

PRESS RELEASE

CRIMEFEST Announce 2021 Award Nominees

CRIMEFEST, one of Europe's leading crime writing conventions, has announced the shortlists for its annual awards.

The awards feature the Specsavers Debut Crime Novel Award, the winner of which receives a £1,000 prize.

A further £1,000 prize fund is also awarded to the Audible Sounds of Crime Award, sponsored by Audible.

Up for the hotly-contended **Specsavers Debut Crime Novel Award** is Richard Osman, who ruled the bestseller lists with his smash-hit, *The Thursday Murder Club*. The shortlist also features Trevor Wood, who won the CWA John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger in 2020, for *The Man on the Street*.

Sheila Mitchell's biography of her husband - and namesake of the **H.R.F. Keating Award** – is in contention for the best biographical or critical book in the genre. Michell's *HRF Keating: A Life of Crime* has been hailed as the definitive portrait of the artist and man.

The H.R.F Keating Award also features Martin Edwards, editor of *HowDunit: A Masterclass in Crime Writing by Members of the Detection Club*, which has also been nominated for the 2021 Edgar Allen Poe Award. Also in contention is Heather Martin, an academic, linguist and author of the definitive Lee Child biography, *The Reacher Guy*.

The **Last Laugh Award** sees debut-author Richard Osman return as he is pitted against stalwarts of the genre, including Elly Griffiths and Carl Hiaasen.

Osman, who dominates the shortlists, is also up for the **Audible Sounds of Crime Award**. The *Pointless* TV-star is up against veritable giants of the genre, including Robert Galbraith, Ian Rankin and Lynda La Plante. Voted by Audible subscribers, the shortlist also sees last year's winner Lee Child return, with his brother Andrew, for *The Sentinel*, read by Jeff Harding.

Laurence Howell, Vice President, Content at Audible said: "We are delighted to continue as sponsor of the Audible Sounds of Crime Award. With the isolation and social distancing of the last year, audio books have been a great comfort to many because of the intimate, immersive nature of audiobooks. Crime and thriller audiobooks remain one of our bestselling genres, as perhaps more of us seek escapism and entertainment in these trying times. Congratulations to all award nominees."

The **eDunnit Award**, for best e-book, sees established names of the genre Ian Rankin, Michael Connelly and James Lee Burke up against the young Australian Gabriel Bergmoser, a multi-award-winning screenwriter, playwright and author who is already a phenomenon in his own country.

Best Crime Novel for Children, aged 8-12, features giant of the genre Anthony Horowitz for *Nightshade*, from the popular Alex Rider series. The shortlist also sees the founder of Making Herstory, a human rights organisation working to end trafficking and abuse, and bestselling children's author, Onjali Q. Rauf, for *The Night Bus Hero*.

Best Crime Novel for Young Adults, aged 12-16, features *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess* by Nancy Springer, which was released last year to coincide with the Netflix adaptation, starring Millie Bobby Brown. The list also features the multi-award-winning author Patrice Lawrence, who won the CRIMEFEST award in 2018 for *Indigo Donut*. Lawrence is in contention this year for *Eight Pieces of Silva*, an addictive tale of a teenager's hunt for her missing sister.

Now in its 14th year, the awards honour the best crime books released in 2020 in the UK.

Adrian Muller, Co-host of CRIMEFEST, said: "CRIMEFEST usually takes place in May, and although we had to cancel our physical convention this year, it's important to continue these awards. They've built up a strong reputation after so many years, and we are thankful to both Audible and to Specsavers for their on-going support."

CRIMEFEST has had to postpone its 2020 and 2021 conventions, due to Covid restrictions. Hosted in Bristol, it is one of the biggest crime fiction events in Europe, and one of the most popular dates in the international crime fiction calendar, with circa 60 panel events and 150 authors over four days.

In light of Covid-19, the 2021 winners will be announced online at www.crimefest.com and via its social media pages this summer.

All category winners will receive a Bristol Blue commemorative Glass Award.

Leading British crime fiction reviewers and reviewers of fiction for children and young adults form the CRIMEFEST judging panels, aside from Audible Sounds in which Audible listeners establish the shortlist and the winning title.

