

Chicago Author Wins NYC Big Book Award

The NYC Big Book Award recognizes THE ISLANDER by David W. Berner (Outpost19 Books/The Shortish Project) as the Winner in the Novella category

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Author David W. Berner receives national recognition through the [NYC BIG BOOK AWARDS](#)

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(Outpost19 Books/The Shortish Project) as the Winner in the Novella category.

The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, book cover designers and professional copywriters. Selected award winners and distinguished favorites are based on overall excellence.

David W. Berner is a long-time Chicago broadcaster and author, and lives and writes at his home in Clarendon Hills, Illinois.

THE ISLANDER by David W. Berner

Seamus Damp is an aging American-born writer who retreats to a remote island off the coast of Ireland to escape to a monastic life. But his troubled past is always near, and his estranged relationship with his son is fraught with heartbreak. When a young woman who carries her own heartache-filled past comes to the island on a solitary spiritual and hiking adventure, she and Seamus discover an unusual bond and together attempt to find a way to heal their hearts and



erase their collective sorrows.

During a harrowing coastal storm, the young woman seeks refuge at Seamus' door. A night of conversation while the wild weather rages begins their journey toward a mutual understanding of their personal stories of betrayal, death, and emotional hopelessness. Eventually, the young woman helps Seamus through health emergencies, and emergencies of the heart -- old and new -- as she, too, attempts to discover her own way toward an emotional breakthrough on a beautiful yet rugged, wind-swept island where solitude is its greatest gift.

The Islander is part of The Shortish Project, celebrating short novels at <https://outpost19.com>

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The impressive roster of international and domestic entries resulted in a record year for book award winners in major categories. The competition draws a diverse and high-quality author and publisher. The NYC Big Book Award boasts a worldwide entry pool from Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. This year, cities such as Ann Arbor, Denver, Edinburgh, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Miami Beach, New Delhi, New York, Ottawa, Princeton, San Francisco, San Juan, Singapore, and Winnipeg were represented. Winners were recognized from Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, England, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, and the United States.

Journalists, well established authors, small and large presses, and first-time independent authors participated in remarkable numbers. Awardees hailed from Blackstone Publishing, Berrett-Koehler, Beyond Words, Casemate, Cinnabar Moth Publishing, Four Way Books, Fantagraphics, Greenleaf Book Group Press, Ideapress, Inner Traditions, Kogan Page, Ooligan Press, Riverhead Books, Rutgers University Press, She Writes Press, Story Monsters Press, Teacher Created Materials, The Wild Rose Press, and the White House Historical Association.

"Our team is honored to highlight the excellence and achievements of a diverse array of authors and publishers," said awards sponsor Gabrielle Olczak. "Their work represents a commitment to excellence. It is our mission and privilege to continue to showcase their work in an international forum."

To view the list of winners, visit <https://www.nycbigbookaward.com/2023winners> and distinguished favorites: <https://www.nycbigbookaward.com/2023distinguishedfavorites>

YouTube Channel <http://youtube.com/c/IndependentPressAwardSpringNYCBigBookAwardFall>

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