

Andre Norton Award





About the Andre Norton Award

The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc., (SFWA) created the Andre Norton Award to recognize outstanding science fiction and fantasy novels that are written for the young adult market. The award was named in honor of the late SFWA Grand Master and author of more than 100 novels, including the acclaimed Witch World series, many of them for young adult readers. Ms. Norton's work has influenced generations of young people, creating new fans of the fantasy and science fiction genres and setting the standard for excellence in fantasy writing.

Nominations for the Andre Norton Award are based on the same process as the SFWA Nebula Awards®. Any book published in English anywhere in the world as a young adult science fiction/fantasy novel is eligible, including graphic novels, with no limit on word length. Votes are cast by SFWA members in conjunction with the Nebula Awards.

The jury members for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy were impressed by the number of outstanding books published in 2006, far too many to give all of them their proper due.

Three of the novels on this year's ballot (MAGIC OR MADNESS, MIDNIGHTERS #2: TOUCHING DARKNESS, and PEEPS) qualified as the result of recommendations by SFWA members.

The jury is also empowered to add up to three additional books to the ballot. This year, the three novels we added to the ballot are DEVILISH, THE KING OF ATTOLIA, and LIFE AS WE KNEW IT.

We found that many of the books marketed to young adult readers were not only appropriate for that age but also satisfying in every way to us as adult readers. We considered well over a hundred novels total, and even our first short list contained almost twenty books.

Although we eventually narrowed our choice down to three books in addition to the three excellent novels already on the ballot, we want to point out that the young adult category of fiction is currently rich and varied, and includes some of the best science fiction and fantasy books being published for any age group.

On the following pages, you can learn more about the finalists and their exceptional Andre Norton Award-nominated books.

For more information on the Andre Norton Award, please visit: <http://www.sfwawards.org/awards/nortonguide.htm>

Jury Statement

Submitted by:

Charles Coleman
Finlay, co-chair

John G. Hemry, aka
Jack Campbell, co-chair



Justine Larbalestier

MAGIC OR MADNESS
Penguin Razorbill
May 2005

Justine Larbalestier is the author of the “Magic or Madness” trilogy, in which the door of a house in Sydney opens onto a street in New York City.

The first volume, *MAGIC OR MADNESS*, was shortlisted for the Ethel Turner Award, one of the New South Wales Premier’s literary awards for 2006, as well as an Aurealis Award for best Australian young adult book; a Ditmar Award for best science fiction or fantasy novel; and the Andre Norton Award.

MAGIC OR MADNESS was a best book of the year selection for School Library Journal and made the American Library Association 2006 Best Books for Young Adults list. The sequel, *MAGIC LESSONS*, was shortlisted for an Aurealis Award for best Australian young adult book as well as a Locus award. The final book in the trilogy, *MAGIC’S CHILD*, was published in Australia and the USA in early 2007.

Justine’s scholarly collection of feminist science fiction in the twentieth century, *DAUGHTERS OF EARTH*, consisted of stories from 1927 through to 2002, accompanied by essays from science fiction scholars. The collection was shortlisted for a British Science Fiction Award and won the Susan Koppelman Award.

Justine was born and raised in Sydney, Australia. She and her husband, writer Scott Westerfeld, are based in Sydney, but frequently travel to New York City, San Miguel de Allende (Mexico), Dunedin (New Zealand), Buenos Aires (Argentina), and many other places.

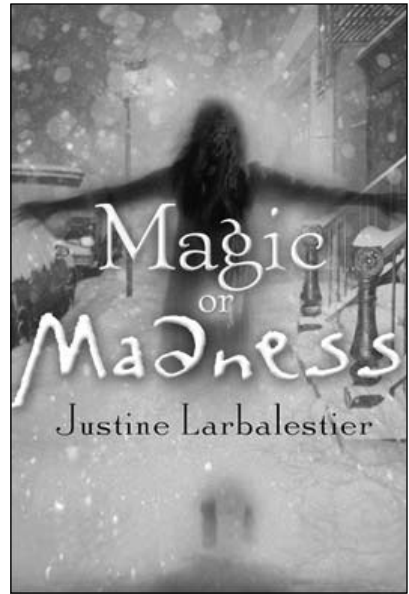
Her blog can be found at: <http://www.justinelarbalestier.com/blog/>

MAGIC OR MADNESS is about fifteen-year-old Reason Cansino, who has lived all her life on the run from her evil grandmother, Esmeralda, who believes in magic and practices horrifying dark rituals. But when her mother suffers a mental breakdown, Reason is sent to the one place she fears most—Esmeralda’s house.

