The 2027 WILLA Literary Award Competition

Capturing the Diversity of the Women's West

Entries Accepted ONLINE ONLY - $65 per entry

Entry Period: November 1, 2026 - February 1, 2027

womenwritingthewest.org

The WILLA Literary Award honors the best in literature featuring women's or girls' stories set on the North American continent west of the Mississippi River, including Alaska, Hawaii, Canada west of Ontario and Mexico. The award is named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winner Willa Cather, one of America's foremost novelists. Women Writing the West (WWW), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, underwrites and presents this nationally recognized award at the WWW Annual Fall Conference.

Guidelines:

- Entries for The WILLA Literary Award are open to all persons worldwide and are not limited to WWW members or women specifically.
- All authors or publishers of books that feature women's or girls' stories set in the North American West may enter.
- A WILLA entry consists of a completed online application with payment, and a total of 4 (four) prepaid Amazon "redemption (gift) links" for the e-book. No other version will be accepted. **(See below for detailed instructions for obtaining and submitting gift cards.)**
- Works submitted for this competition must have been FIRST published during the 2026 calendar year with the FIRST copyright date in 2026.
- Submissions must be entirely the original work of the entrant. Absolutely no artificial intelligence (AI) generated, conceived, or influenced work will be accepted.
- No title may be entered in more than one category.

- WWW reserves the right to add or delete categories according to the entries received and to move entries to another category as appropriate.
- Entries with incomplete submission packages or after the February 1 deadline will not be acknowledged, nor will any part of the package, including the entry fee, be returned.
- Final judges are professional librarians not affiliated with WWW. They will select the Winners and Finalists.
- WWW reserves the right to not name a Winner or Finalist in any category, should the Final Judges determine that no entry merits an award.
- There will be no refunds.

The WILLA Literary Award categories are:

- Children's Picture Books
- Contemporary Fiction
- Creative Nonfiction
- Historical Fiction
- Middle Grade Fiction/Nonfiction
- Mystery/Thriller
- Poetry
- Romance (Historical & Contemporary)
- Scholarly Nonfiction
- Young Adult Fiction/Nonfiction

Instructions for 2027 eBook Entries: (May be printed for author's use)

- Go to the book's Amazon page. If an eBook is not available, have editor or publisher create one in order to enter. WWW will NOT accept PDFs or other forms of books.
- Choose the eBook option.
- On the right, below the purchasing options is the "Buy for others" option. Click this.
- A new page will appear, titled: "Choose your delivery method."
- Choose the one that reads: "We'll give you redemption links to send to your recipients."
- Directly below that, it asks for Quantity: **Choose 4 (four**) eBooks.
- Click: "Place your order."

- You will receive an immediate pop-up that reads: “Thanks, (your name here). You purchased 4 copies of (title of book). Please check your email for order confirmation.” Before leaving this page, click on “Your Digital Orders.”
- This will bring up a list of recent orders. Just below the wording, “Your Orders,” there is another hyperlink that reads in light blue: “Digital Orders.” Click on this.
- A picture of the book cover should pop up. Print this page for reference.
- To the right of the book cover is an oblong circle that reads: “Manage Kindle Books.” Click this.
- The next pop-up page will have the book cover on the left side. To its left, under “Redemption Link,” is the actual link needed to submit for The WILLA.
- To the right of the link, click on “Copy Link with Instructions.”
- A message from Kindle will be sent to your email. You will see a message from Kindle similar to the following:

  Hello,

  > (Author name) has purchased you a copy of: (book title here). Please accept your prepaid eBook using the link below:
  > https://www.amazon.com/kindle/redeem/?t=GSXBT8674LAF5AX
  >
  > You can enjoy eBooks on any device with the free Kindle app for iPhone, iPad, Android phones and tablets, PC and Mac, and on Kindle e-readers and Fire tablets. Learn more at https://www.amazon.com/kindle-dbs/fd/kcp
  >
  > Need help? Visit Kindle Support at https://www.amazon.com/help/kindle/prepaidbooks/accept for information about Kindle prepaid eBooks.

- **Do Not Open the Link**. If the link is opened, it will be invalid for The WILLA Literary Award competition.
- Then open a new message (email) addressed to www2trego@gmail.com
- Paste the 4 (unopened) links to the books into the body of one email, NOT AS AN ATTACHMENT.
- The Category Coordinator will send a confirmation email advising that entry is complete.