Co-host of CRIMEFEST, Donna Moore, added: "As well as the debut awards, we are one of the few genre awards that recognise e-books and audiobooks, humour, children and Young Adult crime fiction novels. We aim to be the most inclusive of awards to reflect the values of our convention."

CRIMEFEST was created following the hugely successful one-off visit to Bristol in 2006 of the American Left Coast Crime convention. It was established in 2008. It follows the egalitarian format of most US conventions, making it open to all commercially published authors and readers alike.

The Shortlists (as a list in full)

SPECSAVERS DEBUT CRIME NOVEL AWARD

Eva Bjorg Aegisdottir for *The Creak on the Stairs* (Orenda Books)

Marion Brunet for *Summer of Reckoning* (Bitter Lemon Press)

Robin Morgan-Bentley for *The Wreckage* (Trapeze)

Richard Osman for *The Thursday Murder Club* (Viking)

Mara Timon for *City of Spies* (Zaffre)

Trevor Wood for *The Man on the Street* (Quercus)

AUDIBLE SOUNDS OF CRIME AWARD

Lee and Andrew Child for *The Sentinel*, read by Jeff Harding (Transworld)

Lucy Foley for *The Guest List* read by Olivia Dowd, Aoife McMahon, Chloe Massey, Sarah Ovens, Rich Keeble and Jot Davies (HarperFiction)

Robert Galbraith for *Troubled Blood* read by Robert Glenister (Little, Brown Book Group)

Anthony Horowitz for *Moonflower Murders* read by Lesley Manville and Allan Corduner (Penguin Random House Audio)

Peter James for *Find Them Dead* read by Daniel Weyman (Pan)

Lisa Jewell for *The Invisible Girl* read by Rebekah Staton (Penguin Random House Audio)

Lynda La Plante for *Buried* read by Alex Hassell and Annie Aldington (Zaffre)

TM Logan for *The Catch* read by Philip Stevens (Zaffre)

Richard Osman for *The Thursday Murder Club* read by Lesley Manville (Viking)

Ian Rankin for *A Song for the Dark Times* read by James Macpherson (Orion)

H.R.F. KEATING AWARD

Mark Aldridge for *Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Greatest Detective in the World* (HarperCollins)

Martin Edwards (editor) for *Howdunit: A Masterclass in Crime Writing by Members of the Detection Club* (Collins Crime Club)

Colin Larkin for *Cover Me: The Vintage Art of Pan Books: 1950-1965* (Telos Publishing)

Andrew Lycett for *Conan Doyle's Wide World* (Tauris Parke)

Heather Martin for *The Reacher Guy* (Little, Brown Book Group)

Sheila Mitchell for *HRF Keating: A Life of Crime* (Level Best Books)

Craig Sinsterson for *Southern Cross Crime: The Pocket Essential Guide to the Crime Fiction, Film & TV of Australia and New Zealand* (Oldcastle Books)

Peter Temple for *The Red Hand: Stories, reflections and the last appearance of Jack Irish* (riverrun)

LAST LAUGH AWARD

Ben Aaronovitch for *False Value* (Gollancz)

Christopher Fowler for *Bryant & May - Oranges and Lemons* (Doubleday)

Elly Griffiths for *The Postscript Murders* (Quercus)

Carl Hiaasen for *Squeeze Me* (Little, Brown Book Group)

Richard Osman for *The Thursday Murder Club* (Viking)

Malcolm Pryce for *The Corpse in the Garden of Perfect Brightness* (Bloomsbury Publishing)

Khurram Rahman for *Ride or Die* (HQ)

Olga Wojtas for *Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Vampire Menace* (Contraband)

eDUNNIT AWARD

Gabriel Bergmoser for *The Hunted* (Faber)

Sharon Bolton for *The Split* (Trapeze)

J. P. Carter for *Little Boy Lost* (Avon, HarperCollins)

Steve Cavanagh for *Fifty-Fifty* (Orion Fiction)

Michael Connelly for *Fair Warning* (Orion Fiction)

James Lee Burke for *A Private Cathedral* (Orion Fiction)

Ian Rankin for *A Song for the Dark Times* (Orion Fiction)

Holly Watt for *The Dead Line* (Raven Books)

