

The Christy Awards Official Guidelines 2009

The Christy Awards are presented annually to recognize and promote fiction of exceptional quality and impact.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Full-length works of fiction, including a novella published as a freestanding entity, are eligible.
2. All eligible submissions must be written by contemporary novelists, not classic writers of the past.
3. Eligible books must be in English and published in the United States.
4. Eligible books must be 1) published for the first time during the calendar year preceding the awards presentation, or 2) republished by a new publisher during the calendar year preceding the awards presentation.
5. Translations into English of works originally published in another language are eligible if a United States publisher first publishes them in English during the year preceding the year in which the awards are presented.
6. Books eligible for entry are either case bound or paper bound volumes.
7. The content of eligible books must be consistent with a Christian worldview and the historic Christian tradition reflected in the Apostles' Creed.
8. The Christy Award Advisory Board has final and binding responsibility for determining the eligibility and correct classification for all entries.
9. If fewer than ten books are submitted in any one category, that category will not be considered viable for a Christy Award 2009.

CATEGORIES

1. **Contemporary Fiction – Stand-alone, full-length novels** whose characters, setting, and issues are within the context of the present time period (1950 -).
2. **Contemporary Fiction – Sequels, novels in a series, and novellas** whose characters, setting, and issues are within the context of the present time period (1950 -).
3. **Contemporary Romance** - Fiction whose characters and controlling theme focus on a romantic drama in a contemporary time period (1950 -). Includes **lits** (novels light in tone and colloquial in voice).
4. **Historical** (up to 1950) - Fiction that weaves stories about characters in historical epochs or settings. Includes **Biblical** (fiction focusing on Biblical characters, settings, or time period) and **biographical** (fiction containing imaginative developments of incidents and qualities of an actual person).
5. **Historical Romance** - Fiction whose characters and controlling theme focus on a romantic drama in a historical setting (up to 1950).
6. **Suspense** - Fiction that often focuses on a strange, frightening, or thrilling set of events. Includes **mystery** (fiction where the element of mystery or terror plays a controlling part, often a tale of crime), **adventure**, and **thrillers**.
7. **Visionary** - Imaginative fiction including **allegory** (fiction in the form of extended metaphor in which objects, person and actions are equated with meanings that lie outside the narrative itself), **fantasy** (fiction that deliberately breaks free from reality, setting the story in a nonexistent and

unreal world or concerning incredible or unreal characters), **futuristic** (fiction whose action, plot, and characters occur in a future period of time), and **science fiction** (fiction in which scientific facts or hypotheses form the basis of adventures, often in the future, on other planets, or in other dimensions of time).

8. **First Novel** - This novel may represent any genre above written by a first-time novelist who has not previously published commercially any book-length work of fiction. Author may have published fiction in magazines, journals, or other periodicals. **NOTE:** A book that qualifies for this category may also be entered in the genre category which it represents. *An entry fee is required for each category in which a novel is submitted. For example, if a novel is entered in both first novel and historical, two entry fees are required.*
9. **Young Adult** - Novels written for young adults within the 12-17 age range. These may be stand-alone novels or novels written as part of a series and may encompass a range of sub-genres including but not limited to contemporary, historical, biographical, and suspense.

ENTRY PROCESS

1. Any publisher, imprint, or division of a larger publishing house may enter as many titles in each category as it wishes. Self-published novels are admissible only if the self-publisher also publishes other authors, has a web/paper catalog, and agrees to comply with the *Additional Conditions* stated below, including the payment of the promotional fee for a winning book.
2. There is \$175 entry fee for each title submitted in each category. Any book subsequently deemed ineligible shall still be subject to the stated entry fee.
3. A Christy Award Entry Form must be filled out and signed by the head of the publishing house. **The form and one (1) copy of each novel entered should be mailed to arrive by November 19, 2008** to

The Christy Award
1571 Glastonbury Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

4. In addition, **nine (9) copies of each novel should be shipped to arrive by November 19, 2008** to

The Christy Awards
129 Roweland Drive
Johnson City, TN 37601

NOTE: A novel that is entered in both a genre category AND in First Novel requires that a total of 18 books be shipped to the Tennessee address.

5. Each publishing house should designate one person to coordinate all Christy Award-related matters with the Christy Awards Administrator throughout the awards process.

JUDGING PROCESS

1. Judges will be given a copy of each novel and asked to evaluate each title based on the following criteria on the Christy Award Novel Evaluation Form: Characterization, Point-of-View, Plot, Theme, Setting, Style, Passion, Writing Quality, Genre, and Orthodoxy
2. Judges will not have access to any other scoring information.

3. Judges will be selected from recommendations from publishers and other interested parties. Judges will include book reviewers, industry leaders, librarians, professors, and experienced readers of Christian fiction.
4. A shortlist of three nominees in each eligible category will be announced in March 2009 at Christian Book Expo.
5. The award-winning novel in each category (except First Novel) must have a score of 80% or above.
6. Winners will be announced at an event in Denver, Colorado before the International Christian Retail Show begins. (date and details to be determined)

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

An eligible book that is entered shall not qualify for The Christy Award unless its publisher agrees:

1. To contribute \$1,000 towards the marketing of the Christy Award winners via a specific Christy Award Marketing plan. Funds will be entrusted to the Christy Award LLC and are due within thirty (30) days after the Christy Award has been conferred.
2. To include trade links with The Christy Award web site.
3. To purchase and/or reproduce The Christy Award Medallion to be affixed on the covers of winning books.

The Christy Award Advisory Board shall have the permanent right in any and all media to use and exploit all radio, television, merchandising, promotional and publicity rights that publisher and author may have in connection with their participation in The Christy Awards competition without further consent or payment. Publisher and author also release any claim they might have either by virtue of their participation in The Christy Awards for use of their respective photographs, names, likenesses, voice, or appearances in connection with The Christy Awards, and each consents to the permanent right of The Christy Award to publish or broadcast the content of the Christy Awards ceremony.