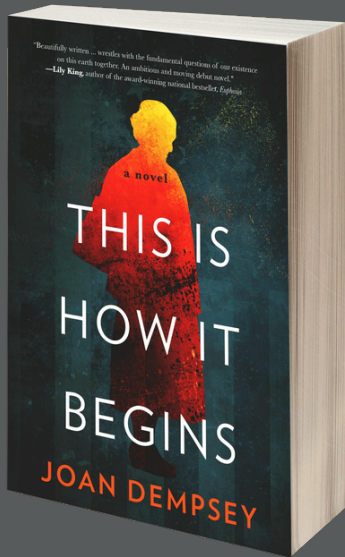




Named by *Poets & Writers Magazine* as one of "5 more writers over 50 to watch."



14 Dougherty Road  
New Gloucester, ME  
04260-5028

joan@joandempsey.com  
<https://joandempsey.com>

207-310-0365

# JOAN DEMPSEY

AUTHOR

## PUBLICATIONS

**Way Out Here: One Writer's Life in Maine**, essay Forthcoming in *Poets & Writers Magazine* (2024 date TBD)

**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**Finalist**, Vigilant, a novel (unpublished), The Great Novel Contest, Columbus Creative Cooperative, 2012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**Winner**, Maine Literary Award for Unpublished Fiction, 2008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



## WRITING TEACHER

### Host & Teacher

#### **GUTSY GREAT NOVELIST WRITERS STUDIO**

Creator and host of a free, private online community for novelists from all over the world. Current membership is 2,405. Online classes include:

- Writing Great Dialogue
- Write a Gripping First Page
- Self-Editing for Writers
- Find Feedback Partners

<https://community.gutsygreatnovelist.com/>

### Host

#### **GUTSY GREAT NOVELIST WRITING RETREAT**

Host of an exclusive annual writing retreat in Maine, limited to 12 novelists. Special guests have included Christina Baker Kline, Cynthia Underwood Thayer, and C. Hope Clark.

<https://gutsygreatnovelist.com/writing-retreat/>

### Founder

#### **GUTSY GREAT NOVELIST WRITING PRIZES**

Founder and judge of two annual writing competitions for novelists: The Page One Prize and the Chapter One Prize.

<https://gutsygreatnovelist.com/page-one-prize/>

<https://gutsygreatnovelist.com/chapter-one-prize/>