Rachel M. Brown, reviewing the book in *Green Man Review* said:

“You’d be better off not reading this review. Or the book jacket, for that matter. Close the window, step away from your computer, buy the book—you’ll like it, I promise—and open it to the first page, and begin. Make sure you have a couple hours free, because you’re not going to put it down till you’re done ...

Now that you’ve either already read the book, or are still holding out for me to explain why you ought to, I’ll begin. Reason Cansino is an Australian teenager who’s been on the run with her mother, Sarafina, since she was born. They ran from Sarafina’s mother, who was evil and crazy and believed in magic. Sarafina does not believe in magic, and has taught Reason all about numbers and science and logical explanations. But now Sarafina has gone crazy herself and is locked in a mental asylum in Sydney, and Reason is taken away by her grandmother: Esmeralda, the wicked witch.



Reason knows all about Esmeralda—how she made Sarafina’s life hell by demanding that she believe in magic, how she sacrificed cats in bloody ritual spells, how she eats nothing but frogs and snails and brains. But Sarafina taught Reason well, so even though Esmeralda seems nice—and no brains or dead cats are in evidence—Reason knows not to speak to her or eat any of her food, and is ready to make her escape.

Think you know where this is going? You’re wrong. Sort of.

Oh, you think it’s going the other way? Wrong too. Maybe.”

Read the rest at http://greenmanreview.com/book/book_larbalestier_magic.html. Reproduced by permission from the author.



Maureen Johnson

DEVILISH

Penguin Young Readers
September 2006

Maureen Johnson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. An only child, she grew up playing Candyland by herself and doing a lot of writing. The Candyland had no benefit at all and just makes people sad when she tells them about it, but the writing part worked out well. After graduating college, she went on to get her MFA in writing from Columbia University.

Along with writing, Maureen also studied theatrical dramaturgy, and worked in professional theater in New York and Philadelphia. Some highlights of her career include running 15 blocks in the freezing cold to catch a deserting playwright, getting stuck with three unchained live tigers in a room with a malfunctioning fog machine, and having to tell a director (five minutes before a performance) that his orchestra was being conducted by an eight year-old child.

DEVILISH is her fourth book, and her first foray into fantasy. Her other books are THE KEY TO THE GOLDEN FIREBIRD, THE BERMUDEZ TRIANGLE, 13 LITTLE BLUE ENVELOPES, and the soon-to-be-released GIRL AT SEA. Her work is popular with readers, librarians, and booksellers, earning her starred reviews with *Publishers Weekly*, *School Library Journal*, and *Booklist*, as well as recognition by the American Library Association, The New York Public Library, The Chicago Public Library, Borders Original Voices Program, Book Sense, and the Junior Library Guild.

You can read more about Maureen and her books at www.maureenjohnsonbooks.com

At St. Teresa's Preparatory School for Girls in Providence, Rhode Island, rebellious senior class genius Jane Jarvis is worried about her best friend Allison Concord. Ally is lovable, but a little clueless, and badly in need of Jane's help. She needs to get a freshman "sister" at the school's annual Big-Little celebration. When Ally blows it (rather literally), Jane knows that they are in for a rough few weeks.

She has no idea just how rough they will be.

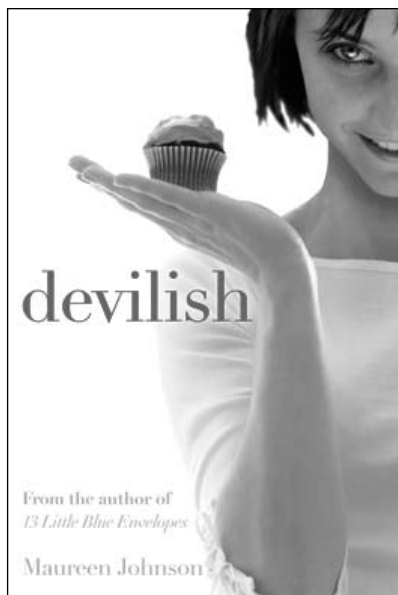
Strange things start happening in Providence. Hail storms rip into the city. A strangely polite gourmet in a silver roadster turns up every time Jane turns around. A freshman guy from neighboring St. Sebastian's starts to stalk her. A lanky, cupcake-loving sophomore transfer steps into their lives to save the day ...

Then Ally begins to change. She loses the awkwardness that Jane has always known and loved and becomes the model of cool. Things don't go as well for Jane, and she soon winds up facing the threat of expulsion and ruin.

