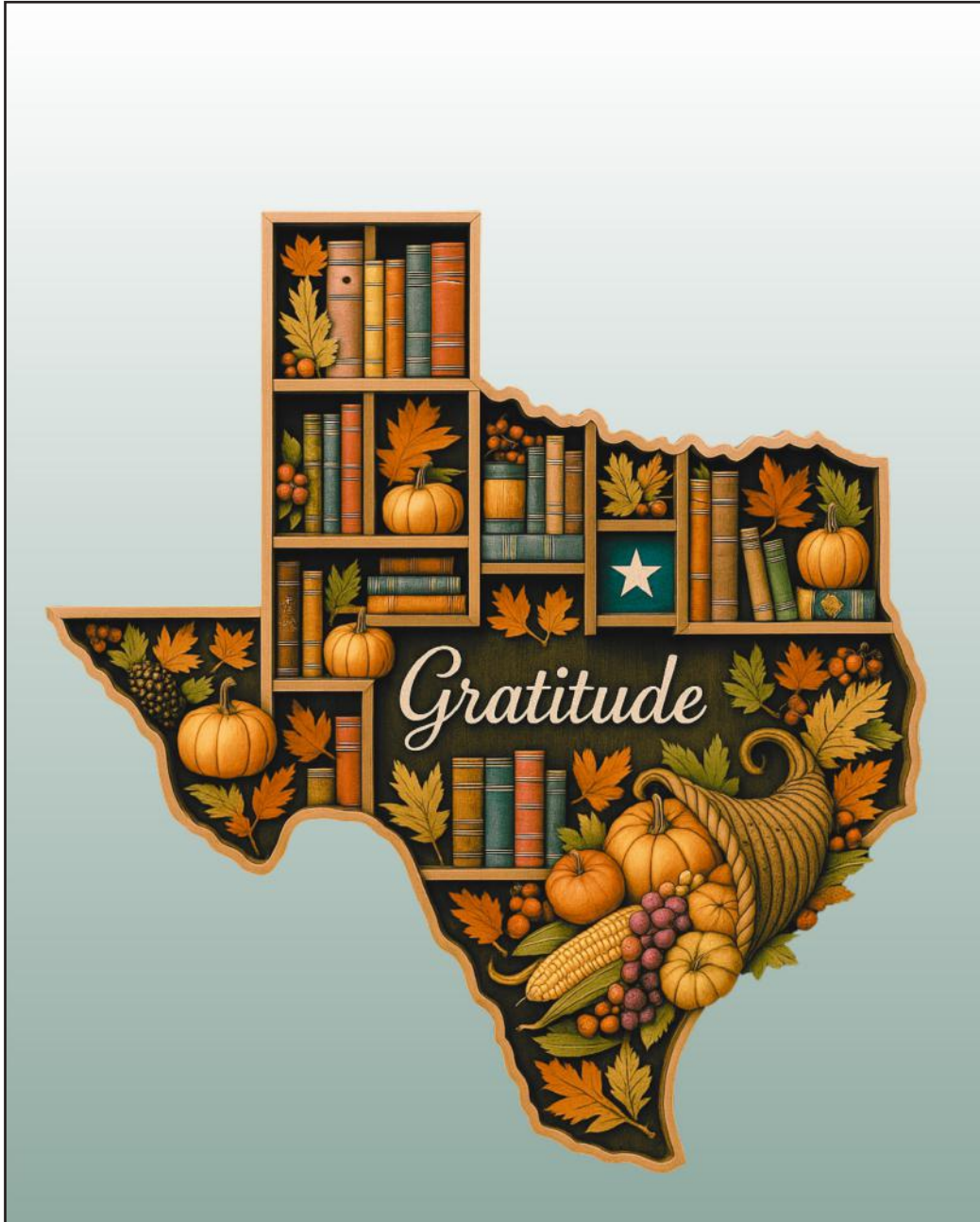


THE LONE STAR LITERARY LIFE

M A G A Z I N E



NOVEMBER 2025

ISSUE 14



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Reader,

Early mornings are when gratitude comes most naturally. Before the noise of the day crowds in, when my thinking brain hasn't yet switched on, I'm caught in that half-awake space between dreams and daylight. Everything seems brighter, sharper. I'm more full of wonder, more apt to notice a ray of sunshine slipping between the shutters to

illuminate the dust
and pool on the
floor. To slow
and watch
the single
monarch
flit here



and there—perhaps looking for his friends (why is he alone, I wonder?). To take deep breaths of the crisp air and sink into the gratitude that only comes after a scorching-hot Texas summer.

But gratitude isn't always effortless. Often, it's a choice rather than a feeling. In moments of loss—whatever the kind—when grief threatens to overwhelm every soul crevice, gratitude feels like a herculean task, like lifting heavy boulders and rolling them uphill, inch by inch. Reaching the top brings relief, and the view is often breathtaking—not grief-taking, but a respite all the same.

Gratitude during grief feels more intentional, more like fighting the currents. It can feel counterintuitive, but none of us are immune to loss—relationships, loved ones, jobs, seasons. The pain of letting go makes what remains all the

more precious. Choosing gratitude in those moments doesn't erase the hurt but transforms it. It turns the focus from what's gone to what's still here, glimmering in the quiet.


As I write this, I'm at a retreat in West Texas. The sky is big all around me, the horizon broken only by the ever-spinning wind turbines that stand like sentinels of modernity. There's a ruggedness to the land, a quiet determination that reminds me of the strength it takes to thrive here. It's a place that grows gratitude in me abundantly—thankful for the time alone, for the expansive stretches to think, imagine, and write.

There are so many places in Texas where I've felt this same surge of thankfulness: the piney woods of the Big Thicket, the soft rolling countryside of the Hill Country, the wide open plains of the Panhandle. Recalling them makes appreciation

well up in me—a pride of place that's uniquely Texan.

