



TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL REVEALS FIFTEEN AUTHORS FOR 2020 VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

The 2020 Virtual Festival will feature authors Dean Koontz, Yaa Gyasi, Julia Alvarez, Erin Brockovich, and Michael Ian Black, among others

AUSTIN, TX (August 12, 2020) -- The Texas Book Festival is excited to unveil fifteen authors joining the two-week Virtual Festival this fall.

In addition to the recently announced Texas Teen Book Festival keynotes, **Elizabeth Acevedo** and **Nic Stone**, the 2020 Festival will feature acclaimed suspense novelist **Dean Koontz**, award-winning novelist **Yaa Gyasi**, comedian **Michael Ian Black**, activist **Erin Brockovich**, and National Medal of Arts recipient **Julia Alvarez**, among others.

The 2020 Festival will feature more than 125 authors throughout two weeks of programming starting on October 31. The Texas Teen Book Festival will take place October 31 and November 1, followed by children's programming from November 2 through 6. Adult programming will take place the final week of the Festival, November 6 through 15.

"We invite everyone, and especially Texans from across the state, to take advantage of this year's Virtual Texas Book Festival to see some of the world's most celebrated authors for free, from the comfort of their homes," says Lois Kim, TBF's Executive Director.

Dean Koontz, who has published more than 100 novels, will present his latest work of fiction, *Elsewhere*, a technothriller about a father and daughter who discover a strange and highly coveted device that could reunite them with dearly departed Mom. **Yaa Gyasi**, whose 2016 book, *Homegoing*, won the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard First Book Prize, will present the much-anticipated follow-up, *Transcendent Kingdom*, an emotional portrait of a family of Ghanaian immigrants living in the Deep South. Acclaimed *In the Time of Butterflies* author **Julia Alvarez** will present her latest novel, *Afterlife*, a poignant, deeply moving, and sometimes funny exploration of what it means to connect with others in a world that constantly throws obstacles our way.

Famed environmental activist **Erin Brockovich** will present her newest book, *Superman's Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It*, which outlines the fight for clean water in the United States. Comedian **Michael Ian Black** will present his new book, *A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son*, in which Black writes a letter to his college-bound son, outlining his relationship with his own father and reexamining the meaning of masculinity.

"By going virtual, some things may look different this fall," says Matthew Patin, TBF's Literary Director. "But what hasn't changed at all is the level of extraordinary literary talent we're privileged to share with Fest audiences in Texas and, especially this year, beyond. The names here are a mere snapshot—so many incredible authors will be joining us."

The full list of fifteen sneak peek authors includes:

- Julia Alvarez, *Afterlife*
- Aimee Bender, *The Butterfly Lampshade*
- Michael Ian Black, *A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son*
- H. W. Brands, *The Zealot and the Emancipator: John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and the Struggle for American Freedom*
- Erin Brockovich, *Superman's Not Coming: Our National Water Crisis and What We the People Can Do About It*
- Candace Bushnell, *Rules for Being a Girl*
- Yaa Gyasi, *Transcendent Kingdom*
- Stephen Graham Jones, *The Only Good Indians*
- Dean Koontz, *Elsewhere*
- Kevin Kwan, *Sex and Vanity*
- José R. Ralat, *American Tacos: A History and Guide*
- Richard Santos, *Trust Me*
- Natalia Sylvester, *Running*
- Natasha Trethewey, *Memorial Drive*
- Kathy Valentine, *All I Ever Wanted: A Rock 'n' Roll Memoir*

TBF's full author lineup will be revealed in early September. The 2020 Virtual Texas Book Festival will take place online from October 31 through November 15. For more information on the Texas Book Festival, please visit 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 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 October

31 and November 1, during the Texas Book Festival. For more information, see texasteenbookfestival.org.