But these are only the beginnings of much bigger problems. Ally claims that she sold her soul, and Jane throws herself on the line to get it back. But this battle is big. A crowd of strangers is about to descend on Providence, and they're not there to go on a campus tour of Brown.

In this modern day Faust story, it's Jane versus the demons, and nothing is what it seems. There will be perfume bottles, dogs, explosions, dancing, death, badly misused textbooks, ex-boyfriends, very long falls, unusual weaponry, and lots of sugary snacks before it's all over.

Hey, you do what you have to do. Everyone knows high school is hell.





Megan Whalen Turner

THE KING OF
ATTOLIA

Greenwillow Books/
Harper Collins, 2006

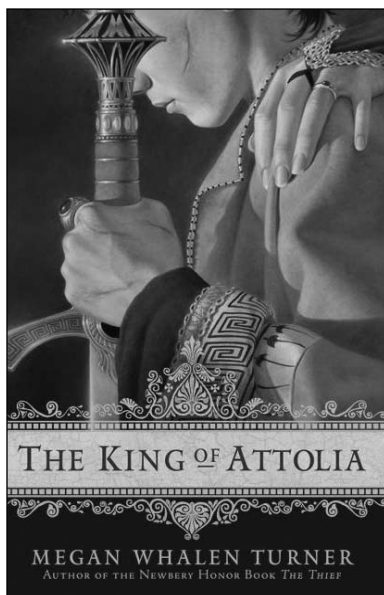
Megan Whalen Turner was born in 1965 at Fort Sill in Oklahoma and has moved every few years ever since. She was living in Huntsville, Alabama and attending the Whitesburg Middle School when she first found the books of Andre Norton on the shelf in the school library. She can still remember exactly where they sat. At the time, she was far more interested in reading than writing and never imagined being a finalist for an award named after the writer whose books she loved.

Turner received a BA with Honors in English Language from the University of Chicago in 1987 and worked as a buyer of children's books in several general-interest bookstores around the country before taking a year off to write while her husband was a visiting researcher at the University of California at San Diego. Her first book was a collection of short stories titled *INSTEAD OF THREE WISHES*. It was followed in 1996 by *THE THIEF*, which was on the American Library Association's List of Notable Books for 1997 and was one of the Best Books for Young Adults the same year, chosen by the Young Adult Library Services Association. It was selected as a Book for the Teen Age for 1997 by the New York Public Library. It also received a 1997 Newbery Honor Award.

THE THIEF was set in a Mediterranean-like landscape inspired by a summer spent in Greece and by a desire to create a fantasy in a setting as unlike Middle Earth as Turner could imagine. *THE QUEEN OF ATTOLIA* and *THE KING OF ATTOLIA* are sequels to *THE THIEF*. Turner currently lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio with her husband and children.

THE KING OF ATTOLIA is the most recent in a series that began with Turner's Newbery Honor Book, THE THIEF. THE KING OF ATTOLIA received starred reviews from the School Library Journal and Kirkus and was chosen for the 2007 Fanfare List by the Horn Book. It is one of the 2007 Top Ten Books for Young Adults, chosen by the Young Adult Library Services Association, and is a Book for the Teen Age, picked by the New York Public Library.

Like THE THIEF, the first book in its series, THE KING OF ATTOLIA is set in a world that is in the midst of a Renaissance. More Byzantine than Dark Ages, it has pocket watches and window glass as well as a feudal hierarchy. It has gunpowder as well as swords. In this volume, the ruling Queen of Attolia has been forced into a political marriage with an outsider from the neighboring country of Eddis. It doesn't seem like a match made in heaven, but it is, as the gods of Eddis are meddling in human affairs. The new king is not well received, especially by the Royal Guard. When Costis, a member of the Guard, is reluctantly dragged into the political machinations of the court by the king himself, he gains an unexpected sympathy for new ruler. Through assassination attempts and conspiracies, the straightforward and unsophisticated Costis learns more than he ever wanted to know about court intrigue, and begins to admire the deceptive and shrewd young king.



Nina Lindsey, chair of the 2008 Newbery Committee said last year, in her Mock Newbery Competition blog, "The story is told as much in gesture as in action or emotion, so that the reader can picture the motions and facial expressions as if in a movie. And as in a movie, what is not said is as important as what is, as the development often occurs just below the surface. Political intrigue, treachery, and triumphant trickery that is engaging and appealing to a young audience is delivered up with complexity that doesn't patronize."



