

## Agatha Awards – Best First Novel

The Agatha Awards, named for Agatha Christie, are literary awards for mystery and crime writers who write in the cozy mystery subgenre. At an annual convention in Washington, D.C., the Agatha Awards are handed out by Malice Domestic Ltd, in six categories: Best Contemporary Novel; Best First Novel; Best Historical Novel; Best Short Story; Best Nonfiction; Best Children's/Young Adult Novel.

Additionally, in some years the Poirot Award is presented to honor individuals other than writers who have made outstanding contributions to the mystery genre, but it is not an annual award.

### 2019

**Winner: Tara Laskowski, *One Night Gone***

**Nominees:**

Connie Berry, *A Dream of Death*

S. C. Perkins, *Murder Once Removed*

Ang Pompano, *When It's Time for Leaving*

Grace Topping, *Staging is Murder*

### 2018

**Winner: (Tie) Dianne Freeman, *A Ladies Guide to Etiquette and Murder* and Shari Randall, *Curses, Boiled Again***

**Nominees:**

Edwin Hill, *Little Comfort*

Aimee Hix, *What Doesn't Kill You*

Keenan Powell, *Deadly Solution*

### 2017

**Winner: Kellye Garrett, *Hollywood Homicide***

**Nominees:**

Micki Browning, *Adrift*

V.M. Burns, *The Plot is Murder*

Laura Oles, *Daughters of Bad Men*

Kathleen Valenti, *Protocol*

### 2016

**Winner: Cynthia Kuhn, *The Semester of Our Discontent***

**Nominees:**

Marla Cooper, *Terror in Taffeta*

Alexia Gordon, *Murder in G Major*

Nadine Nettmann, *Decanting a Murder*

Renee Patrick, *Design for Dying*

## **2015**

**Winner: Art Taylor, *On the Road with Del and Louise***

**Nominees:**

Tessa Arlen, *Death of a Dishonorable Gentleman*

Cindy Brown, *Macdeath*

Ellen Byron, *Plantation Shudders*

Julianne Holmes, *Just Killing Time*

## **2014**

**Winner: Terrie Farley Moran, *Well Read, Then Dead***

**Nominees:**

Annette Dashoffy, *Circle of Influence*

Sherry Harris, *Tagged for Death*

Susan O'Brien, *Finding Sky*

Tracy Weber, *Murder Strikes a Pose*

## **2013**

**Winner: Leslie Budewitz, *Death Al Dente***

**Nominees:**

Shelley Costa, *You Cannoli Die Once*

Kendel Lynn, *Board Stiff*

Liz Mugavero, *Kneading to Die*

LynDee Walker, *Front Page Fatality*

## **2012**

**Winner: Susan M. Boyer, *Lowcountry Boil***

**Nominees:**

Duffy Brown, *Iced Chiffon*

Mollie Cox Bryan, *A Scrapbook of Secrets*

Erika Chase, *A Killer Read*

Stephanie Jaye Evans, *Faithful Unto Death*

## **2011**

**Winner: Sara J. Henry, *Learning to Swim***

**Nominees:**

Janet Bolin, *Dire Threads*

Kaye George, *Choke*  
Rochelle Staab, *Who Do, Voodoo?*  
Kari Lee Townsend, *Tempest in the Tea Leaves*

## **2010**

**Winner: Avery Aames, *The Long Quiche Goodbye***

### **Nominees:**

Laura Alden, *Murder at the PTA*  
Deborah Blum, *The Poisoner's Handbook* (Penguin Press), finalist  
Amanda Flower, *Maid of Murder*  
Sasscer Hill, *Full Mortality*  
Alan Orloff, *Diamonds for the Dead*

## **Agatha Awards – Best Contemporary Novel (formerly Best Novel)**

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### **2019**

**Winner: Ann Cleeves, *The Long Call***

#### **Nominees:**

Ellen Byron, *Fatal Cajun Festival*  
Annette Dashofy, *Fair Game*  
Edwin Hill, *The Missing Ones*  
Louise Penny, *A Better Man*  
Hank Phillippi Ryan, *The Murder List*

### **2018**

**Winner: Ellen Byron, *Mardi Gras Murder***

#### **Nominees:**

Bruce Robert Coffin, *Beyond the Truth*  
Annette Dashofy, *Cry Wolf*  
Louise Penny, *Kingdom of the Blind*  
Hank Phillippi Ryan, *Trust Me*

### **2017**

**Winner: Louise Penny, *Glass Houses***

#### **Nominees:**

Allison Brook, *Death Overdue*  
Ellen Byron, *A Cajun Christmas Killing*  
Annette Dashofy, *No Way Home*  
Margaret Maron, *Take Out*