As I reflect on my time with Lone Star Literary Life, the most striking thing about my experience has been the people. Every person I've met is committed to the literary wellness of Texas. The common thread that binds us all is a passion for reading, for literacy, and for sharing the beautiful work of fellow Texans. My heart overflows with gratitude for everyone I've met on this Lone Star Lit journey.

As this season of gratitude unfolds, I hope you'll pause to notice the small, shining moments in your own days—the quiet miracles that ask for nothing but your attention.

Warmly,


AMY KELLY

Editor-in-Chief, Lone Star Literary Life

VIDEO FROM THE EDITOR

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November is full of fabulous bookish events in Texas. Visit the [Lone Star Lit Bookish Events calendar](#) for all the information to fill your days with books, authors, and literary fun.

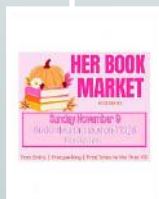
NOVEMBER

Bookish Events



NOV
2-15

Jewish Book & Arts Festival



NOV
9

HER Book Market



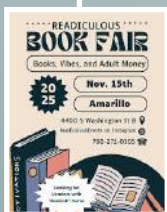
NOV
8-9

Texas Book Festival



NOV
9

Local Author Book Fest



NOV
15

Readiculous Book Fair



NOV
15-16

San Antonio Fear Fest



NOV
15

Nerd Con



NOV
15

Top Shelf Boozy Book Fair

SPONSORED EDITORIAL REVIEWS

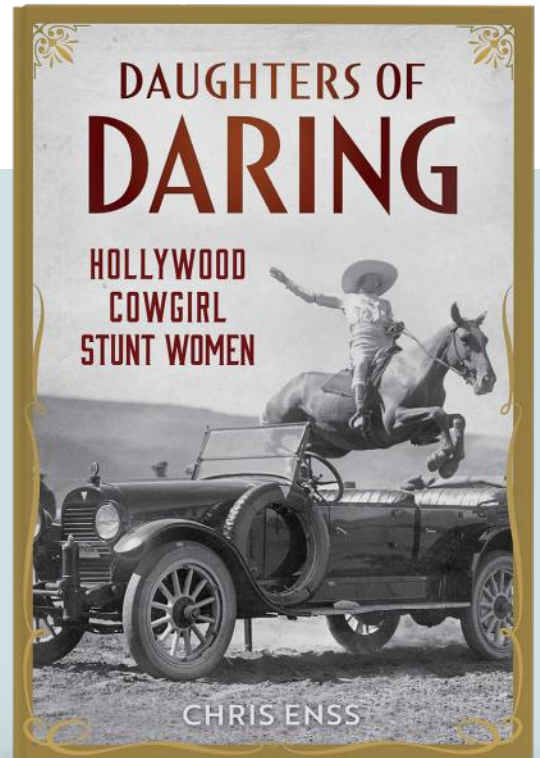
How the West Was Stunt-Doubled

DAUGHTERS OF DARING: HOLLYWOOD COWGIRL STUNT WOMEN

Chris Enss

Lyons Press

February 3, 2026



America's earliest movie creators learned quickly that audiences expected to see more than just a few pretty faces on flickering screens. Moviegoers wanted action, danger, heart-stopping shootouts, and startling displays of horseback heroics.

Chris Enss's lively new nonfiction work, *Daughters of Daring: Hollywood Cowgirl Stunt Women*, delivers eye-opening looks inside the risky careers of more than two dozen female horse riders who

became stunt performers in the early decades of the 20th century.

Filmmakers could not jeopardize the looks, careers, and lives of their high-paid stars by making them actually fall off horses or roll down dusty hills. But stunt doubles could take those risks—and more—at very low cost to a movie's budget.

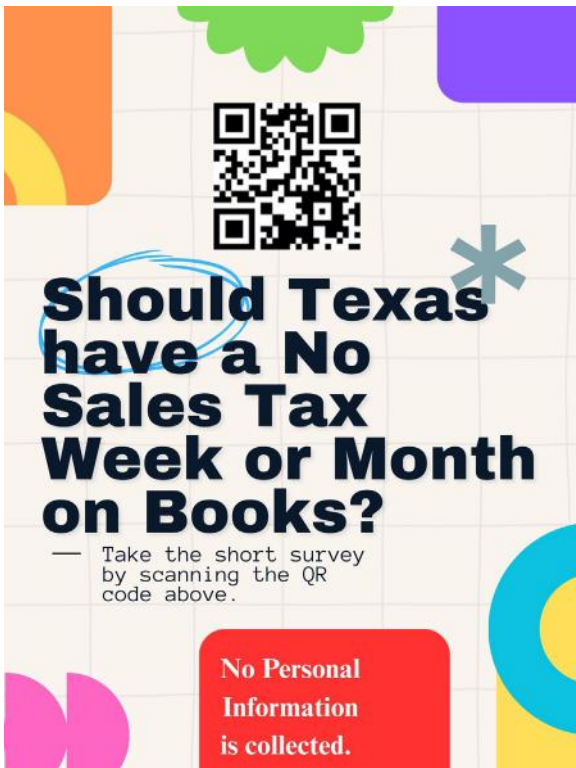
Some of the intrepid young women who became stunt doubles for well-paid movie stars were self-taught. Others had learned trick riding skills

while working in open-air vaudeville shows such as “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West” and Oklahoma’s “101 Ranch Wild West Show.”

In either case, “Hollywood couldn’t have gotten along without them,” Enss contends. “Many cast as stuntwomen were fated to spend a considerable amount of their motion picture career accumulating a large variety of cuts and bruises. Even when they were granted a small speaking part, there was always a fall, a dive, or a wagon collision to go with it. Talented stuntwomen took backward, forward, head-first, and feet-first falls into water, ditches, and nets, over chairs and tables, from the tops of pianos, out of high windows, through trapdoors, and down haylofts. Some rode wild horses; worked with bears, goats, pigs, and cows; and chased donkeys and steers. They doubled for such luminaries as Joan Crawford, Barbara Stanwyck, and Jean Arthur.”