Susan Beth Pfeffer

LIFE AS WE KNEW IT
Harcourt, October 2006

Upon completion of her first novel, “Dookie, the Cookie,”¹ at age six, Susan Beth Pfeffer put aside her lifelong dream of being a cowgirl and resolved to be a writer. The fact that she had outgrown her cowgirl outfit² may have factored into the decision.

Single-minded in her determination, and trained to do nothing else except watch old movies, Ms. Pfeffer wrote her first young adult novel, JUST MORGAN, when she was a senior at NYU. Its \$750.00³ advance was more money than she ever made babysitting, so she kept on writing.

Ms. Pfeffer is the author of seventy-four children’s books, including the popular “Portraits Of Little Women” series, KID POWER (winner of the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children’s Book Award and the Sequoyah Children’s Book Award), ABOUT DAVID and THE YEAR WITHOUT MICHAEL (both winners of the South Carolina Young Adult Book Award). Her chocolate cream pie had the distinction of coming in second in a field of one at the Orange County, New York Fair.⁴

In her spare time, Ms. Pfeffer does volunteer work for the Friends Of Middletown Thrall Library, and watches hearings on C-Span, a taste she’s developed since the November ‘06 elections.

¹ *Dookie, an Oreo cookie, escapes from the cookie jar, ends up in the attic, and finds true love with Sally The Scissors. Ms. Pfeffer’s mother was lavish with her praise.*

² *Consisting of a cowgirl hat and a cowgirl vest and a cowgirl skirt with fringes and most importantly a cowgirl gun, with which to shoot her big brother.*

³ *\$500.00 on signing and \$250.00 on publication. Things have improved somewhat since then.*

⁴ *It came in first in a field of one the following year. After which, she retired from competitive cooking.*

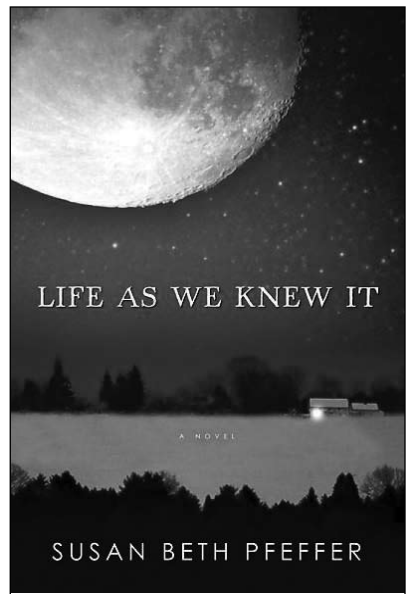
I don't know that I would have ever gotten the idea for *LIFE AS WE KNEW IT* if I hadn't been killing time one Saturday afternoon, only to find that some cable station or another was about to show "Meteor." I hadn't seen Meteor in a decade or two, so I watched as Sean Connery and Natalie Wood saved all humanity (except for a few million here and there) from that nasty old meteor. What can I tell you? As opium was to Coleridge, so was "Meteor" to me.

My mind began racing. The people who had the most to lose if the world came to an end were kids, I realized. How would a teenage girl and her family cope with a worldwide catastrophe? My favorite part of writing is figuring the stuff out, and ending the world provided me with lots of stuff to figure. I knew right away I didn't want humanity to be responsible (we have enough on our collective conscience) and I didn't want Sean Connery and Natalie Wood to be able to save everybody (except for a few million here and there).

Somehow a meteor hitting the moon seemed like a great way to go. Okay, an asteroid, but meteor and moon have that nice alliteration thing. Just a spoonful of gravity and the next thing you knew, there'd be tsunamis and volcanoes and earthquakes and anything else I could think of. Blackouts, famine, plagues. I was in pig heaven.

I had so much fun writing *LIFE AS WE KNEW IT* that I convinced my publishers to let me sucker punch humanity one more time. I just finished a parallel novel called *THE DEAD AND THE GONE*. Same meteor (okay, asteroid), same moon, same tsunamis and volcanoes and earthquakes and blackouts and famine and plagues. Only this time instead of the main character being a girl in a small town in Pennsylvania, it's a boy in New York City.

THE DEAD AND THE GONE will be my seventy-fifth book and I intend to celebrate with a really big party. Assuming the world doesn't come to an end before then.





Scott Westerfeld

PEEPS

Penguin Razorbill
September 2005

MIDNIGHTERS #2:
TOUCHING DARKNESS

Eos, March 2005

Scott Westerfeld is the author of five science fiction novels for adults and ten books for young adults.

