



# East Anglian Book Awards

In partnership with **Eastern Daily Press** **JARROLD** **N** National Centre for Writing

Supported by the University of East Anglia Faculty of Arts & Humanities

**Embargoed 0:01am BST, Saturday 31 October 2020**

## Category winners for the 2020 East Anglian Book Awards revealed

We are delighted to reveal this year's category winners for the East Anglian Book Awards – a partnership between Jarrold, the Eastern Daily Press and the National Centre for Writing with support from UEA Faculty of Arts & Humanities. The six titles will now be considered by a panel of judges for the coveted £1,000 Book of the Year Award sponsored by the PACCAR Foundation.

Flo Reynolds, Programme Manager of the National Centre for Writing, said:

'This year's shortlist has been particularly strong and represents the strength and breadth of writing taking place in East Anglia, so choosing the winners of each category was quite the task for the judges! Our congratulations go to all the shortlisted authors and, while we cannot gather to celebrate in person this time, we look forward to showcasing the winning books and authors during November's digital event. We wish all the category winners the best of luck as their books come to be considered for the Book of the Year Award.'

The category winners are:

- **Biography & Memoir:** *How to be Autistic* by Charlotte Amelia Poe (Myriad Editions)
- **Fiction:** *The Choice* by Claire Wade (Orion)
- **General Non-Fiction:** *New York to California* by Jeremy Page (Propolis)
- **History & Tradition:** *Imperial Mud: The Fight for the Fens* by James Boyce (Icon Books)
- **The Mal Peet Children's Award:** *The House of One Hundred Clocks* by A.M. Howell (Usborne)
- **Poetry:** *So Many Rooms* by Laura Scott (Carcenet)

The overall winner of the Awards, which celebrate the very best of publishing, writing, and reading in the East of England, will be announced at a special online event on Thursday 19 November. Viewers will also find out who has been awarded the Book by the Cover Award (judged by members of East Anglian Writers) and the prestigious Exceptional Contribution Award for an individual's work within writing and publishing in the region. The event will take place on YouTube and it is [free to register your place](#).

Caroline Jarrold, Community Affairs Adviser at Jarrold, said:

'We are excited about the change in format for the awards this year. The Covid restrictions have meant that we cannot hold our normal convivial awards lunch and, although it is always enlivening to gather together with the authors, publishers, judges and book lovers, the online nature of the event this year will give a greater opportunity to hear more about the individual books and the winning authors. It also gives us the opportunity to stay connected and celebrate the winners together. We hope that many people will join us for the event and be tempted to buy the books for themselves. The winning titles all offer a very good read and it will be quite a challenge to pick the overall Book of the Year.'

To qualify for the East Anglian Book Awards, works must be set largely in East Anglia or be written by an author living in the region – which is defined as Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and area of Fenland District Council.

Books must have been physically published for the first time between 27 July 2019 and 24 July 2020 – and must have been commercially available in physical bookshops.

Discover more about the category winners – as well as the identity of the winner of the East Anglia Book of the Year Award – at a special online event on Thursday 19 November, 6.30pm GMT. Register for free now at <https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/whats-on/east-anglian-books-awards-2020/>

**/ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:**

1. Press enquiries contact Steph McKenna, Communications Manager  
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2. The **National Centre for Writing** (NCW) is a place of discovery, exchange, ideas and learning for writers, literary translators and readers. Based in the restored and extended 15th century Dragon Hall in the heart of England's first UNESCO City of Literature, it explores how writing can inspire and change the world we live in. Its year-round programme of events, festivals and courses reaches over 14,000 people a year with an additional 110,000 engaged online. Through its learning and participation programme it supports 20,000 young people a year and has a commitment to working with those in the most disadvantaged areas. NCW's patrons include Margaret Atwood, JM Coetzee, Kei Miller and Elif Shafak.  
[www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](http://www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk)
3. The East Anglian Book Awards are organised by the Eastern Daily Press, Jarrold and the National Centre for Writing, with support from UEA's Faculty of Arts & Humanities.