



## TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES KEYNOTES FOR TEXAS TEEN BOOK FESTIVAL

**AUSTIN, TX (July 22, 2020)** - The Texas Book Festival is excited to announce two keynote speakers for the 2020 Texas Teen Book Festival, which will be held during the 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival from October 31 to November 1. The 2020 Texas Teen Book Festival will feature keynote panels with authors Nic Stone and Elizabeth Acevedo.

*Clap When You Land*, Acevedo's 2020 novel written in verse, received "a standing ovation" from Kirkus. Acevedo's *The Poet X* was a *New York Times* bestseller and won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, the Pura Belpré Award, the Boston Globe–Horn Book Award, and the Walter Award. She is also a National Poetry Slam champion.

Stone is a *New York Times*-bestselling author and former TTBF keynote speaker. *Dear Justyce*, a much-anticipated follow-up to her young adult bestseller *Dear Martin*, will be published on September 29, 2020. Stone's middle-grade fiction debut, *Clean Getaway*, and the first of a series based on Marvel's *Black Panther* comics, *Shuri: A Black Panther Novel*, were published in January.

"The decision to move TTBF to a virtual format in place of a face-to-face celebration of reading this year was a difficult one. However, I find myself excited about what this new opportunity offers us," says Shawn Mauser, chair of the Texas Teen Book Festival. "This year's format is going to allow us to explore new avenues of connection with our TTBF fans and our authors. We get to explore new ways to be creative with this year's festival, and that experience is going to make our in-person festivals even better when they return (and they will)."

The 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival will take place online from October 31 to November 15. For more information on the Texas Book Festival, please visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org), and follow along on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.

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### ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL:

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, the Texas Book Festival connects authors and readers through experiences that celebrate the culture of literacy, ideas, and imagination. Founded in 1995 by former First Lady Laura Bush, Mary Margaret Farabee, and a group of volunteers, the nonprofit Texas Book Festival promotes the joys of reading and writing

through its annual Festival, the Texas Teen Book Festival, the Reading Rock Stars Title I elementary school program, the Real Reads Title I middle and high school program, grants to Texas libraries, and year-round literary programming. The 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival will take place from October 31 through November 15. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public. Visit [www.texasbookfestival.org](http://www.texasbookfestival.org) for more information, and join the conversation using the hashtag #txbookfest on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @texasbookfest.

**ABOUT TEXAS TEEN BOOK FESTIVAL:**

The Texas Teen Book Festival celebrates the teen reading experience by inviting fans to visit with some of the most popular and critically acclaimed young adult authors in the country. The Texas Teen Book Festival was born as the Austin Teen Book Festival in 2009, when librarian Heather Schubert partnered with BookPeople to organize a gathering at Westlake High School. Five hundred people and 16 authors attended the first year. The event continued to grow, and in 2011-2013 was sponsored by the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation. In 2014 the Fest became a program of the Texas Book Festival and was renamed the Texas Teen Book Festival. One of the largest gatherings of its kind anywhere, the annual Fest takes place in the fall. The 2020 Texas Teen Book Festival will take place virtually from October 31 to November 1, during the Texas Book Festival. For more information, see [texasteenbookfestival.org](http://texasteenbookfestival.org).