series Book 1\)](#) by Angelina Jeanette Kelly
- LGBTQ+ FICTION:** [LOST VILLAGE \(The Conawalki Murder Mysteries Book 1\)](#) by Michael Saver
- GIFT/HOLIDAY/SPECIALITY:** [PUMPKIN GUTS](#) by Jacoby A. Matott
- GRAPHIC NOVEL:** [THE LAST BOOK](#) by Hungry Minds (collective fictional author Noah Kaplan)
- LITERARY FICTION:** [THE FAITHFUL ONES: A Novel](#) by Kathleen J. Waites
- HISTORICAL FICTION:** [THE GYRE: A Novel](#) by Stacy Carlson
- HORROR:** [WHERE DARK THINGS RISE: A Novel](#) by Andrew K. Clark
- HUMOR:** [THE TYPO: In the Name of God](#) by William Lower
- INSPIRATIONAL:** [WHITE SUGAR, BROWN SUGAR](#) by Michael A. Pyle
- MIDDLE GRADE:** [THE END OF THE SIDEWALK](#) by Nancy Schutt McCorkle
- MYSTERY/SUSPENSE/THRILLER:** [BETWEEN THE SUN AND RAIN](#) by Leighton Kirby Richards
- NEW ADULT:** [PROMISING YOUNG MAN](#) by Elias Axel
- PARANORMAL:** [THE SEER: A Novel](#) by Raquel Y. Levitt
- POETRY:** [COLORSCAPES](#) by Lee Woodman
- POPULAR FICTION:** [THE GAME](#) by Brandon Keller
- ROMANCE:** [THE ESCAPE \(The Techboys Series Book 6\)](#) by Eve M. Riley
- ROMANTASY:** [LIKE A LILY AMONG THE THORNS](#) by Karen S. Bell
- SCIENCE FICTION:** [HIVE \(Madders of Time Book 1\)](#) by D. L. Orton
- SHORT STORIES:** [CHRONICLES OF THE GRIM REAPER](#) by Griz Calderon
- SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS:** [THE LAST FLORIDIAN](#) by Pete Clements
- SPIRITUAL:** [BIRDS IN A LAND OF NO TREES](#) by Anthony Lange
- WOMEN'S FICTION:** [EVERY STEP OF THE WAY](#) by Sofía Ramírez Castillo
- YOUNG ADULT:** [THEA](#) by Genevieve Morrissey
- YA HORROR:** [MORTAL VENGEANCE](#) by Alejandro Torres De la Rocha

## NONFICTION SUB-CATEGORIES

**AGING/DEATH & DYING:** [CARRYING THE TIGER: Living with Cancer, Dying with Grace, Finding Joy While Grieving](#) by Tony Stewart

**BIOGRAPHY:** [CHARLES WHITFIELD RICHARDS: The Artist and His Circle](#) by J. Michael Warner

**BUSINESS:** [RESTORING OUR SANITY ONLINE](#) by Mark Weinstein

**COMING OF AGE:** [MUD, MICROBES & MEDICINE: How a Curious Anthropologist Got to the Boardroom](#) by Elizabeth Reed Aden

**EDUCATION:** [WHAT'S YOUR NAME?: How to Write Your Name in Han'gŭl Without Learning the Korean Language](#) by Albert Jung

**ENTERTAINING:** [I HAVE A LOVE STORY](#) by Natalie MacMaster

**FINANCE/INVESTMENT/ECONOMICS:** [BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GROWING WEALTH AND INVESTING: Planting Seeds & Growing Riches](#) by Dr. Stacker

**LGBTQ+:** [TO KILL A COCKROACH](#) by Osvaldo Calixto Amador

**HEALTH/MEDICINE/NUTRITION:** [HOPE IN THE FACE OF CANCER](#) by Darcie Wells and James Malinchak

**HISTORY:** [THE PRE-RAPHAELITE BROTHERHOOD](#) by Nick Louras

**How-To:** [WHAT HANGS IN THE BALANCE](#) by Philippe Johnson

**HUMOR:** [LOSER\\*: A Survival Guide to High School Popularity](#) by C.S. Beaty

**INSPIRATIONAL:** [BELIEVE: A Memoir in Stories](#) by Christina H. Wilson

**KIDS:** [THE CASTOFF CANINE](#) by Jeannette Greulach

**MEMOIR:** [SUN SHINING ON MORNING SNOW: A Memoir of Identity, Loss, and Living Boldly](#) by Ingrid Hu Dahl

**PARENTING (CHILD CARE/FAMILY):** [LOVE WARS: Clash of the Parents, A True Divorce Story](#) by Matthew A. Tower

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** [THE ABCs OF CALIFORNIA'S NATIVE BEES](#) by Krystle Hickman

**POETRY:** [EXITS: Selected Poems](#) by Stephen C. Pollock

**POLITICS/CURRENT EVENTS:** [STAND UP SPEAK UP: How Survivors Created a Movement to End Sexual Violence](#) by Tim Lennon

**POP CULTURE:** [PLUS-SIZE: A Memoir of Pop Culture, Fatphobia, and Social Change](#) by Mekdela

**PSYCHOLOGY/MENTAL HEALTH:** [WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT BEING POOR?](#) by Deborah M. Foster

**RELIGION:** [MANNA SONGS: Stories of Jewish Culture & Heritage](#) by Diane Gottlieb (Editor)

**SELF-HELP:** [LIVING IN COLOUR: A Journey of Self-Discovery and Sisterhood](#) by Simone Hewitt

**SEXUALITY/RELATIONSHIPS:** [THE AUTHENTIC YOUNG LOVER: Learning to Love in a Broken Culture](#) by Chris Hakim

**SPIRITUAL:** [BECOMING A PEACOCK: Strut Your Way Into Self-Love](#) by Michal Bardavid

Sports/Fitness/Recreation: [CHASING LEGENDS: Motorcycle Stories from the Podcast Trail](#) by Aaron Pufal

**SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS:** [JUSTICE FOR MA'AT: The True Story of a Father's Relentless Fight For His Daughter](#) by Le'Taxione

**TRAVEL:** [BELONGING TO THE WORLD: A Journey from Grief to Connection in Every Country on Earth](#) by Barry Hoffner

**TRUE CRIME:** [WONDERLAND: Memoir of a Black-Market Adoption](#) by Patricia Knight Meyer

**WOMEN'S ISSUES:** [NO MAN'S LAND: Unpacking One Woman's Worth on the Colorado Trail](#) by Becky Jensen

**YOUNG ADULT:** [GAME CHANGERS: Inspirational Sport Stories](#) by Dan Gold