It was a risky arrangement to be a stuntwoman. To get paid, a stuntwoman had to create a stunt, negotiate a price for it, rehearse it, and successfully pull it off on camera. If you got hurt and could no longer work, you were just out of luck.

The stuntwomen profiled in *Daughters of Daring* include five who rode in the Wild West shows, six who did stunts in the silent-movie days, and six who were standouts in “the talkies,” the movies made after the introduction of sound revitalized the motion picture business.



and starred in numerous Western shorts. "I had twelve real cowboys, a scenario writer, a cameraman, a carload of cartridges, my horse 'Waco' from Texas, and went to work. We made a picture a week," she remembered years later. "We never changed plots, only horses."

Regarding Roland, Enss writes: "Whether in chaps or an elegant gown, Ruth was always just a hair's breadth away from the most appalling situations in her pictures. Her director, with an astute comprehension of how to build suspense, would leave her tied to a railroad track with the express thundering around the bend or leaping on horseback from the edge of a cliff to escape a fate worse than death."

Daughters of Daring is fun, informative reading. It offers significant insights into how experienced stuntwomen helped shape and boost the motion picture business in the Southwest and kept audiences coming back for more.

Helen Gibson, Texas Guinan, and Ruth Roland are three examples of Enss's focused profiles. Gibson, who grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, is "recognized by film historians as the first professional American stuntwoman," Enss notes.

Guinan, a Waco native, preferred to have speaking parts in movies and but often did her own stunts; and Ruth Roland, a San Franciscan who became known as "the queen of the early movie serials."

In 1921, Guinan formed her own film company and produced



CREATIVITY FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Art House Dallas is a local non-profit that exists to create community and empower local artists. Each year we host over 100 events and programs for writers, musicians, visual artists, and performing artists. There's something for everyone!

www.arthousedallas.com



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Find out information, group applications, and registration at arthousedallas.com

November Book Campaigns

Lone Star Literary Life Book Campaigns has three exciting books to share for November.

Join our reviewers and dive into a tense historical mystery, a warm and whimsical children's book, and the next installment in a paranormal thriller.

Follow along on social media throughout the month for exclusive insights, behind-the-scenes content, and exciting updates about these must-read books. Many campaigns also include fantastic giveaways—your chance to win prizes that bring these literary adventures to life!

Don't miss out! Dive into these stories, connect with the authors, and discover your next favorite read. Stay engaged on social media to join the conversation and the fun. You can find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), and [X](#).



Hummingbird Moonrise

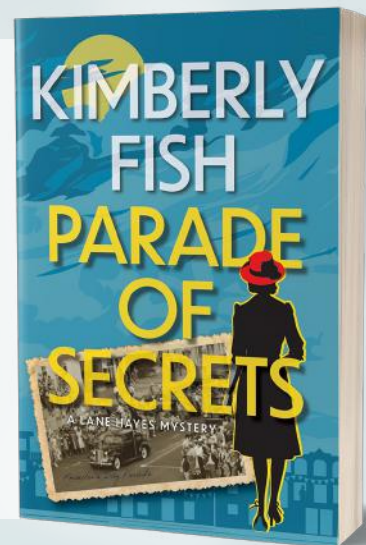
By Sherri L. Dodd

Black Rose Writing
Paranormal Thriller / Fantasy / Magical
Realism
November 4-17

Parade of Secrets: A Lane Hayes Mystery

By Kimberly Fish

Fish Tales Publishing
Historical Mystery / Female Sleuth
November 11-25



Maddie - A Little Ghost with a Secret

By Cindy Vanous

Children's Book
November 18-December 1



TEXAS LITERARY PODCASTS FEATURE

This month, we're filled with gratitude for the podcasters who amplify our state's literary heartbeat. Through every thoughtful interview and lively discussion, they connect readers, writers, and dreamers across Texas. Tune in, listen deeply, and join us in celebrating the storytellers who keep the conversation—and our literary community—thriving.



Across the Pond



Austin Liti Limits



Book Public



Good Scribes Only



Hill Country Authors



Likely Stories



Romancing the Story



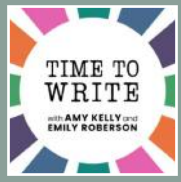
She Wore Black



Texas Standard - Stories from Texas



Texas Talking Books Podcast



Time to Write



TLA's Libraries Transform Texas Podcast

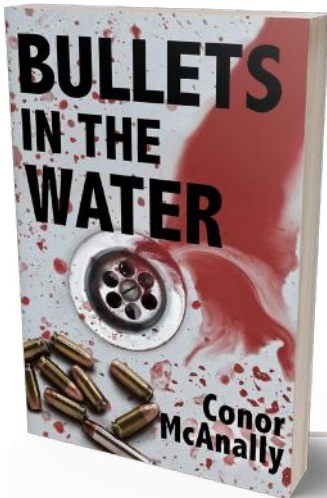


The Write Atmosphere



Gratitude overflowing

We are thankful for the depth of creativity and expertise that Texas authors bring to our literary community. Each month we celebrate new Texas-connected books, and this month we have an exceptional bounty to share with you. We are grateful to highlight gorgeous titles for young readers, compelling mysteries for the sleuth in your life, nonfiction titles for levelling up your learning, and much more. Peruse these favorites, and [click here](#) to experience the entire collection on our website.



