



Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc.

BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Awards

Press Release
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Contact: Tiffany A. Duck or
tiffany.duck3@gmail.com
Hampton, VA

BCALA and BiblioBoard Announce the 2017 Self-Publishing Literary Awards Winners

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Inc. (BCALA) and BiblioBoard proudly announce the winners of the 2017 Self-Publishing Literary Awards. Following the model of the current BCALA Literary Awards, the awards honor the best self-published eBooks in fiction and poetry by an African American author in the U.S. This is the second time BCALA and BiblioBoard have given this innovative award. The recipients will receive awards during the 2017 National Conference of African American Librarians on August 10 in Atlanta, GA , as well as formal recognition at the 2017 Annual Library Association Conference between June 22 and 27, 2017 in Chicago, IL.

FICTION

The fiction category winner is ***Book of Addis: Cradled Embers: a Novel*** (For the People Press) by Brooke Obie. This is a historical fiction novel of power, resistance, and detail. Addis escapes from her master and embarks on a journey that is raw, breathtaking and inspiring. Obie takes fear and glamorously turns it into fierce action through Addis' love story, hope and revolution. Brooke is a writer and editor who lives in Harlem. She is currently working on the sequel to her debut novel ***Book of Addis***.

The Honor Book for Fiction is ***Melting the Blues*** (Gold Fern Press) by Tracy Chiles McGhee. McGhee's debut novel is set in Arkansas in the 1950s a time when racial tensions were soaring. Augustus, the main character, is so engrossed in his music, but must wrestle with the past in order to move forward with his dreams. Tracy Chiles McGhee currently resides in Washington, DC where she works in education.

POETRY

The winner for the BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Poetry Award is ***On Life*** (Create Space Publishing) by Jacqueline Nicole Harris. This book is made up of a variety of poems with different styles. Harris makes commentary about life, music, society and much more. Each poem, which is meant to be read aloud, gives the book a certain edge and a whole new meaning. Certain poems that stand out include: *The Day "I" took Himself for a Walk, On Life, and Pride "Sestina"*. Jacqueline Nicole Harris is a poet, writer, blogger and currently lives in North Chicago, Illinois.

The BCALA Self-Publishing Literary Awards began in 2016 as an initiative to recognize and celebrate two marginalized voices in literature: writers who are African American and those who are independently published. Among the winners of the inaugural awards — which were dedicated to Emanuel AME Church victim and Charleston librarian Cynthia Hurd — was L. Penelope, who has secured a traditional publishing contract with St. Martin's Press. The contract entails that her award-winning book *Song of Blood and Stone: The Earthsinger Chronicles, Book One* will be part a four-book series republished in 2018.

Members of the BCALA Literary Awards Jury are: Tiffany A. Duck (Chair), Hampton Public Library; Gladys Smiley Bell, Hampton University; Jamillah Gabriel, Purdue University; Dominique Luster, University of Pittsburg; Carol Nurse, Montclair University; Annie Payton, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University; and Stacy Williams, University of Southern California.