

# Guidelines for 2009 WILLA Literary Awards

Honoring Books First Published in 2008 • Entry Deadline JANUARY 15, 2009

The WILLA Literary Award honors the best in literature featuring women's stories set in the West published each year. Women Writing the West (WWW), a non-profit association of writers and other professionals writing and promoting the Women's West, underwrites and presents the nationally recognized award annually.

The award is named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winner Willa Cather, one of the country's foremost novelists. The awards are presented at the WWW Fall Conference.

\* Entries for the WILLA Literary Awards are open to all persons worldwide and are not limited to WWW members or women specifically.

\* All authors or publishers of books featuring women's stories set in the West in any time period may enter.

\* Professional librarians not affiliated with WWW select winners and finalists.

\* Books initially published in 2008 (in any form) are eligible for the WILLA Literary Awards. ONLY books FIRST published in 2008 are eligible – no exceptions.

EXAMPLE: A book originally published as a hardcover and released later as a trade or mass-market paperback is eligible only if the original copyright date is 2008. The book may not be entered in the Original Softcover category if it was originally published as a hardcover. Books previously released/published in ANY format (hardcover, softcover, e-books, CD, Internet downloads, POD, etc.) prior to 2008 are not eligible.

\* E-books should be submitted in the appropriate category. Provide a copy of the actual product and THREE bound, printed forms of the book. Spiral or trade paperback bindings are acceptable. Loose manuscript pages or three-ring binders are NOT acceptable and will neither be acknowledged nor returned.

\* A title may only be entered in one category.

EXAMPLE: A contemporary mass-market mystery may be entered in either Contemporary Fiction or Original Softcover, but not both. We strongly suggest that authors of softcover originals (mass market and trade) consider entering the Original Softcover category.

\* WWW reserves the right to add or delete categories according to the entries received and to move books to another category as appropriate.

\* WWW reserves the right not to name a winner or finalist in a category should the librarian judges feel that no book entered in that category merits a WILLA award.

\* Entries received with incomplete submission packages will not be acknowledged nor will the package be returned.

Please review previous winners and finalists in each category to get a feel for the types of books that have been honored in past years. A list of previous winners can be found at [www.womenwritingthewest.org](http://www.womenwritingthewest.org).

**Contemporary Fiction:** Books featuring women's stories set in the West in contemporary times. Softcover originals may be entered in this category but the majority of entries are hardbound.

**Historical Fiction:** Books featuring women's stories set in the West before contemporary times. Softcover originals may be entered in this category but the majority of entries are hardbound. WWW defines historical fiction as any story set at least 50 years prior to the publication date.

**Creative Nonfiction:** Includes autobiographical works.

**Scholarly Nonfiction:** Entries in the category are typically academic or educational in nature. Scholarship, research, organization and presentation are some of the judging criteria. Includes edited diaries, also anthologies.

**Poetry:** Individual collections or anthology.

**Original Softcover Fiction:** This category is specifically for fiction novels originally published in a softcover format, trade or mass market. Books previously published in any other format are not eligible for this category. This category draws a variety of genre books, primarily romance and mystery, as well as more mainstream historical and fiction novels.

**Children's and Young Adult Fiction and Nonfiction:** We are considering this as a single category.

If you have questions, please contact **Kathleen Ernst** at [k.ernst@kathleenernst.com](mailto:k.ernst@kathleenernst.com) or by telephone at 608-836-9218.

# 2009 WILLA Literary Awards

## Capturing the Diversity of the Women's West

Entry deadline is January 15, 2009. The application fee is \$50 per entry.

**The WILLA Literary Award** is a nationally recognized award given to writers annually for books featuring stories about a woman/girl or women set in the American West. Women Writing the West, a non-profit association of writers and other professionals writing and promoting the Women's West, underwrites and presents the award. Only books **initially** published in 2008 (in any form, hardcover, softcover, e-books, CD, Internet downloads, POD, etc.) are eligible for the WILLA Literary Awards. Books previously released/published in ANY format prior to 2008 are not eligible. All submissions must be made in **bound hard copy** form. Professional librarians select Winners and Finalists. Awards will be presented at the WWW annual conference in September 2009.

**Please obtain guidelines before entering.** Complete award information and guidelines (including information for books published in electronic formats) are posted for downloading on the WWW Web site: [www.womenwritingthewest.org](http://www.womenwritingthewest.org), or may be obtained by writing **Women Writing the West, 8547 E. Arapahoe Rd., #J-541, Greenwood Village, CO 80112-1436**. Contact WILLA chair: **Kathleen Ernst** at [k.ernst@kathleenernst.com](mailto:k.ernst@kathleenernst.com) or by telephone at 608-836-9218.

## Application for the 2009 WILLA Literary Awards

### Honoring Books Published in 2008

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

ISBN: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Publishing Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Necessary Publicity Information (information must be given for at least one)**

Name of local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Book Page Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide as much contact information as possible so that we may make appropriate notifications and/or request further information for promoting our award winners.**

Category (Please choose one):

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Contemporary Fiction | <input type="radio"/> Historical Fiction | <input type="radio"/> Original Softcover Fiction (trade or mass market) |
| <input type="radio"/> Creative Nonfiction  | <input type="radio"/> Poetry             | <input type="radio"/> Young Adult/Children's Fiction                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Scholarly Nonfiction |  | & Nonfiction  |

\* WWW reserves the right to add or delete categories or to move entries to other categories.

#### **Please include the following with entry form for each submission to be judged:**

- A check payable to Women Writing the West of \$50 per entry, sent **directly** to category coordinator.
- THREE** non-returnable copies of each book entry, postmarked **no later than January 15, 2009**, to:
  - Contemporary Fiction: Nancy Curtis, High Plains Press, P.O. Box 123, Glendo, WY 82213-1023
  - Historical Fiction: Arletta Dawdy, 987 San Clemente Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-6115
  - Creative Nonfiction: Lyn Messersmith, 4241 269th Trail, Alliance, NE 69301
  - Scholarly Nonfiction: Susanne George Bloomfield, 74064 L Road, Holdrege, NE 68949
  - Poetry: Diane Elliott, 4721 Love Lane, Bozeman, MT 59718
  - Original Softcover Fiction (trade or mass market): Betty Bauer, Portamento Publishing, 14130 Slater Street, Overland Park, KS 66221-2119
  - Children's/Young Adult Fiction & Nonfiction: Mary E. Trimble, 155 Woodgrove Lane, Camano Island, WA 98282-5204

Each book may be entered in only one category.

Please complete one entry form per book entered. THIS APPLICATION MAY BE PHOTOCOPIED.