BULLETS IN THE WATER

by Conor McAnally

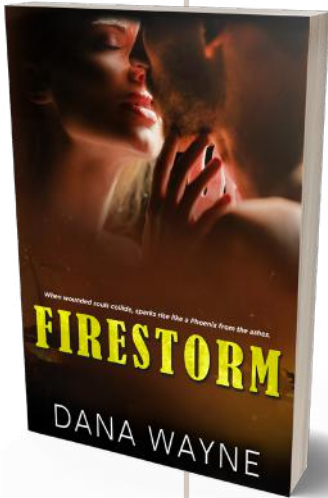
Investigative Thriller
Stoney Creek Publishing
November 04

CROWN OF THORNS

by Jennifer Rebecca

Romance / Royal Romance /
Romantic Suspense
November 17





FIRESTORM

by Dana Wayne

Fiction / Romance / Contemporary /
Romantic Suspense
October 01

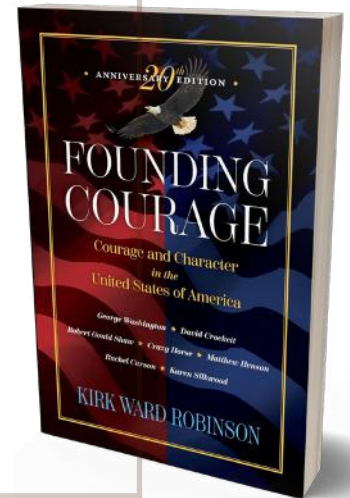
FOUNDING COURAGE

by Kirk Ward Robinson

Nonfiction

HighlandHome

October 21



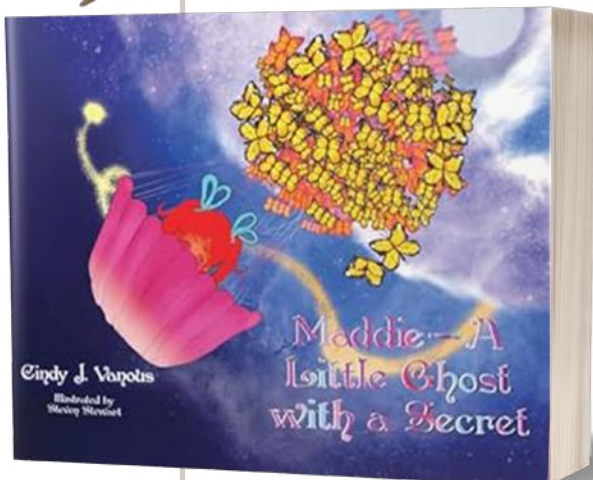
MADDIE - A LITTLE GHOST WITH A SECRET

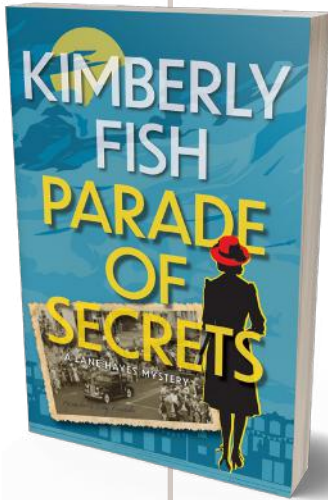
by Cindy J. Vanous

Children's Picture Book

Adriel Publishing

September 25





PARADE OF SECRETS

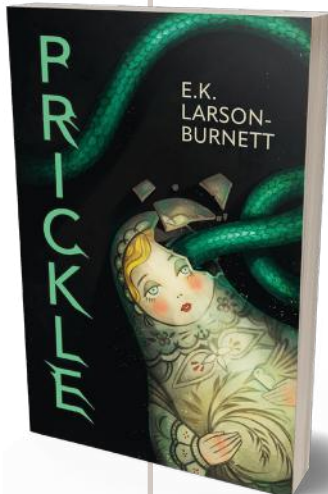
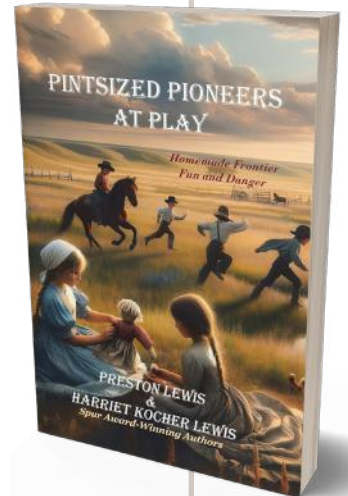
by Kimberly Fish

Historical / Mystery
Fish Tales Publishing
October 31

PINTSIZED PIONEERS AT PLAY: HOMEMADE FRONTIER FUN AND DANGER

by Preston Lewis and Harriet Kocher Lewis

Young Adult / Nonfiction
Bariso Press
November 04

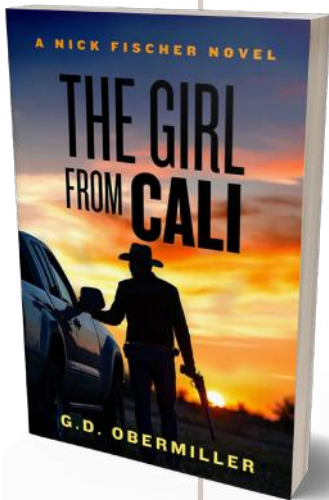


PRICKLE

by E.K. Larson-Burnett

Horror
November 4





THE GIRL FROM CALI:

A NICK FISCHER NOVEL

by *G.D. Obermiller*

Mystery / Crime / Thriller

November 05

THE OLD ALCALDE:

