



Nominees for the 2026 Anthony Awards

THIS IS NOT A BALLOT.

Voting for the awards will only be at Bouchercon 2026 in October. You must be in attendance to be eligible to vote on the final ballot.

Best Hardcover Novel

- **All This Could Be Yours** by Hank Phillippi Ryan, Minotaur Books
- **The Black Wolf** by Louise Penny, Minotaur Books
- **Crooks** by Lou Berney, William Morrow & Company
- **Death of an Ex** by Delia Pitts, Minotaur Books
- **King of Ashes** by S.A. Cosby, Flatiron Books: Pine and Cedar

Notes

Best First Novel

- **History Lessons** by Zoe B. Wallbrook, Soho Crime
- **Julie Chan is Dead** by Liann Zhang, Atria Books,
- **Mask of the Deer Woman** by Laurie L. Dove, Berkley Books
- **The Retirement Plan** by Sue Hincenbergs, William Morrow & Company
- **Voices of the Elysian Fields** by Michael Rigg, Level Best Books
- **Whiskey Business** by Adrian Andover, Chestnut Avenue Press

Best Paperback Original/E-Book/ Audiobook Original Novel

- **Crimson Thaw** by Bruce Robert Coffin, Severn River Publishing
- **Edge** by Tracy Clark, Thomas & Mercer
- **River of Lies** by James L'Etoile, Oceanview Publishing
- **This Violent Heart** by Heather Levy, Montlake
- **Tricks of Fortune** by Lina Chern, Bantam

Best Short Story

- **"AITA for Using My Husband's Hobby to Teach Him a Lesson"**, by Mindy Carlson, in *Myopic Duplicity: Do the Ends Ever Justify the Means?*, Kindle/Audible
- **"Brotherly Love"**, by Cheryl A. Head, in *Every Day a Little Death: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Songs of Stephen Sondheim*, Level Short
- **"Finding Jimmy Baldwin"**, by Cheryl A. Head, in *Crime Ink: Iconic: An Anthology of Crime Fiction Inspired by Queer Icons*, Bywater Books
- **"Hollywood Prometheus"**, by Christa Faust, in *Crime Ink: Iconic: An Anthology of Crime Fiction Inspired by Queer Icons*, Bywater Books
- **"Six-Armed Robbery"** by Ashley-Ruth M. Bernier, in *Donna Andrews Presents Malice Domestic: Mystery Most Humorous*, Wildside Press
- **"The Skies Are Red"**, by Richie Narvaez, in *On Fire and Under Water: A Climate Change Crime Fiction Anthology*, Rock and a Hard Place Press



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Best Juvenile or YA

- **Death in the Cards** by Mia P. Manansala, Delacorte Press
- **Miles in Time** by Lee Matthew Goldberg, Wise Wolf Books
- **Risky Pursuit** by Nancy G. West, Fire & Ice Young Adult Books
- **The Scammer** by Tiffany D. Jackson, Quill Tree Books
- **Well-Behaved Children Seldom Make History** by Chris Chan, Level Best Books

Notes

Best Critical or Nonfiction Work

- **Bone Valley: A True Story of Injustice and Redemption in the Heart of Florida** by Gilbert King, Flatiron Books
- **L.A. Coroner: Thomas Noguchi and Death in Hollywood** by Anne Soon Choi, Third State Books
- **Murderland: Crime and Bloodlust in the Time of Serial Killers** by Caroline Fraser, Penguin Press
- **The Secret History of the Rape Kit: A True Crime Story** by Pagan Kennedy, Vintage
- **Vacations Can Be Murder: A True Crime Lover's Travel Guide to New England** by Dawn M. Barclay, Level Tru

Best Anthology or Collection

- **Blood on the Bayou: Case Closed: Bouchercon Anthology** Don Bruns (ed.), Down & Out Books
- **Crime Ink: Iconic: An Anthology of Crime Fiction Inspired by Queer Icons**, John Copenhaver (ed.) and Salem West (ed.), Bywater Books
- **Hollywood Kills: An Anthology**, Adam Meyer (ed.) and Alan Orloff (ed.), Level Short
- **On Fire and Under Water: A Climate Change Crime Fiction Anthology**, Curtis Ippolito et al., Rock and a Hard Place Press
- **Whatever Kills the Pain** by C.W. Blackwell, Rock and a Hard Place Press

The awards will be presented at a live ceremony on Saturday, October 24, 2026.