Joseph Howse Sweeps Multiple Categories at the 2026 NYC Big Book Award®!

'The Circus and the Atom' Takes Top Honors in World Literature and Audiobook Fiction, Alongside Visual and Performance Accolades



2026 NYC Big Book Award Winner - For Immediate Release

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA, September 3, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Author Joseph Howse has achieved major acclaim at the 2026 NYC Big Book Award, securing victories and top distinctions across multiple categories for his literary Next Year's Snow series.

> To have The Circus and the Atom recognized so broadly, from its core text to the audio performance and visual design, is a huge honor."
>
> *Awards Sponsor Gabby Olczak*

Howse's latest novel, The Circus and the Atom, the second installment in his acclaimed Next Year's Snow series, was named category winner in both World Literature and Audiobook-Fiction. Highlighting the title's visual design, the book was also recognized as a Distinguished Favorite for Book Cover Design – Fiction.

Adding to the celebration, both Howse's audiobooks won in Audiobook-Fiction. Howse's first title, The Girl in the Water, earned the prestigious title of Distinguished Favorite in Audiobook-Fiction, while his current title, The Circus and the Atom, took first place and was crowned the winner. Both audiobooks were narrated by Annette Chown.

"To have The Circus and the Atom recognized so broadly, from its core text to the audio performance and visual design, is a huge honor," said Awards Sponsor Gabby Olczak. "Seeing both of these audiobooks celebrated with Annette Chown's brilliant narration must make this recognition especially rewarding for Mr. Howse."

Both of Howse's titles have been critically acclaimed. This year, Printed Word Reviews said "The Circus and the Atom is a riveting and deeply resonant work of historical fiction that trades the sprawling landscape of its predecessor for the claustrophobic tension of a single, pivotal moment in time. Set in Kiev on the eve of 1989, Joseph Howse utilizes the dying days of the Soviet Union to construct a high-stakes, character-driven drama infused with a palpable sense of

political noir." Review at https://www.printedwordreviews.com/bookreviews/9781738788613

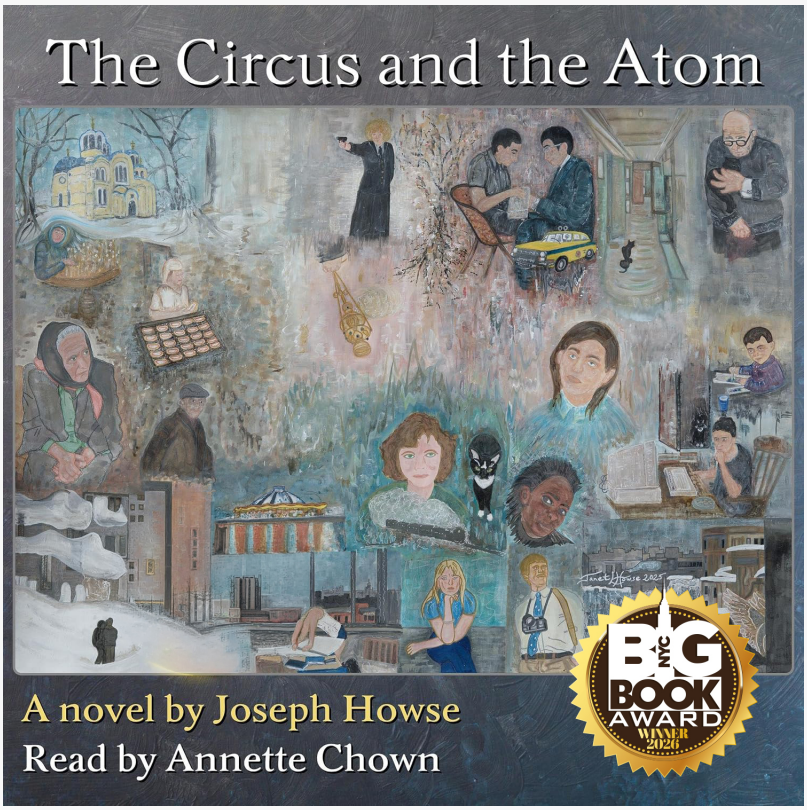
In addition, Printed Word Reviews said earlier that Howse's first work “The Girl in the Water is a deeply moving and meticulously crafted work of literary fiction that takes readers into the often-unseen domestic world of the Soviet Union in the 1980s." The full review can be accessed here: https://www.printedwordreviews.com/bookreviews/9780995287853

NYC Big Book Award received book submissions worldwide. Attorneys, Doctors, Entrepreneurs, Film & Television writers, Historians, and Journalists, from well established authors to first time indie authors as well as small and large presses participated.