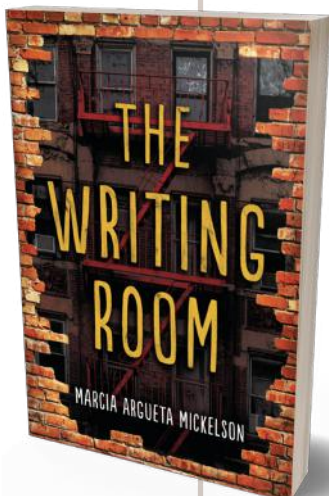
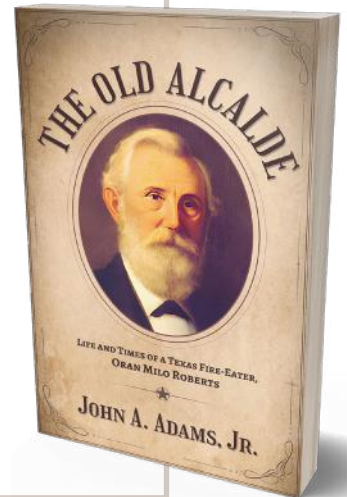
LIFE AND TIMES OF A TEXAS FIRE-EATER, ORAN MILO ROBERTS

by *John A. Adams, Jr.*

Nonfiction / Texas History

Stoney Creek Publishing

November 18



THE WRITING ROOM

by *Marcia Argueta Mickelson*

Young Adult Fiction

Lerner

November 4



BOOKISH HUMOR

Chris Manno's award-winning cartoons appear in periodicals worldwide. Several of his cartoon collections are available in paperback and Kindle format. He is also the author of the award-winning Texas novels *East Jesus* and *Blood and Remembrance*. Manno earned a doctorate in English from Texas Christian University, where he teaches writing. Enjoy more of Manno's cartoons in *Cartoon Chronicle: Winter 2024-2025*.



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THE POWER OF YOUR AUTHOR BRAND

Have you ever wondered why some authors seem instantly recognizable—even before you’ve read their latest release? That’s the power of a well-crafted author brand.

What Is an Author Brand?

Your author brand is more than a logo, tagline, or color palette—it’s your promise to readers. It’s the emotional connection that tells them what to expect from your writing, your tone, and even your values. A strong brand makes your name stand out in a crowded market and builds trust over time.

Think of your favorite authors. Chances are, you can describe their “vibe” without even trying. Whether it’s cozy comfort, dark suspense, or bold adventure, that consistency is what draws readers back again and again.

Why It Matters

In today’s publishing landscape, readers connect with *people* as much as with stories.

A clear author brand:

- Helps readers instantly recognize your work
- Builds loyalty and trust among your audience

- Guides your marketing decisions and messaging
- Opens doors to media, partnerships, and cross-promotions

Without a brand, your efforts can feel scattered—your posts, covers, and bios may all point in different directions. With a brand, every piece of your online presence works together to strengthen your identity and attract your ideal readers.

How to Get Started

You don't need a marketing degree to create a strong brand—you just need clarity and consistency. Start by asking yourself:

- What themes, emotions, or ideas run through my work?
- How do I want readers to feel after reading my books or posts?
- What makes me different from other authors in my genre?

Once you can answer those questions, you're on your way to defining a brand that truly reflects you and resonates with your audience.

Ready to Craft Yours?

If you've been meaning to create (or refresh) your author brand, now's the perfect time. *Lone Star Literary Life* is offering a **5-day email course—Crafting Your Author Brand**—designed to help you define your voice, visuals, and message with confidence.

It's affordable, actionable, and created just for authors like you. Each day delivers bite-sized lessons and prompts to help you shape a cohesive, authentic brand that grows with you.

Click here to reserve your spot

Your stories deserve to be remembered—and your author brand is how that happens.

Out & about

With

Lone Star Literary Life

Lone Star Literary Life has been on the move! This fall, we connected with writers and readers across Texas—from our table at the New Frontiers in Writing Conference in Amarillo to the DFW Writers Conference in Hurst—and enjoyed meetups with incredible authors along the way. We love celebrating the Texas literary community wherever the road takes us!

At New Frontiers in Writing Conference



Lunch date

Leslie with Kimberly Fish, author of Parade of Secrets



Amy with Jan Sikes, Author of the Bargainer Series and Linda Broday, author of Cade's Quest



Amy with Mike Ely and Linda Street-Ely, authors of Fly Air Lines

At DFWCon



Leslie with Amy J. Schultz,
author of Mumentous



Amy and Leslie with WM Gunn,
author of The Calendar



Amy and Leslie with Amber Royer,
author of the Bean to Bar Mystery Series



Amy with Colin Holmes,
author of Thunder Road



INDIE BOOKSTORE ROUNDUP

Texas bookstores are opening, expanding, fundraising, closing, and celebrating. Read on! Booksellers, please email us at info@lonestar-lit.com to share any news you would like to share.

ARLINGTON



Folklore Grove Bookstore

opened in late September at 2410 W. Abram. They offer rare reads and a curated selection of new books.

BROWNSVILLE



Búho announced that they are adding a coffee and wine bar to the bookstore. Expect a bit of construction difficulty as they get started on this exciting new phase of their growth.

HUTTO



The Story Emporium & Book Shop will open in November at 202 US 79. Owner Ash L. O'Rourke plans to focus on highlighting local and independent authors. Readers can help support their launch here.

LAMPASAS



Hester's Books on the Square celebrated their two-year anniversary with a Bookish Farmer's Market event hosting multiple authors.

LUBBOCK



LIT Brews, Lubbock's new bookstore and coffee shop, opened on October 4.

NACOGDOCHES



Grim's Fiction opened a few months ago and offers new fiction, comics, table top games, and collectibles.

ROCKWALL



FABLE & FIRE
A BOOKSHOP BISTRO

Fabled & Fire announced that they are expanding their retail space for books and adding a private dining area. The new space should be open in November.

SALADO



Redbird Books closed at the end of September.

OTHER INDUSTRY NEWS

Texas booksellers Sherrele Goloversic of The Book Readers Venue and Rosa Mendez of Books by the Bay won scholarships to the American Booksellers Association Winter Institute 2026.

Kathleen Y'Barbo has accepted the role of Executive Board CEO of the American Christian Fiction Writers organization.



Trinity University announced that Trinity University Press will be closing its doors. The San Antonio Express-News reported that the closure will take place over a sixteen-month time frame, finalizing in December 2026.

