



Named by
Poets & Writers
magazine as one of
"5 more writers
over 50" to watch.



Dempsey's fine debut, set in 2009, explores how hate, fear, and intolerance cast a lifelong shadow. Current events have only made this gripping story more relevant.

—LIBRARY JOURNAL

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JOAN DEMPSEY

AUTHOR

PUBLICATIONS

This Is How It Begins, a novel

She Writes Press, Berkeley, CA, October 3, 2017

ISBN : 978-1-63152-308-3

By Next Dusk, short memoir

Plenitude Magazine, 2014

The Lennon Room, flash fiction

The Citron Review, Spring, 2013

Waiting for You: Beauford Delaney as James Baldwin's Inspiration for the Character Creole in Sonny's Blues, literary criticism

Obsidian: Literature of the African Diaspora, Issue 12:1
Spring 2011

Leaving the Ledges, short story

Alligator Juniper, Summer 2009

Finalist, 2008 Alligator Juniper Fiction Prize

Wild Swan, short story

The Adirondack Review, Fall 2007

Finalist for the Fulton Prize

AWARDS

Resident Writer, Jentel Artist Residency Program, 2018

Finalist, Lambda Literary Award, 2018

Finalist, Sarton Women's Book Award, 2018

Bronze Medalist, IPPY Awards, 2018

Finalist, Foreword Indies Book of the Year Award, 2017

Winner, Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award from Poets & Writers, 2017

continued . . .



Selected by the
American Library
Association for the 2018
Over the Rainbow List of
Literature Titles



ARTS AFFILIATIONS

President, Board of Directors
Schoodic Arts for All
2021–Present

Board of Trustees
Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance
2008–2010 (President, 2009, 2010)

Member, Board of Directors
Great River Arts Institute
2006–2007

AWARDS, continued

Recipient, \$13,300 research grant, the Elizabeth George Foundation, 2012

Finalist, Vigilant, a novel (unpublished), The Great Novel Contest, Columbus Creative Cooperative, 2012

Finalist, Unboxed Books Prize in Fiction, 2012

Finalist, New England History Writing Contest, The Salem Literary Festival, 2010

Finalist, Orlando Nonfiction Prize, A Room of Her Own Foundation, 2009

Finalist, Arthur Edelstein Prize for Short Fiction, 2009

Finalist, the 2008 Alligator Juniper Fiction Contest

Winner, Maine Literary Award for Unpublished Fiction, 2008

Scholarship Recipient, the Key West Literary Seminars and Workshops, 2008

Finalist, Reynolds Price Fiction Award, Salem College Center for Women Writers, 2007

Finalist, Writers at Work Fellowship Competition in Fiction, 2007

Recipient, Artist Opportunity Grant, NH State Council on the Arts, 2006

Noted Writer, The Boston Fiction Festival, 2006

Recipient, The Eloise Klein Healy Scholarship, Antioch University Los Angeles, 2003

APPEARANCES (selected)

Public Libraries

Bailey Public Library; Bangor Public Library; Summer Spotlight Series at The Curtis Library; Falmouth Memorial Library; North Gorham Public Library; Portland Public Library; South Berwick Public Library; Southwest Harbor Library; Tuftonboro Free Library

Bookstores

Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA; McNally Jackson Books, New York, NY; Toadstool Bookshop, Keene, NH; Bear Pond Books, Montpelier, VT; Longfellow Books, Portland, ME

continued . . .



IN THE NEWS (Selected)

Conviction in 'This Is How It Begins'
The Denver Voice, Jan 2018

Books to Read after the 'Handmaid's Tale,' **What She Reads**, Dec 2017

Book Review: Author explores the intersection of religious freedom and human rights in 'This Is How It Begins', **Summit Daily News**
Dec 2017

Joan Dempsey's Commitment to Writing Pays Off with Novel, Profile
Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, Nov 2017

Book Review
Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram, Nov 2017

We're Not Past That Now
An Interview with Joan Dempsey
Fiction Writers Review
October 2017

17 New Books About LGBT Families
The Advocate
Sept 2017

A Novel for Our Times
Book Review and Author Interview
Maine Women Magazine
Sept 2017

APPEARANCES, continued

Universities, Conferences, Festivals

New York Center for Independent Publishing;
One Book, One Community, University of Southern Maine,
Portland, ME; Writer's Day, Bay Path University,
Longmeadow, MA; Bangor Book Festival, Bangor, ME;
Author Luncheon, South Freeport Congregational Church,
So. Freeport, ME; Writer's Digest Annual Conference, New
York, NY; Books in Boothbay Summer Book Fair, Boothbay,
ME; Summer Spotlight Series Lecture, Brunswick, ME;
Featured Author, Northern Maine Community College,
Presque Isle, ME; The Local Buzz, Cape Elizabeth, ME;
Books in the 'Brook, Westbrook, ME

EDUCATION

Post-Graduate Certificate, Creative Writing Pedagogy
Antioch University, Los Angeles, Dec 2005

Master of Fine Arts, Fiction
Antioch University, Los Angeles, June 2005

Master of Science in Nonprofit Management
Lesley University, summa cum laude, 1995

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, with a concentration in the Study
of Faith, Peace and Justice
Boston College, cum laude, 1985

CONTINUING EDUCATION (selected)

Fiction Workshop, Brock Clarke
MWPA Black Fly Writers Retreat, 2023

Advanced Fiction Workshop, Lee Smith
The Key West Literary Seminars, 2008

Fiction Workshop, Melissa Pritchard
Vermont College Post-Graduate Writer's Conference, 2002

Private Writing Instruction, Bruce Machart, 2002

Three Fiction Workshops, Manuel Muñoz & Bruce Machart
Grub Street Writers, Boston 2000-01