
2021 FIRECRACKER AWARD WINNER

Celebrating the Best of Independent Publishing

FICTION

**Where the Wild
Ladies Are**

by Aoko Matsuda
translated by Polly Barton
Soft Skull Press

“There’s a masterful sense of breadth as the author subsumes and transforms Japanese folktales in unexpected ways.”

—Judges Natanya Ann Pulley, Irene Yoon & Robert Yune
Community of Literary Magazines and Presses / CLMP.ORG

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**CREATIVE
NONFICTION**

**The Names of All
the Flowers**

by Melissa Valentine
Feminist Press

“In this stunning debut, Melissa Valentine traces an unforgettable narrative of growing up the daughter of a white Quaker man and his Black Southern wife. This is a memoir filled with grief and tenderness.”

—Judges E. J. Koh, Paul Lisicky & Aimee Nezhukumatathil
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POETRY

The Malevolent Volume

by Justin Phillip Reed
Coffee House Press

“A dextrous and epic music, this book faces down our combative and trepassed American moment. Almost every line is meant to be repeated slowly and held aloft.”

—Judges Sarah Gambito, Raquel Salas Rivera & Malcolm Tariq
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