AUTHOR AWARDS ROUNDUP

Texas authors shine in this roundup of awards and accolades from across the literary world. We're shouting praise from the rooftops for the vibrant Texas literary community. Are you an author with a 2025 book award we haven't shared? [Please let us know here.](#)



Marlene M. Bell won the [FAPA President's Gold Medal](#) in the [Mystery/Suspense](#) category for *A Hush at Midnight*.



Heather Camacho won the [Christlit Book Award 2025](#) for her novel *From Graves to Gardens*.

Costanza Casati won the [Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize](#) sponsored by the Wilbur & Niso Smith Foundation for her historical fiction novel *Babylonia*.

Lynn Dean placed second in the Western Fiction category of the AWSA's 2025 Golden Scroll Award for *The Friendship Quilt*.

Ian Griffin won the Regional Fiction–USA Southwest category of the Story Trade Awards with his novel *The Widow's Savior*. His novel *Ascend from the Ashes* won the Bronze Award in the Fiction: Thriller–Espionage category of the Readers' Favorite Book Award.

Kathryn Lane won the Gold Medal in the Private Investigator category of the Global Book Awards with her work *Rage in the Wilderness*.

Joe R. Lansdale won Splatterpunk's J.F. Gonzalez Lifetime Achievement Award, which honors superior achievement in the literary sub-genres of splatterpunk and extreme horror fiction.

Linda Quintanilla won the 2025 Tejano Society of Austin's Tejano Book Award for her work *Warriors for Social Justice*.

2025 STILETTO CONTEST



Kimberly Packard

won the Contemporary Romance Long category

of the 2025 Stiletto Contest from Contemporary Romance Writers for *This Time Around*.

Scott Semegran won the Discovery Prize for Fiction from the Writers' League of Texas for *The Codger and the Sparrow*.



B.J. Sloan won the Readers' Choice Award from the 2025 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Awards for

The Forgotten Son.



Dana Wayne

won the Pinnacle Book Award in the Suspense category for *The Detail*.

Karen Witemeyer won Western Novel of the Year for *If the Book Fits* and Historical Novel of the Year for *Cloaked in Beauty* from the Golden Scroll Awards.

HUGO AWARDS

Best Novel– *The Tainted Cup* by
Robert Jackson Bennett



Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book–
Sheine Lende by Darcie Little Badger



WRITERS LEAGUE OF TEXAS 2024 BOOK AWARDS

Winners:

Fiction– *We Burn Daylight*
by Bret Anthony Johnston

Nonfiction– *We Were Illegal:
Uncovering a Texas Family's
Mythmaking and Migration*
by Jessica Godeau

Poetry– *How to Abandon
Ship* by Sasha West

Middle Grade/ Young Adult–
The Harrowing by Kristen
Kesling and Rye Hickman

Picture Book– *Desert Song*
by Laekan Zea Kemp

Discovery Prize Winners:

Fiction– *The Codger and the
Sparrow* by Scott Semegran

Nonfiction– *Starry Field: A
Memoir of Lost History* by
Margaret Lee

Poetry– *How to Kill a Goat
& Other Monsters* by Saúl
Hernández

Middle Grade/Young Adult–
The Ascenditure by Robyn
Dabney

Picture Book– *Kindred Spirits*
by Leslie Stall Widener



GIVE THE GIFT OF STORY—AND SUPPORT TEXAS CREATORS

Discover the perfect presents for every book lover in your life! This season, celebrate the spirit of giving with our Holiday Gift Guide, featuring books, authors, and bookish businesses that make Texas shine.

2025 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



LONE★STAR
LITERARY★LIFE

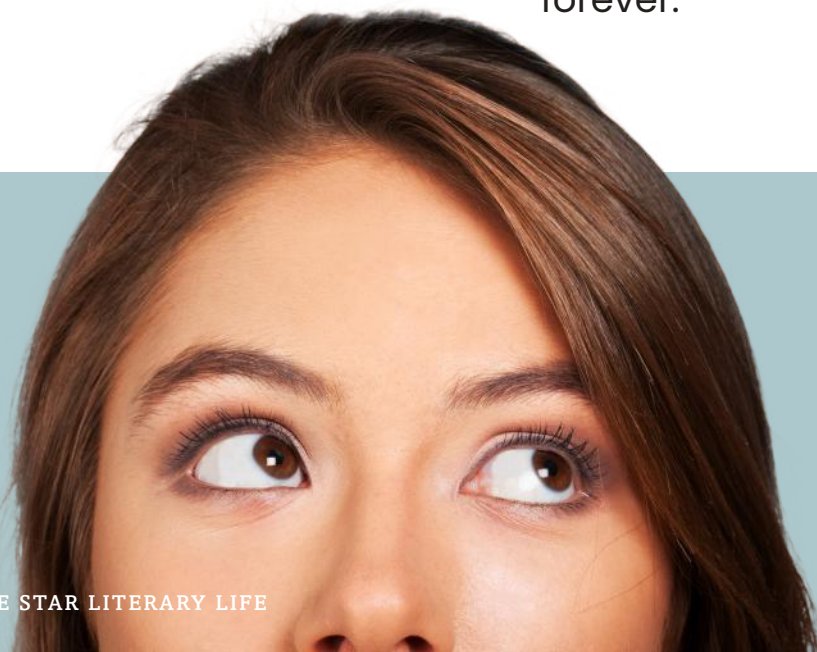
WHAT TO READ NEXT IN YOUNG ADULT

Welcome to *Texas Reads YA!* As a teen who loves to read YA, I sometimes have a hard time finding quality YA novels.

Both of these novels weave beautiful coming of age stories into harder topics either politically or morally. They speak to the ideas of roles and where you fit into the world around you.

