



The LAURA

SHORT FICTION AWARD

2026 LAURA Short Fiction Award CALL FOR ENTRIES

Open Exclusively to Women Writing the West Members

1st Place - \$150

2nd Place - \$100

3rd Place - \$75

Enter your original, unpublished short fiction that is NOT contracted or under consideration for publication. Basic rules are as follows, but please reference The LAURA Short Fiction Award Criteria, which is located on the WWW website, for complete details.

- Feature a female protagonist
- Set in the American West, i.e. west of the Mississippi River
- Can include a past, present, or future setting
- 5,000 words or less
- Children, YA, or Adult accepted (there are no separate categories)

The LAURA Short Fiction Award rubric, used by screeners to score entries, offers helpful writing guidelines. From the WWW homepage, choose the AWARDS tab, choose the dropdown tab The LAURA Short Fiction Award, and then scroll down to LAURA Award Rubrics, which is located on the right.

FIRST-, SECOND-, AND THIRD-PRIZE PLACEMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE OCTOBER 2026 CONFERENCE AND PUBLISHED IN THE WWW ONLINE LAURA JOURNAL.

Entries will be accepted between February 1 and May 1, 2026
\$25 entry fee is payable at the WWW website
www.WomenWritingtheWest.org