



The Beret Book Award is an independent literary recognition created to spotlight exceptional books that deserve wider attention regardless of publication date, marketing budget, celebrity endorsement, or commercial momentum.

Founded by Pactum Factum Press and inspired by the lively literary gossip in its [Beret Book Banter Instagram vertical](#), the award offers an alternative to the increasingly crowded landscape of pay-to-play contests, algorithm-driven hype, and disposable online promotion. There are no entry fees, no submission quotas, no seasonal cycles, no manufactured urgency.

We recognize books when we encounter them. Selections use a 10-factor [CRISP-TRACE](#) rubric, and are made by a rotating interdisciplinary panel composed of:

- * a critical reader with formal literary training,
- * a professional librarian,
- * a published author,
- * a respected Goodreads reviewer with a history of thoughtful, fair, organically written criticism.

Books (and qualified panelists) may be submitted through our [contact form](#) for consideration, but the panel may also independently applaud titles that haven't been submitted at all. Winning authors are contacted directly and invited to use the Beret Book Award seal on book covers, websites, social media, and promotional materials.

The Beret Book Award honors fiction and nonfiction that combine compelling storytelling with substance, perspective, and craft. We are especially interested in works that:

- * illuminate overlooked histories, communities, or perspectives,
- * bridge equity gaps,
- * explore social or climate justice,
- * re-examine accepted narratives,
- * thoughtfully challenge the status quo and offer meaningful ideas for paths forward.

We're drawn to books that remain intellectually curious while still being unputdownable: books that may lack a sun-yellow splot, but that readers push into friends' feeds and insist, "Bump this up on your TBR."

We are particularly passionate about championing:

- * emerging voices,
- * independent and small press authors (agent or no agent),
- * underrecognized backlist titles,
- * books overshadowed by larger commercial publishing machinery despite extraordinary merit.

We are stewards of literary craft. We recognize organic writing that demonstrates originality, intentionality, emotional intelligence, vivid characters, and command of language. Rather than manufacturing prestige, the Beret Book Award is designed to spotlight it.

In an era of endless slop, we believe thoughtful readers still know when they've encountered something real.