Entries this year were received from the United States as well as countries such as Australia, Canada, China, Dubai, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore, South Korea United, Sweden, Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Cities represented among the entries were Auckland, Baltimore, Dallas, Frankfurt, Hollywood, Johannesburg, Manhattan Beach, New Orleans, NYC, Philadelphia, Sydney, and West Palm Beach.



Award-winning author Joseph Howse



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Publishers included Beacon Press, Berrett-Koehler, Casemate, Edinburgh University Press, Forbes Books, Kiplinger Books, NYU Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Penguin Random House, Rizzoli, Routledge, The White House Historical Association, University of California Press, University of Nebraska Press,

Weaving Influence Press, and Wiley.

"We have an amazing list of authors from around the globe participating this year," said awards sponsor Gabby Olczak. "I'm so excited to share these books with a worldwide readership!"

To view the list of NYC Big Book winners and distinguished favorites, please visit: https://www.nycbigbookaward.com/

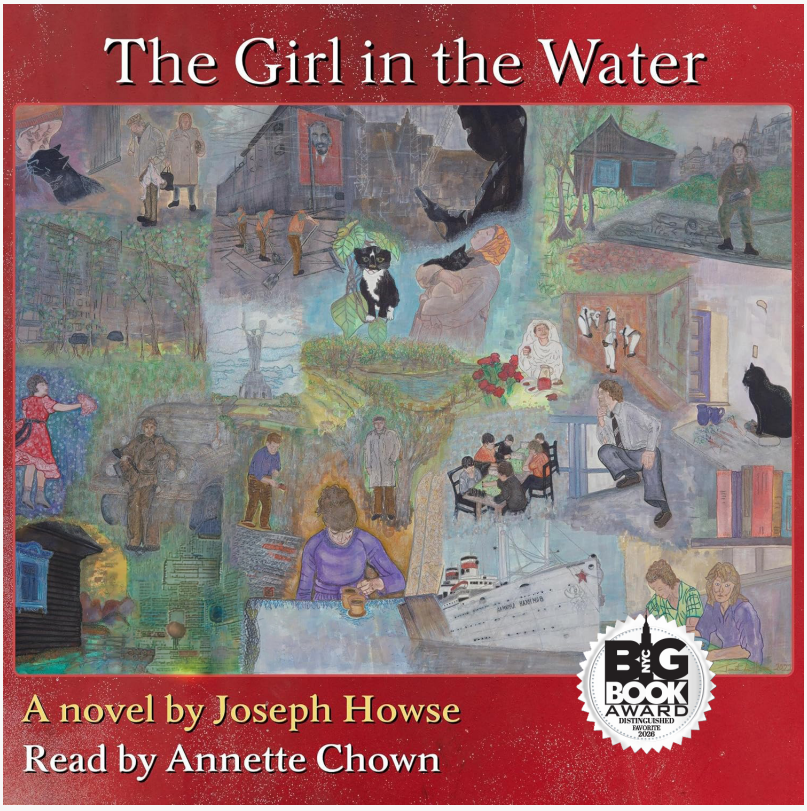
The Circus and the Atom and The Girl in the Water are available in print, digital, and audiobook formats at major booksellers worldwide.

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The NYC Big Book Award recognizes excellence in books published worldwide across all sectors of the industry, drawing entries from major Big Five publishing houses, independent publishers, small presses, and self-published authors alike. The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, designers, booksellers, librarians and professional copywriters. Winners and distinguished favorites are based on overall excellence.

NYC Big Book Award, https://www.nycbigbookaward.com/, is announced every fall. NYC Big Book Award is open to all authors, publishers, and illustrators, and includes submissions from the big five publishers. Join us for the Independent Press Award, deadlines every December 15th, is open to independent authors and publishers, visit: https://www.independentpressaward.com/winners

2026 NYC Big Book Award Winner



2026 NYC Big Book Award Distinguished Favorite

And, join us for the Awards Dinner on April 10th, https://www.nycbigbookaward.com/awardsdinner, held at the BookCAMP event, April 9-10, 2027, https://www.ipabookcamp.com, where recipients from both programs will walk on stage to receive their awards.

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About Printed Word Reviews

Led by publishing veteran Ted Olczak, Printed Word Reviews provides editorial reviews, publishing resources, and marketing strategy for independent authors and presses. Printed Word Reviews is a premier literary publication dedicated to highlighting award-winning authors and their books as well as exploring the intersection of culture, history, and the written word. Through insightful reviews, essays, and featured columns, the publication highlights the voices shaping contemporary literature and social discourse. https://www.printedwordreviews.com/

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