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Sisters in Crime Names P.M. Raymond as 2024 Eleanor Taylor Bland Award Winner

The award supports the advancement, recognition and professional development of emerging crime writers of color.

August 1, 2024 — Sisters in Crime (SinC), an inclusive international community for all who write and love crime fiction, has announced the winner of the annual Eleanor Taylor Bland Crime Fiction Writers of Color.

This year's winner is P.M. Raymond of Apex, North Carolina. Raymond's winning submission, "A Nasty Business," is set on a Louisiana farm where a family tradition forces the heirs to compete in a series of grueling tasks. Pops, the patriarch, oversees the competition between his sons, Galen and Jeff, as they vie for control of the estate, and discover the farm's dark history — and the heavy burden of their inheritance.

As a New Orleans native, mystical undertones are, says Raymond, the roux in her crime noir and horror writing. She was named to the 160 Black Women in Horror and is a 2024 Finalist in the Killer Shorts Screenplay Competition. Her work has appeared in publications such as *Flash Fiction Magazine*, *Kings River Life Magazine*, *Dark Fire Fiction*, *Pyre Magazine* and *The Furious Gazelle* and *Dark Yonder*.

Raymond's story was selected from 29 submissions by the 2024 judges of the Eleanor Taylor Bland Award, Alex Segura, Carolyn Wilkins and Nicole Prewitt.

"It was an honor to serve as a judge again this year," said Segura. "The Eleanor Taylor Bland Crime Fiction Writers of Color Award plays an integral part in spotlighting marginalized voices deserving greater recognition, and I'm thankful to have played a small part in that process."

"It is exciting and inspiring to read so many excellent stories by crime writers of color," said Wilkins. "We had a difficult time selecting a winner because the overall caliber of submissions was so high."

"I love SinC's mission and feel the ETBA is such a special award in our community," added Prewitt. "It was a tough choice, but I'm excited to offer a congratulations to this year's winner!"

Established in 2014, the Eleanor Taylor Bland Award supports the advancement, recognition and professional development of emerging crime writers of color. It is aligned with Sisters in Crime's mission to promote diversity in crime fiction. The grantee may use the award to attend

workshops, seminars, conferences, retreats, online courses and research activities that help them complete their work.

About Eleanor Taylor Bland

Eleanor Taylor Bland (1944-2010) paved the way for fresh voices in crime fiction by showcasing complex characters that had previously been peripheral to, or simply missing from, the genre. Her debut novel, *Dead Time* (1992), introduced Black police detective Marti MacAlister, an enduring and beloved heroine who overturned stereotypes that had been perpetuated in much of American popular culture. Bland also published more than 50 works of short crime fiction and edited the 2004 collection, *Shades of Black: Crime and Mystery Stories by African-American Authors*.

About Sisters in Crime

Sisters in Crime (SinC) was founded in 1986 to promote the ongoing advancement, recognition and professional development of women crime writers. Today, the organization boasts 4,200 members and more than 60 chapters worldwide. Its initiatives include scholarships; grants for academic research into the roles of women and underserved voices in crime fiction; cash awards to libraries and bookstores; and surveys and monitoring projects which determine visibility and representation of women and diverse voices in the genre and across the marketplace. For more information, visit <http://www.sistersincrime.org>.