THE STORY OF MY ANGER

Yulieta Lopez is angry. Angry at her racist drama teacher who refuses to cast Black students in lead roles. Angry at the school board threatening her favorite teacher for teaching works of literature that they deem “controversial.” Angry that she has to keep quiet until she can head to college and leave Texas forever.



Yuli is accustomed to playing various roles: the diligent daughter, the honorable hija, the good girl who serves everyone else before serving herself. But as the fire of Yuli's rage spreads and lights her up, she can no longer be silent. Determined to find a way to fight back, Yuli and her friends start a guerilla theatre club which stirs things up and gets people talking, and finally, Yuli steps into the role she was always meant to play.

The Story of My Anger beautifully weaves together playwriting and poetry into a story that captures so much emotion. This story is

empowering and honest. It deals with politics, racism, and oppression. It is a story that is real and raw and so powerful for those going through similar things.

Jasminne Mendez is Pura Belpré Honor Award recipient and a Dominican-American poet, playwright and author of several books for children and adults. She is also a poet, playwright, translator, and professional audiobook narrator.





LIES YOU NEVER TOLD ME

Gabe and Elyse have never met. But they both have something to hide.

Quiet, shy Elyse can't believe it when she's cast as the lead in her Portland high school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Her best friend, Brynn, is usually the star, and Elyse isn't sure she's up to the task. But when someone at rehearsals starts to catch her eye--someone she knows she absolutely shouldn't be with--she can't help but be pulled into the spotlight.

Austin native Gabe is contemplating the unthinkable--breaking up with Sasha, his headstrong, popular girlfriend. She's not going to let him slip through her fingers, though, and when rumors start to circulate around school, he knows she has the power to change his life forever.

Gabe and Elyse both make the mistake of falling for the wrong person, and falling hard. Told in parallel narratives, this twisty, shocking story shows how one bad choice can lead to a spiral of unforeseen consequences that not everyone will survive.

Lies You Never Told Me is a YA thriller that contains diversity among the characters and struggles as well as a truly YA voice. The novel has an authentic feel due to the very real struggles and issues that the main characters deal with. The two stories connect in an unexpected way and just add to the suspense aspect of the novel.

Jennifer Donaldson graduated from Reed College and received her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin. She currently lives in Austin with her family.

Sydney Spell is a student at UT Austin. She has enjoyed reading throughout her adolescence and is an especially big fan of YA novels.



Books on the Bosque

Writing Conference

November 8, 2025

Saturday - 9:30 a.m.

*Workshops with
Nancy Robinson Masters
and Natalie Bright*

**Bosque Arts Center
Clifton, TX**

215 S. College Hill Dr.
254-675-3724

10 Ways to Celebrate

GRATITUDE IN YOUR WRITING

November is the season of year we to pause and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. We have been given the gift of communicating through the written word. Writing energizes us with joy, meaning, and purpose. Our calling is to delight readers with stories, nonfiction, poetry, and songs that entertain, inspire, inform, and encourage. That sounds like a grand celebration to me!

I invite you to record 10 ways of celebrating gratitude in your writing. Here is my list, and perhaps it will spark a few ideas for you.

1. Start a gratitude journal for your writing.

Record those wow moments of your day when you've met your word count, submitted a manuscript, received encouragement, or finished revisions that made your piece dance the turkey trot.

2. Write a thank-you note. Do you remember the first person who saw your enthusiasm for writing and urged you pursue the craft wholeheartedly? Tell them your heartfelt thanks.

3. **Reach out to mentors.**

Many seasoned writers, who shared their wisdom and took time to help you, don't realize how much they bless a fledging new writer on their journey.

4. **Acknowledge your family.**

They have sacrificed time and space so we can learn the craft. They are behind-the-scenes people who deserve hearing how they have helped us. Create a small note or invite them to a special event in their honor. That enables them to be part of your writing success.

5. **Thank the sales and marketing staff.**

These unsung heroes work tirelessly to market and promote our books. Send a card or note that expresses your thankfulness. Arranging a tray of goodies for their breakroom will shine a star after your name.

6. **Appreciate your editors.**

They make our work sparkle. Have you told them how much you value their time and patience?

7. **Invest in a gratitude**

jar. Develop the habit of recording the best part of your day and drop it into the jar. Even when it's a stretch, there's always something good. You could title your journal SAR— Search and Rescue. Use it throughout the year when down days are discouraging. Open the jar and spend time building your confidence and self-esteem to fight discouragement. You can do it!

8. **Give back to another**

writer. Offer feedback, instruction, helpful support, or a cup of coffee. Sometimes a listening ear is all they need. Sometimes empathy is the greatest gift.