BEST CRIME NOVEL FOR CHILDREN (ages 8-12)

Sophie Deen for *Agent Asha: Mission Shark Bytes* (Walker Books)

Elly Griffiths for *A Girl Called Justice - The Smugglers' Secret* (Quercus Children's Books)

Anthony Horowitz for *Nightshade* (Walker Books)

Jack Noel for *My Headteacher is an Evil Genius* (Walker Books)

Serena Patel for *Anisha, Accidental Detective* (Usborne Publishing)

Serena Patel for *School's Cancelled* (Usborne Publishing)

Onjali Q. Rauf for *The Night Bus Hero* (Orion Children's Books)

Dave Shelton for *The Pencil Case* (David Fickling Books)

BEST CRIME NOVEL FOR YOUNG ADULTS (ages 12-16)

William Hussey for *Hideous Beauty* (Usborne Publishing)

Lauren James for *The Reckless Afterlife of Harriet Stoker* (Walker Books)

Matt Killeen for *Devil Darling Spy* (Usborne Publishing)

Patrice Lawrence for *Eight Pieces of Silva* (Hodder Children's Books)

Simon Lelic for *Deadfall* (Hodder Children's Books)

Robert Muchamore for *Hacking, Heists & Flaming Arrows* (Hot Key Books)

Patrick Ness for *Burn* (Walker Books)

Nancy Springer for *The Case of the Missing Marquess* (Hot Key Books)

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Notes to Editors

www.crimfest.com

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2021 Award Categories

SPECSAVERS DEBUT CRIME NOVEL AWARD

In association with headline sponsor Specsavers, is the Specsavers Debut Crime Novel Award.

Crime novels by previously unpublished authors bring vital fresh blood to the genre, and this award aims to highlight that contribution.

The winning author receives a £1,000 prize (courtesy of headline sponsor Specsavers) as well as a Bristol Blue Glass commemorative award.

Eligible titles are submitted by publishers, and a team of British crime fiction reviewers vote to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

AUDIBLE SOUNDS OF CRIME AWARD

The Audible Sounds of Crime Award is for the best unabridged crime audiobook first published in the United Kingdom in 2020 in both printed and audio formats, and available for download from audible.co.uk, Britain's largest provider of downloadable audiobooks.

Courtesy of sponsor Audible UK, the winning author and audiobook reader(s) share the £1,000 prize equally and each receives a Bristol Blue Glass commemorative award.

Eligible titles are submitted by publishers, and Audible UK listeners establish the shortlist and the winning title.

H.R.F. KEATING AWARD

The H.R.F. Keating Award is for the best biographical or critical book related to crime fiction first published in the United Kingdom in 2020. The award is named after H.R.F. 'Harry' Keating, one of Britain's most esteemed crime novelists, crime reviewers and writer of books about crime fiction.

The winning author receives a commemorative Bristol Blue Glass award.

Eligible titles are submitted by publishers, and a team of British crime fiction reviewers vote to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

LAST LAUGH AWARD

The Last Laugh Award is for the best humorous crime novel first published in the United Kingdom in 2020.

The winner receives a Bristol Blue Glass commemorative award.

Eligible titles are submitted by publishers, and a team of British crime fiction reviewers vote to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

eDUNNIT AWARD

The eDunnit Award is for the best crime fiction ebook first published in both hardcopy and in electronic format in the United Kingdom in 2020.

The winner receives a Bristol Blue Glass commemorative award.

Eligible titles are submitted by publishers, and a team of British crime fiction reviewers vote to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

BEST CRIME NOVEL FOR CHILDREN

This award is for the best crime novel for children (aged 8-12) first published in the United Kingdom in 2020.

The winner receives a commemorative Bristol Blue Glass award.

Eligible titles are submitted by publishers, and reviewers of fiction for children and young adults vote to establish the shortlist and the winning title.

BEST CRIME NOVEL FOR YOUNG ADULTS

This award is for the best crime novel for young adults (aged 12-16) first published in the United Kingdom in 2020.

The winner receives a commemorative Bristol Blue Glass award.

Eligible titles are submitted by publishers, and reviewers of fiction for children and young adults vote to establish the shortlist and the winning title.