

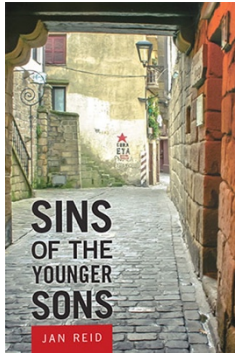


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## 2017 TEXAS INSTITUTE OF LETTERS PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED



**Jan Reid**'s novel of international intrigue, *Sins of the Younger Sons*, is winner of the top fiction award in Texas Institute of Letters' competition for works published in 2017. *Sins of the Younger Sons* follows a covert operative from Texas caught up in the Basque separatist movement in Spain, and it has drawn laudatory comparisons to the best novels of Graham Greene and Robert Stone. Reid's previous novel, *Comanche Sundown*, also won the TIL's top fiction prize.

Reid's award, along with the TIL's other major literary prizes — including the Lifetime Achievement Award to internationally acclaimed author, **Sandra Cisneros**, will be



presented at the 82<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Institute in San Antonio on April 6-7.

The Texas Institute of Letters is a nonprofit honor society founded in 1936 to celebrate Texas literature and recognize distinctive literary achievement. The TIL's elected membership consists of the state's most respected writers – including winners of the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and MacArthur "Genius" grants.

More than \$20,000 in prize money will be presented by the TIL in San Antonio to writers in the categories of fiction, non-fiction, history, poetry, children's and young adult literature, translation, and book design. The competition is limited to those who have lived in the state for at least two years or have entries pertaining to Texas subjects.

Among the prize winners this year are new TIL members **Sasha Pimentel** (Smith Award for Best Book of Poetry) and **Bret Anthony Johnston** (Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story.) Author **Roger D. Hodge** has won the major nonfiction prize for *Texas Blood* and *Texas Observer* Managing Editor **Rose Cahalan** will receive the Shrake Award for Short Nonfiction. Attached is a complete list of honorees.

## **2017 TIL AWARD WINNERS & FINALISTS (FOR WORKS PUBLISHED IN 2017)**

### **JESSE H. JONES AWARD FOR BEST WORK OF FICTION**

Winner: Jan Reid, *Sins of the Younger Sons*.

Finalists: Owen Egerton, *Hollow*. / James L. Haley, *A Darker Sea*.

### **CARR P. COLLINS AWARD FOR BEST BOOK OF NONFICTION**

Winner: Roger D. Hodge, *Texas Blood: Seven Generations Among the Outlaws, Ranchers, Indians, Missionaries, Soldiers, and Smugglers of the Borderlands*.

Finalists: Nate Blakeslee, *American Wolf*. / Melissa del Bosque, *Bloodlines*.

### **RAMIREZ FAMILY AWARD FOR MOST SIGNIFICANT SCHOLARLY BOOK**

Winner: Jerry D. Thompson, *Tejano Tiger: José de los Santos Benavides and the Texas-Mexico Borderlands, 1823-1891*.

Finalists: Jason A. Gillmer, *Slavery and Freedom in Texas*. / Patricia Bernstein, *Ten Dollars to Hate: The Texas Man Who Fought the Klan*.

### **HELEN C. SMITH AWARD FOR BEST BOOK OF POETRY**

Winner: Sasha Pimentel, *For Want of Water: and other poems*.

Finalists: Betty Adcock, *Rough Fugue*. / Bruce Bond, *Blackout Starlight*.

### **SERGIO TRONCOSO AWARD FOR BEST WORK OF FIRST FICTION**

Winner: Chanelle Benz, *The Man Who Shot Out My Eye is Dead*.

Finalists: David Eric Tomlinson, *The Midnight Man*. / James Ward Lee, *The Girls of the Golden West*.

### **JOHN A. ROBERTSON AWARD FOR FIRST BOOK OF POETRY**

Winner: Vanessa Villarreal, *Beast Meridian*.

Finalists: Frances Schenkkan, *Mr. Stevens' Secretary*. / Laura Guidry, *Between Two Gardens*.

### **KAY CATTARULLA AWARD FOR BEST SHORT STORY**

Winner: Bret Anthony Johnston, "Miss McElroy."

Finalists: Lisa Bubert, "Formation." / Jerry Whitus, "The Woman at the Galvez."

### **EDWIN "BUD" SHRAKE AWARD FOR SHORT NONFICTION**

Winner: Rose Cahalan, "Ride Like a Girl" in *the Texas Observer*.

Finalists: Sergio Troncoso, "Passing Ambition" (*We Wear the Mask: Fifteen True Stories of Passing in America*). / Skip Hollandsworth, "Love and Loss on the Plains" (*Texas Monthly*.)

### **JEAN FLYNN AWARD FOR BEST CHILDREN'S BOOK**

Winner: Michael Merschel, *Revenge of the Star Survivors*.

Runner-up: Christina Soontornvat, *In a Dark Land*.

### **H-E-B AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG ADULT BOOK**

Winner: Francisco X. Stork, *Disappeared*.

Runner-up: Diana J. Noble, *Evangelina Takes Flight*.

### **DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE AWARD FOR BEST CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK**

Winner: Xelena González and Adriana M. Garcia, *All around Us*.

Runner-up: Chris Barton and Victo Ngai, *Dazzle Ships: World War I and the Art of Confusion*.

### **SOEURETTE DIEHL FRASER AWARD FOR BEST TRANSLATION OF A BOOK**

Winner: Philip Boehm, translator of *Chasing the King of Hearts*, by Hanna Krall.

Runner-up: Shelby Vincent, translator of *Heavens on Earth*, by Carmen Boullosa.

### **FRED WHITEHEAD AWARD FOR BEST DESIGN OF A TRADE BOOK**

Winner: Mary Ann Jacob, designer. *The Nueces River, Rio Escondido* (Texas A&M University Press.)

Finalists: Kristie Lee, designer, *The Blanco River* (Texas A&M University Press) / Kristina Kachele, designer, *The Spirit of Tequila* (Trinity University Press.)

### **NEW TIL MEMBERS INDUCTED**

In addition to honoring the winners of these major awards, the TIL will recognize its new members elected into the Institute: Fiction writers **Daniel Chacón** (El Paso), **Bret Anthony Johnston** (Corpus Christi/Austin), **Guadalupe Garcia McCall** (Eagle Pass/San Antonio), **José Skinner** (Puerto Rico, Rio Grande Valley.) Nonfiction authors **Marcia Hatfield Daudistel** (El Paso), **Michael Hurd** (The Woodlands), **Mary Beth Rogers** (Dallas.) Screenwriter-director **Richard Linklater**. Filmmaker-playwright **Severo Perez** (San Antonio/Los Angeles.) Playwrights **Kirk Lynn** (Austin) and **Ted Shine** (Dallas.) Journalist **Alfredo Corchado** (Dallas/Mexico City.) Singer-songwriter **Willie Nelson**. Poets **Katherine Hoerth** (Beaumont), **Sheryl Luna** (El Paso/Denver), **Sasha Pimentel** (Phillipines/El Paso), **José Antonio Rodríguez** (Rio Grande Valley), **Steven Schneider** (Rio Grande Valley), **Christian Wiman** (Snyder, New Haven, CT)

For more information about the Texas Institute of Letters, visit its website at:

[www.texasinstituteofletters.org](http://www.texasinstituteofletters.org)