

HIGH PLAINS BOOK AWARDS AND BOOKFEST

» FIND A BOOK

A guide to the High Plains Book Awards finalists of 2014

What do you want to read?

Fiction?

Drama?

Custody?

Redemption?

Depression-era?

Family drama?

Prairie life?



"Let Him Go" By Larry Watson Nominated for Fiction



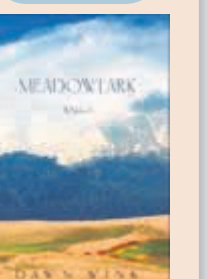
"High and Inside" By Russell Rowland Nominated for Fiction



"Songs of Willow Frost" By Jamie Ford Nominated for Fiction



"The Wittenbergs" By Sarah Klassen Nominated for Woman Writer



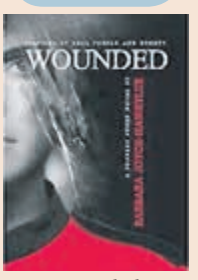
"Meadowlark" By Dawn Wink Nominated for Woman Writer

Murder mystery?



"Montana" By Gwen Florio Nominated for First Book

Journalist?



"Wounded" By Barbara Joyce-Hawryluk Nominated for First Book and Woman Writer

Domestic dispute?

Coming of age?

Road trip?

Young adult?

School heirarchy?



"The Throne" By Beth Goobie Nominated for Young Adult

Children's?

Teddy bear?

Ukrainian?

Animals?



"Leaving Mr. Humphries" By Alison Lohans Nominated for Children's



"Baba's Babushka: A Magical Ukrainian Wedding" By Marion Mutala Nominated for Children's



"Who Pooped in the Cascades: Scat and Tracks for Kids" By Gary D. Robson Nominated for Children's

"The Last Good Halloween" By Giano Cromley Nominated for First Book

New home?



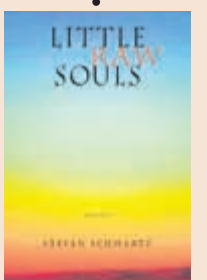
"Clearwater" By Kim McCullough Nominated for Woman Writer

Sci-fi/fantasy?



"The Ehrich Weisz Chronicles: Demon Gate" By Marty Chan Nominated for Young Adult

Short stories?



"Little Raw Souls" By Steven Schwartz Nominated for Short Stories



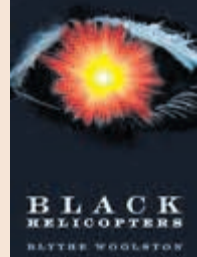
"Cowboys and East Indians" By Nina McConigley Nominated for Short Stories



"You Haven't Changed a Bit" By Astrid Blodgett Nominated for Short Stories

I'm looking for something else.

Terrorism?



"Black Helicopters" By Blythe Woolston Nominated for Young Adult

History?

Yellowstone?

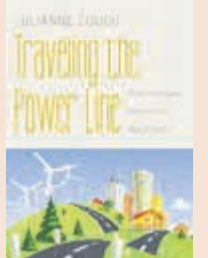
Electricity?

Little Bighorn?

Landscape?



"A President in Yellowstone: The F. Jay Haynes Photographic Album of Chester Arthur's 1883 Expedition" By Frank H. Goodyear III Nominated for Art and Photography



"Traveling the Power Line: From the Mojave Desert to the Bay of Fundy" By Julianne Couch Nominated for Nonfiction



"Shooting Arrows & Slings Mud: Custer, the Press, and the Little Bighorn" By James E. Mueller Nominated for Nonfiction



"Karl Bodmer's America Revisited: Landscape Views Across Time" By W.R. Wood and R.M. Lindholm Nominated for Art and Photography

Nonfiction?

Dakota?

Nebraska?



"North Dakota Unforgettable" By Chuck Haney Nominated for Art and Photography



"This Place, These People" By David Stark and Nancy Warner Nominated for Art and Photography

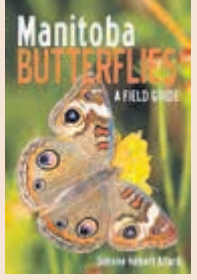
Science?

