

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELIZABETH CROOK NAMED TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL'S 2023 TEXAS WRITER AWARD RECIPIENT

AUSTIN, TX (July 18, 2023) - Novelist Elizabeth Crook has been named the recipient of the 2023 Texas Writer Award. The announcement was made today by Hannah Gabel, Literary Director of the Texas Book Festival, with the official presentation of the award taking place at the Texas Book Festival on November 11.

Each year, the Texas Writer Award is presented to a Texas author who has made significant contributions to the literary arts. Previous recipients include Elizabeth McCracken, Tim O'Brien, Lawrence Wright, Stephen Harrigan, Sarah Bird, Sandra Cisneros, H.W. Brands, Greg Curtis, Steven Weinberg, and Attica Locke.

Crook is the author of six novels, including *The Which Way Tree*, *The Night Journal*, which received the Spur Award from Western Writers of America, and *Monday, Monday*, winner of the Jesse H. Jones Award from the Texas Institute of Letters. Her latest novel, *The Madstone*, will be published by Little, Brown in November.

"It's our great honor to present Elizabeth Crook with this award," said Texas Book Festival Literary Director Hannah Gabel. "A true literary luminary, Elizabeth crafts novels set in Texas that sing with a sense of place and time."

"It feels like winning an Oscar," said Crook, "like confirmation that all those hours of research haven't been pointless and all those years of rethinking and second-guessing and trying always to land on the perfect word, the correct sentiment, the exact right ending, have resulted in books that are appreciated. Winning an award this prestigious is also sobering. I think of the people who boosted me along the way, and where I would be without them, and I think of the writers who are just as deserving and might have been chosen instead. I am both humbled and grateful."

Recipients of the Texas Writer Award are honored with a custom pair of handmade boots from renowned El Paso-based bootmakers Rocketbuster during a special Festival Weekend ceremony at the Texas Book Festival.

To learn a little more about Crook's life and work, read Gabel's [interview](#) with her. Author assets are available for download [here](#).

The 2023 Texas Book Festival is presented by H-E-B. Other major sponsors include Brigid Cockrum and Family, Tocker Foundation, *Kirkus Reviews*, Still Water Foundation,

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Tejemos Foundation, The Rea Charitable Trust, Amplify Credit Union, Buena Vista Foundation, Tapestry Foundation, Pentagram, Central Market, Texas Monthly, Jordan Foster Construction, and *Austin Chronicle*. BookPeople is the official Festival bookseller.

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ABOUT TEXAS BOOK FESTIVAL

With a vision to inspire Texans of all ages to love reading, 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 Weekend, 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. This year's Texas Book Festival will take place from November 11–12, with events taking place in downtown Austin and at the Texas Capitol, featuring renowned authors, panels, book signings, and activities. Thanks to generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, the Festival remains free and open to the public.

For more information about the Texas Writer Award, contact Jose Rodriguez at Jose@texasbookfestival.org.

For interviews with Elizabeth Crook, contact Paul Bogaards at Paul@bogaardspr.com. If you are interested in receiving an advanced review copy of *The Madstone*, contact Alyssa Persons at Alyssa.Persons@hbgusa.com.