

# C-A-A & YOU

## Contests, Anthologies, Awards and You



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# AWARDS

Awards are given to published work.

Staying engaged with the main awards of American crime writing can help you find new writers and become engaged in the community.

NAME	QUICK DESCRIPTION	MORE INFO
<b>Macavity</b>	Given by readers of Mystery Readers International	<a href="#">Macavity Awards</a>
<b>Edgars</b>	Given by the MWA	<a href="#">Edgar Awards</a>
<b>ThrillerFest</b>	Given by ITW	<a href="#">ITW Awards</a>
<b>Agathas</b>	Given by Malice Domestic	<a href="#">Agatha Awards</a>
<b>Lefty Awards</b>	Given by Left Coast Crime attendees	<a href="#">Lefty Awards</a>
<b>Derringers</b>	Given by Short Mystery Fiction Society member-judges	<a href="#">Derringers</a>
<b>Regional Awards</b>	A city, county, state may give awards. If your story is merely set in a locale, it may qualify.	Example: <a href="#">San Mateo County</a>
<b>Overseas</b>	They read a LOT of crime!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">CWA Daggers</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Bloody Scotland</a></li><li>• <a href="#">CrimeFest</a></li></ul>

# CONTESTS

Contests are typically for unpublished works, and sometimes provide feedback or publication of winners (remember—avoid fee mills!)

Two rules:

- *Don't enter contests that require an entry fee—they are usually fee mills*
- *Make sure you and your work meet the criteria*

Some reputable contests:

- [MWA St. Martin's Minotaur/MWA First Crime Novel](#)
- [Black Orchid Novella Award \(The Wolfe Pack\)](#)
- [Eleanor Taylor Bland Crime Fiction Writers of Color \(SinC\)](#)
- *Some conferences also invite unpublished works to compete in contests or scholarships that pay for the conference:*
  - [San Francisco Writers Conference](#)
  - [Mendocino Writers Conference](#)

[This list](#) is unvetted, and mixes awards and contests.

# ANTHOLOGIES

Anthologies have one or more of the following:

- *A theme: "music of Billy Joel," "fighting voter suppression"*
- *A charity: the anthology may raise money for a good cause, like Eric Beetner's Unloaded series, or SinC chapter anthologies*
- *A submission policy: some are by-invitation, open submissions, or a combination. Anthologies may be limited to members of an organization (SinC, MWA), or have other requirements like residence, publication status of author, etc. Many anthologies mix open submissions with invited writers.*
- *Not relevant to this discussion: individual writers collecting their stories for publication or "Best of" collections like the Best of Mystery and Suspense.*

The following anthologies are either award winners or contain award-winning writers (and haven't yet ceased publication):

- *Desert Sleuths, NorCal, Guppy chapters of SinC*
- *Akashic Noir series (still going?)*
- *Bouchercon Conference*
- *Malice Domestic Conference*
- *Low Down Dirty Vote (every other year)*