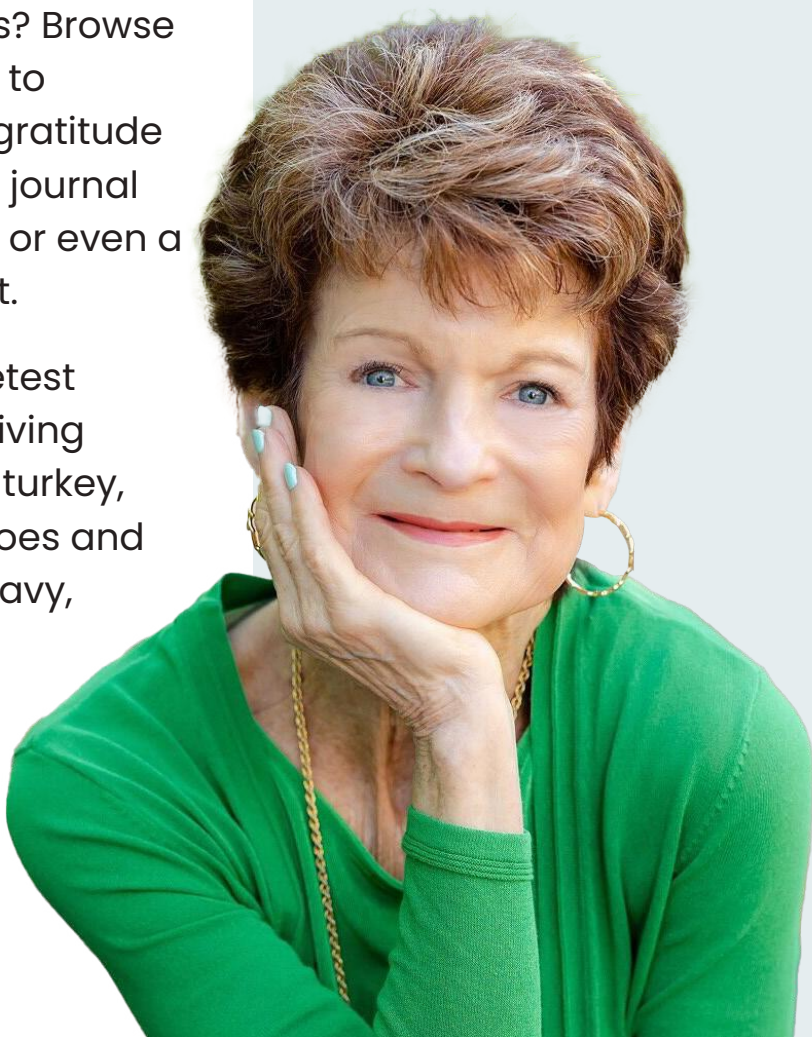
9. Host a thank-you meal. Invite friends, neighbors, or book club members who support your commitment to writing. Ensure it's enjoyable, and the event is all about them. Perhaps a decorated cake that says, "Thank you to all my bookish friends."

10. Celebrate your online community. Social-media friends are faithful supporters! Write a short story, novella, poem, article, or meme, to show your gratitude.

Bonus! Need more ideas? Browse online for creative ways to celebrate writing. Try a gratitude or blessing jar, a unique journal with just the right cover, or even a custom mug or a T-shirt.

Writing is one life's sweetest treasures, a gift worth giving thanks for. So carve the turkey, pass the mashed potatoes and dressing, pour on the gravy, butter another roll, and don't forget a slice of pumpkin pie—with whipped cream.

DiAnn Mills is a bestselling author who invites her readers to step into stories where suspense meets adventure and romance warms the heart. Known for crafting unforgettable characters tangled in unpredictable plots, DiAnn believes every breath we take unfolds a story waiting to be told—so why not make it thrilling?



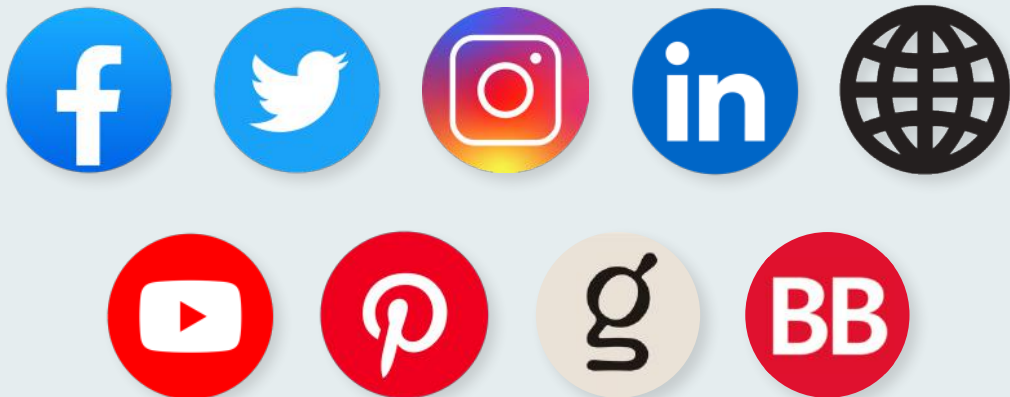
Her novels have consistently landed on bestseller lists including CBA, ECPA, and Publishers Weekly, and have won prestigious awards such as the Christy, Selah, Golden Scroll, Inspirational Readers' Choice, and Carol awards.

DiAnn is a founding board member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Conference Advisor for the Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers. She actively participates in Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, Mystery Writers of America, the Jerry Jenkins Writers Guild, International Thriller Writers, Outliers Writing University, and The Christian Pen. DiAnn passionately invests in helping

fellow authors succeed through mentoring, book coaching, and editing. She travels nationwide speaking and teaching engaging writing workshops.

A proud coffee snob who roasts her own beans, DiAnn also enjoys diving into good books, experimenting in the kitchen, and unabashedly spoiling her grandchildren—whom she insists are the smartest kids in the universe. She and her husband make their home under the sunny skies of Houston, Texas.

Connect with DiAnn online for behind-the-scenes glimpses, writing tips, and lively discussions:





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📅 Texas Bookish Events Calendar

Hosting a launch party, book signing, or workshop? Add your event to our statewide calendar and connect with readers who are ready to show up and support.

LET'S TELL TEXAS ABOUT YOUR BOOK!



2025 EDITORIAL CALENDAR

MONTH	THEMES	CONTENT DEADLINE	AD CLOSE	PUB DATE
JAN	PERCEPTION	1/6	1/6	01/08
FEB	LOVE	01/22	01/29	02/05
MAR	FATE	02/19	02/26	03/05
APR	RENEWAL	03/19	03/26	04/02
MAY	CELEBRATE	04/16	04/30	05/07
JUN	CHARACTER	05/21	05/28	06/04
JUL	FREEDOM	06/18	06/25	07/02
AUG	BEGIN	07/23	07/30	08/06
SEP	LEARNING	08/20	08/27	09/03
OCT	HARVEST	09/15	09/10	10/01
NOV	GRATITUDE	10/15	10/10	11/05
DEC	GIFTING	11/15	11/10	12/03



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