### **2016**

**Winner: Louise Penny, *A Great Reckoning***

#### **Nominees:**

Ellen Byron, *Body on the Bayou*  
Catriona McPherson, *Quiet Neighbors*  
Barbara Ross, *Fogged Inn*  
Hank Phillippi Ryan, *Say No More*

**2015**

**Winner: Margaret Maron, *Long Upon the Land***

**Nominees:**

Annette Dashofy, *Bridges Burned*

Catriona McPherson, *The Child Garden*

Louise Penny, *Nature of the Beast*

Hank Phillippi Ryan, *What You See*

**2014**

**Winner: Hank Phillippi Ryan, *Truth Be Told***

**Nominees:**

Donna Andrews, *The Good, the Bad and the Emus*

G. M. Malliet, *A Demon Summer*

Margaret Maron, *Designated Daughters*

Louise Penny, *The Long Way Home*

**2013**

**Winner: Hank Phillippi Ryan, *The Wrong Girl***

**Nominees:**

Julia Spencer-Fleming, *Through the Evil Days*

G. M. Malliet, *Pagan Spring*

Louise Penny, *How the Light Gets In*

Barbara Ross, *Clammed Up*

**2012**

**Winner: Louise Penny, *The Beautiful Mystery***

**Nominees:**

Krista Davis, *The Diva Digs Up the Dirt*

G. M. Malliet, *A Fatal Winter*

Margaret Maron, *The Buzzard Table*

Hank Phillippi Ryan, *The Other Woman*

**2011**

**Winner: Margaret Maron, *Three-Day Town***

**Nominees:**

Donna Andrews, *The Real Macaw*

Krista Davis, *The Diva Haunts the House*

G. M. Malliet, *Wicked Autumn*

Louise Penny, *A Trick of the Light*

**2010**

**Winner: Louise Penny, *Bury Your Dead***

**Nominees:**

Donna Andrews, *Stork Raving Mad*

Nancy Pickard, *The Scent of Rain and Lightning*

Hank Phillippi Ryan, *Drive Time*

Heather Webber, *Truly, Madly*

## Agatha Awards – Best Historical Novel

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### 2019

**Winner: Edith Maxwell, *Charity's Burden***

#### Nominees:

Rhys Bowen, *Love and Death Among the Cheetahs*

Susanna Calkins, *Murder Knocks Twice*

L. A. Chandlar, *The Pearl Dagger*

Gabriel Valjan, *The Naming Game*

### 2018

**Winner: Sujata Massey, *The Widows of Malabar Hill***

#### Nominees:

Rhys Bowen, *Four Funerals and Maybe a Wedding*,

LA Chandlar, *The Gold Pawn*

Edith Maxwell, *Turning the Tide*

Victoria Thompson, *Murder on Union Square*

### 2017

**Winner: Rhys Bowen, *In Farleigh Field***

#### Nominees:

Jessica Ellicott, *Murder in an English Village*

Edith Maxwell, *Called to Justice*

Susan Elia MacNeal, *The Paris Spy*

Renee Patrick, *Dangerous to Know*

### 2016

**Winner: Catriona McPherson, *The Reek of Red Herrings***

#### Nominees:

Jessica Estevao, *Whispers Beyond the Veil*

D.E. Ireland, *Get Me to the Grave on Time*

Edith Maxwell, *Delivering the Truth*  
Victoria Thompson, *Murder in Morningside Heights*

## 2015

**Winner: Laurie R. King, *Dreaming Spies***

### Nominees:

Rhys Bowen, *Malice at the Palace*  
Susanna Calkins, *The Masque of a Murderer*  
Susan Elia MacNeal, *Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante*  
Victoria Thompson, *Murder on Amsterdam Avenue*

## 2014

**Winner: Rhys Bowen, *Queen of Hearts***

### Nominees:

DE Ireland, *Wouldn't It Be Deadly*  
Victoria Thompson, *Murder in Murray Hill*  
Charles Todd, *Hunting Shadows*  
Charles Todd, *An Unwilling Accomplice*

## 2013

**Winner: Charles Todd, *A Question of Honor***

### Nominees:

Rhys Bowen, *Heirs and Graces*  
Kaye George, *Death in the Time of Ice*  
J. J. Murphy, *A Friendly Game of Murder*  
Victoria Thompson, *Murder in Chelsea*

## 2012

**Winner: Catriona McPherson, *Dandy Gilver and an Unsuitable Day for Murder***

### Nominees:

Rhys Bowen, *The Twelve Clues of Christmas*  
Victoria Thompson, *Murder on Fifth Avenue*  
Charles Todd, *An Unmarked Grave*  
Jacqueline Winspear, *Elegy for Eddie*