Memoir?

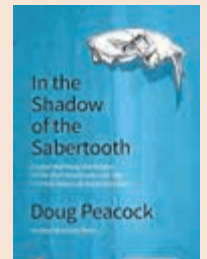
Sense of place?

Insects?

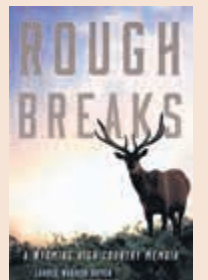
Early humans?



"Manitoba Butterflies: A Field Guide" By Simone Herbert Allard Nominated for Medicine and Science



"In the Shadow of the Sabertooth: A Renegade Naturalist Considers Global Warming, the First Americans and the Terrible Beasts of the Pleistocene" By Doug Peacock Nominated for Medicine and Science



"Rough Breaks: A Wyoming High Country Memoir" By Laurie Wagner Nominated for Nonfiction



"To Love That Well: New and Selected Poems 1954-2013" By Robert Pack Nominated for Poetry



"Saving Singletrees" By Leo Dangel Nominated for Poetry



"Grey Dog Big Sky" By Sheryl Noethe Nominated for Poetry

Not quite

Poetry?

ALYSSA SMALL/Gazette Staff

Shared border, culture

2014 BookFest explores common literary traits along U.S.-Canada line

By **SUSAN OLP**
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From the time she was a little girl, Canadian author Jacqueline Guest felt a connection to the United States.

At one point in her young life, Guest and her family lived in Carnduff, a little town in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan, not far from the Canada-United States border.

"I came of age when we had black-and-white televisions with one station," said Guest, 61, in a telephone interview from her home in the Rocky Mountain foothills of Alberta. "I remember watching 'Mighty Mouse' Saturday mornings (broadcast from Minot.)"

Guest, an award-winning author of children's books, will be the keynote speaker at the Oct. 25 High Plains Book Awards banquet at the Yellowstone Art Museum. She will also be featured on a panel about children's literature during the High Plains BookFest, which runs Wednesday through Sunday. This year's theme is "Border Crossing."

The event is sponsored by the Billings Public Library, The Writer's Voice and the Billings Cultural Partners. Authors from 12 states and four Canadian provinces will gather at multiple locations in Billings for the 12th annual festival.

The U.S.-Canada border is the longest international border in the world shared between the same pair of countries, said Corby Skinner, director of the High Plains BookFest.

"Border Crossings" provides a wonderful opportunity to hear, discuss and learn about historical, cultural and social issues common to people of the High Plains — regardless of their geographical and political residency," Skinner said.

Montana and Canada share a rich cultural history, he said, and many writers, including Richard Ford, Guy Vanderhaeghe and Allan Safarik, have explored those common themes and connections.

"The goal of the BookFest is to further open the cultural highway between our two countries," Skinner said.

Despite sharing a border, he said, very few books by Canadian writers are available in American bookstores. Or because the authors lack name recognition in the U.S. their works are not well known.

The book festival "provides an exciting opportunity to connect Canadian writers whose work reflects life in the northern High Plains with writers and readers in the United States," he said.

The other impetus for this year's theme, Skinner said, is the fact that one-third of the finalists in the book awards are Canadian. About 65 percent of the National Endowment for the Arts grant, which is helping fund this year's events, is paying for the Canadian writers to travel to the event.

The awards are designed to recognize authors or literary works that examine and reflect life on the High Plains. The region includes Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska,

Please see **Border, E3**

INSIDE

■ Marty Chan channels creative energy from his life as an outcast youth to prolific career in writing, **E3**
■ Find a review of "Karl Bodmer's America Revisited," **E4**

ONLINE

■ For a complete schedule of the High Plains BookFest, click the link in this story at billingsgazette.com.
■ Read reviews of all of the 2014 High Plains Book Awards finalists at billingsgazette.com.