Indie Reader DISCOVERY AWARDS

Complete List of Winners

2026

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