## 2011

**Winner: Rhys Bowen, *Naughty in Nice***

### Nominees:

J. J. Murphy, *Murder Your Darlings*  
Ann Parker, *Mercury's Rise*  
Jeri Westerson, *Troubled Bones*  
Jacqueline Winspear, *A Lesson in Secrets*

## Agatha Awards – Best Nonfiction

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### 2019

**Winner: Mo Moulton, *The Mutual Admiration Society: How Dorothy L. Sayers and her Oxford Circle Remade the World for Women***

#### Nominees:

Laird R. Blackwell, *Frederic Dannay, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and the Art of the Detective Short Story*

Julia Bricklin, *Blonde Rattlesnake: Burmah Adams, Tom White, and the 1933 Crime Spree that Terrified Los Angeles*

Casey Cep, *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud and the Last Trial of Harper Lee*

Hallie Rubenhold, *The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper*

### 2018

**Winner: Jane Cleland, *Mastering Plot Twists***

#### Nominees:

Nancy J. Cohen, *Writing the Cozy Mystery*

Margalit Fox, *Conan Doyle for the Defense*

Laura Thompson, *Agatha Christie: A Mysterious Life*

Jane Ann Turzillo, *Wicked Women of Ohio*

### 2017

**Winner: Mattias Bostrom, *From Holmes to Sherlock: The Story of the Men and Women Who Created an Icon***

#### Nominees:

Martin Edwards, *The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books*

Monica Hesse, *American Fire: Love, Arson and Life in a Vanishing Land*

Jess Lourey, *Through the Healing Power of Fiction*

Tatiana de Rosnay, *Manderley Forever: A Biography of Daphne du Maurier*

### 2016

**Winner: Jane K. Cleland, *Mastering Suspense, Structure, and Plot: How to Write Gripping Stories that Keep Readers on the Edge of Their Seats***

#### Nominees:

Roger Guay with Kate Clark Flora, *A Good Man with a Dog: A Game Warden's 25 Years in the Maine Woods*  
Margaret Kinsman, *Sara Paretsky: A Companion to the Mystery Fiction*

## 2015

**Winner: Martin Edwards, *The Golden Age of Murder: The Mystery of the Writers Who Invented the Modern Detective Story***

### Nominees:

Zack Dundas, *The Great Detective: The Amazing Rise and Immortal Life of Sherlock Holmes*

Kathryn Harkup, *A is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie*

Jane Ann Turzillo, *Unsolved Murders and Disappearances in Northeast Ohio*

Kate White (Editor), *Mystery Writers of America, The Mystery Writers of America Cookbook: Wickedly Good Meals and Desserts to Die For*

## 2014

**Winner: Hank Phillippi Ryan, editor, *Writes of Passage: Adventures on the Writer's Journey***

### Nominees:

Stephen Bates, *The Poisoner: The Life and Crimes of Victorian England's Most Notorious Doctor*

Kate Flora, *Death Dealer: How Cops and Cadaver Dogs Brought a Killer to Justice*

Adam Plantinga, *400 Things Cops Know: Street Smart Lessons from a Veteran Patrolman*

Lucy Worsley, *The Art of the English Murder*

## 2013

**Winner: Daniel Stashower, *The Hour of Peril: The Secret Plot to Murder Lincoln Before the Civil War***

### Nominees:

Jennifer Kloester, *Georgette Heyer*

Maria Konnikova, *Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes*

Verena Rose and Rita Owen, Editors, *Not Everyone's Cup of Tea: An Interesting & Entertaining History of Malice Domestic's First 25 Years*

Joseph Goodrich, *Blood Relations: The Selected Letters of Ellery Queen, 1947–1950*

## 2012

**Winner: John Connolly, *Books to Die For: The World's Greatest Mystery Writers on the World's Greatest Mystery Novels***

### Nominees:

D. P. Lyle *More Forensics and Fiction: Crime Writers Morbidly Curious Questions Expertly Answered*

Ben Macintyre, *Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies*

Mathew Prichard, *The Grand Tour: Around the World with the Queen of Mystery Agatha Christie*

## 2011

**Winner: Leslie Budewitz, *Books, Crooks and Counselors: How to Write Accurately About Criminal Law and Courtroom Procedure***

**Nominees:**

John Curran, *Agatha Christie: Murder in the Making: More Stories and Secrets from Her Notebooks*

Michael Dirda *On Conan Doyle; or, The Whole Art of Storytelling*

A. B. Emrys, *Wilkie Collins, Vera Caspary and the Evolution of the Casebook Novel*

Charlaine Harris, *The Sookie Stackhouse Companion*

**2010**

**Winner: John Curran, *Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks: 50 Years of Mysteries in the Making***

**Nominees:**

Deborah Blum, *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*

Stephen Doyle & David A. Crowder *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies*

Katherine Hall Page, *Have Faith in Your Kitchen*

Yunte Huang, *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History*