



## **Shining a light on exemplary Christian books.**

With more and more people searching for inspiration and answers to life's tough questions, books dedicated to Christian belief and spiritual development are a fast-growing segment of publishing and bookselling today. Books have always been powerful tools for helping us understand Scripture and explore various aspects of faith in a complicated world.

How does one choose the “winners” from the huge array of new titles released each year? The Illumination Book Awards are designed to “shine a light” on the best of these new titles written and published with a Christian worldview. We use expert judges from a wide array of related fields to choose winners based on specific criteria.

Illumination Award categories range from Bible Study and Devotional to family-oriented subjects like Education and Children's Picture Book. The purpose of the Illumination Book Awards is to bring award recipients the credibility and publicity they need to further their book marketing and sales success.

The 2021 Illumination Awards are open to all Christian-themed books written in English with copyrights 2019-2021, or that were released since January 1, 2019. The contest is for published books only, as our judging criteria include cover design, layout, etc. Books from all methods of publishing, including authors of royalty-published books, are welcome to enter their books themselves. Entry fees start at \$75 per category and go up to \$85 and then \$95 as the final deadline approaches, with the early-bird discounts along the way to encourage early entry.

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### **HOW TO ENTER**

Entry into the Illumination Book Awards is fast and convenient, either through our online entry site or by printable entry form. Online entry requires using a credit card and printing out entry coupon and mailing labels; use the printable mail-in entry form below to pay by check or money order in U.S. funds. PayPal payment is available by request. Visit the online entry site at [www.IlluminationAwards.com](http://www.IlluminationAwards.com).

### **WHO CAN ENTER**

Authors and publishers around the world who publish English-language books appropriate for the North American market may enter. Books with 2019-2021 copyright, or that are released between January 1, 2019 and December 21, 2021 are eligible.

## **WHAT DOES IT COST?**

Entry fee is \$75 per title, per category, until the first early-bird deadline of May 16, 2020. Fee is \$85 until the second early-bird deadline of August 29, 2020. Regular entry fee of \$95 runs until the final entry deadline of December 30, 2020. Enter one book in one category for a single entry fee; enter one book in two categories, pay two entry fees.

## **WHAT DO WINNERS RECEIVE?**

Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded in each category. Each medal-winning book receives a packet including the medal, a certificate, 20 foil award seals, and awards marketing material. The award is designed as a marketing tool, so we hope the most valuable aspect of the award is in its promotional value and as a book sales stimulator.

## **WHAT DO I SEND IN MY ENTRY PACKAGE?**

Please send two copies for each category entered. When entering a title in two categories, send four copies; entering three categories, send six copies, etc. Please include your online registration receipt or a completed entry form and check/money order in the same package as the books, preferably tucked inside the front cover. You need not send any marketing kits, reviews or any other supporting material, as our judges are not allowed to see anything but the book itself.

## **HOW DO I SUBMIT AN EBOOK OR AUDIOBOOK?**

Ebooks and audiobooks submitted for judging in the Digital Media category may also be submitted in our regular subject categories if that is the only form of the book available. **You will have the option to upload your e-book after you pay online and in a confirmation email, or you may send as an attachment of gift to [amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com) with "Illumination Entry" in the subject line. For audiobooks, please send a gift of your book to the address above from your preferred audiobook host.** In the case of multiple category entries it is only necessary to send one copy of the Digital Media entry. Please do not send Word documents, as they are not formatted and cannot be judged.

## **JUDGING PROCESS**

Judging will be based on content, design, and production quality, with emphasis on innovation and creative ways of expressing a Christian worldview. Our judging panel includes experts from the fields of education, clergy, book production and bookselling. Three to five medalists per category will be named on January 29, 2021.

## **CONTEST DEADLINE**

All entries must be **paid for online or postmarked** by December 30, 2020.

## **CONTEST ENTRY CONFIRMATION AND UPDATES**

We will confirm your entry via email and send judging updates and results announcements by email as well, so submission of a valid email address is mandatory. Please inform us of any email address changes or additional contacts you'd like added to our contest update list.

## **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Amy Shamroe, Awards Director 1.800.706.4636 x1000 - [amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com](mailto:amys@jenkinsgroupinc.com)

# 2021 ILLUMINATION AWARD CATEGORIES

## ENDURING LIGHT MEDALS

As most book award contests recognize only titles released during the previous calendar year or two, we've created the Enduring Light medals to reward exemplary Christian-themed books published since the year 2000. The Enduring Light medals are presented to books with enduring messages in five categories: Christian Thought; Devotional; Inspirational; Christian Fiction; and Christian Children's Book. Entry fees are the same as in regular categories and two judging copies are requested.

## CHOOSING ILLUMINATION AWARD CATEGORIES

Categories for the Illumination Book Awards and the Enduring Light Medals are listed below. Remember that books released prior to January 1, 2019 are eligible in the Enduring Light division only, and note that the regular categories are numbered 1 through 20 and the Enduring Light categories are designated L1 through L5. In all cases, each category entered requires a separate fee and sending in two copies of the book for judging (or just one copy for Digital Media). Keep in mind that we often move a book from one category to another during judging when the judges determine it will score better that way. We want each book to do its best!

## CATEGORIES

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|--|---|
| 1. Bible Study                                 | 12. Biography / Memoir                      |
| 2. Christian Living                            | 13. Holiday                                 |
| 3. Devotional                                  | 14. Children's Picture Book                 |
| 4. Theology                                    | 15. Juvenile / Young Adult Fiction          |
| 5. Ministry / Mission                          | 16. General Fiction                         |
| 6. Catholic                                    | 17. Inspirational / Romance Fiction         |
| 7. Family / Parenting                          | 18. Keepsake / Gift / Specialty Bible       |
| 8. Education (Home School, Bible School, etc.) | 19. Poetry                                  |
| 9. Spirituality                                | 20. Best Digital Media (Audiobook or Ebook) |
| 10. Illness / Dying / Death                    |   |
| 11. Self-Help / Recovery                       |   |

## ENDURING LIGHT CATEGORIES

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| L1. Christian Thought | L4. Christian Fiction         |
| L2. Devotional        | L5. Christian Children's Book |
| L3. Inspirational     |                               |

# 2021 ILLUMINATION AWARDS ENTRY FORM

When paying by check, please include this form with your entry, preferably folded and inserted inside the front cover.

## Title Info

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Title

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Author

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Publisher Name (as you'd like it to appear in results listing and publicity)

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Category(s) Entered (You may list multiple categories, but don't forget to pay the fee and send two books for each category entered)

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT TWO COPIES OF BOOK FOR EACH CATEGORY ENTERED!**

Early-bird entry fee #1 – Open date until May 16, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75 = \_\_\_\_\_

Early-bird entry fee #2 – May 17, 2020 until Aug. 29, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85 = \_\_\_\_\_

Regular entry fee – Aug. 30, 2020 until Dec. 30, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$95 = \_\_\_\_\_

(All Fees to be submitted in U.S. Funds)

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Contact Person

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Email Address

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Company / Publisher (for mailing purposes)

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Mailing Address

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City, State, Postal Code, Country

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Telephone

## Method of Payment

check in U.S. funds payable to Jenkins Group

To enter with credit card, visit our online entry page:  
[www.illuminationawards.com](http://www.illuminationawards.com)

## How to Send

Ship books with entry fee(s) and entry form(s) to:

Illumination Awards 2021  
1129 Woodmere Ave – Suite B  
Traverse City, MI 49686