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## ERIC HOFFER BOOK AWARD 2019 FINALIST

### *Almost A Murder Is Up for The Montaigne Medal*

The Eric Hoffer Book Award is an annual award for book and prose in honor of the great American philosopher, Eric Hoffer. Each year, the Eric Hoffer Award presents **the Montaigne Medal to the most thought-provoking books**. These are books that either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought. The Montaigne Medal is given in honor of the great French philosopher Michel de Montaigne, who influenced people such as William Shakespeare, René Descartes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Eric Hoffer. This is an additional distinction beneath the Eric Hoffer Award umbrella.

This medal was introduced in 2008. *Almost A Murder* by Jody Seay and Jim Lloyd is a finalist for The Montaigne Medal. This small list of finalists is an honored distinction of its own and is announced publicly each year.

*"There is in most passions a shrinking away from ourselves. The passionate pursuer has all the earmarks of a fugitive. Passions usually have their roots in that which is blemished, crippled, incomplete and insecure within us. The passionate attitude is less a response to stimuli from without than an emanation of an inner dissatisfaction." - from The Passionate State of Mind by Eric Hoffer*



The Eric Hoffer Book Award was founded at the start of the 21st century (with permission from the Eric Hoffer Estate) to honor freethinking writers and independent books of exceptional merit.

The commercial environment for today's writers has all but crushed the circulation of ideas. It seems strange that in the Information Age, many books are blocked from wider circulation, and powerful writing is barred from publication or buried alive on the Internet. Furthermore, many of the top literary prizes will not consider independent books, choosing instead to become the marketing arms of large presses.

The "Hoffer" honored books are from small, academic, and micro presses, including self-published offerings. Throughout the centuries, writers such as Emily Dickinson, James Joyce, Walt Whitman, and Virginia Woolf have taken the path of self-publishing, rather than have their ideas forced into a corporate or sociopolitical mold. Today, small and academic presses struggle in this same environment. The Hoffer will continue to be a platform for and the champion of the independent voice.

Nominated books are judged by independent panels within eighteen categories. Each year, the Eric Hoffer Award results are publicly announced in the spring, and every nominee is notified.

ALMOST A MURDER by Jody Seay, Jim Lloyd (published by Koho Pono, LLC in 2018); ISBN 9781938282218

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