His young adult works include the “Midnighters” trilogy, the “Uglies” trilogy, and three stand-alone novels set in contemporary New York, of which PEEPS is the second. A companion book to the “Uglies” trilogy, EXTRAS, is upcoming in October 2007. PEEPS and UGLIES were both named as Best Books for Young Adults 2006 by the American Library Association.

MIDNIGHTERS #1: THE SECRET HOUR won the Aurealis Award for Best YA Fantasy or Science Fiction Novel in 2004. Of his novels for adults, EVOLUTION’S DARLING was a New York Times Notable Book (2000), and won a Special Citation for the 2000 Philip K. Dick Award.

He is the sole nominee for the Andre Norton Award in 2006 with two books on the final ballot, MIDNIGHTERS #2: TOUCHING DARKNESS and PEEPS.

Scott was born in Texas, and splits his time between New York City and Sydney, Australia. He is married to author Justine Larbalestier.

You can find Scott’s blog here: <http://www.scottwesterfeld.com/blog/>

His website is located at: <http://www.scottwesterfeld.com/>

MIDNIGHTERS #2: TOUCHING DARKNESS

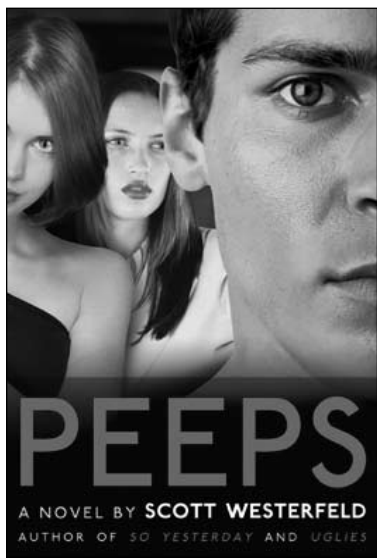
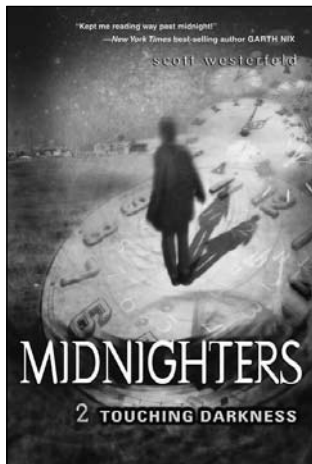
The Midnighters of Bixby, Oklahoma, know that their town is full of secrets. These five teenagers are the only ones who know about the mysterious hour at midnight when the world freezes, except for them and the creatures that inhabit the darkness.

In an interview with Lawrence Schimel, Scott discussed the origins of the trilogy:

“...the idea for *Midnighters* came out of nowhere, and was clearly a young adult idea: about a group of teens in a small town where time froze at midnight every night.

I had already ghost-written some choose-your-own-adventure books for kids, so I knew some people in the business. I took the concept to 17th Street Productions, who developed that idea with me. Once I started writing young adult, I found myself enjoying it too much to stop.”

Read more at: <http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com/2006/02/scbwibologna-2006-author-interview.html>



PEEPS

Cal Thompson was infected by a parasite that has a truly horrifying effect on its host. Cal himself is a carrier, unchanged by the parasite, but he's infected the girlfriends he's had since Morgan, who infected him—and all have turned into the ravening ghouls Cal calls peeps. The rest of us know them as vampires. And it's Cal's job to hunt them down before they can create even more of their kind.

Scott writes: “Some days you wake up, and you just have to write a vampire novel.

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... Maybe there are too many vampire novels, I thought. But that was part of the challenge, to see if I could do something that felt new and interesting, while still being full of bitey goodness. So the book had to be original, but also icky, scary, funny, tragic, and (ahem) not sucky.

Besides getting a new take on the sunlight-impaired, my other big concern was that my vampires should actually make some sense as far as science goes. So I started doing some vampire research, reading a bunch of books about rats, parasites, bites and stings, and biology.

After consuming all there was to know on these subjects, I came up with the four important features that any vampire novel (of mine) had to include: natural selection, sexual attraction, parasitic infection, and Elvis memorabilia.”

Thanks to the 2006 jury for the Andre Norton Award

Jury co-chairs

Charles Coleman Finlay • John G. Hemry, *aka* Jack Campbell

Jury members

Tracina Jackson-Adams • Sandra McDonald • Sarah Prineas
Victoria McManus • Guy Stewart



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