



## COMPETITION RULES

ALL FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, AND MUNICIPAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

### 1. Eligibility

*Shelf Unbound* Writing Competition for Best Independently Published Book (the Contest) is open to authors around the globe who are at least eighteen (18) years old at the time of entry. Employees of Shelf Media Group and other companies associated with the promotion of the Contest, and their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates and advertising and promotion agencies as well as the immediate family (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) and household members of each such employee are not eligible. The Contest is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

“Independently Published” books include self-published books and e-books (such as those published through CreateSpace, Lulu.com, iUniverse, etc.) and/or books and e-books published through small presses releasing less than five titles per year. Books entered in last year’s competition are eligible for re-submission in this year’s competition. There is no limit to the number of books an individual can enter; each book is a separate entry. Books published in any year are eligible.

### 2. Sponsor

The Contest is hosted and run by Shelf Media Group, located at PO Box 852321, Richardson, Texas 75085-2321.

### 3. Agreement to Official Rules

Participation in the Contest constitutes entrants’ full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor, which are final and binding. Winning a prize is contingent upon being compliant with these Official Rules and fulfilling all other requirements set forth herein.

### 4. Contest Period

The Contest begins on May 10, 2016 and ends on October 1, 2016. (the Contest Period). Entries that are submitted before or after the Contest Period will be disqualified. Submissions will be accepted for the duration of the Contest using any of the following methods: email a PDF or epub of entire book to [contest@shelfmediagroup.com](mailto:contest@shelfmediagroup.com), or mail physical copy of book to *Shelf Unbound* Contest, PO Box 852321 Richardson, Texas 75085. **Our preference is to receive books via email.**

### 5. How to Enter

Entrants may submit one book per entry. Entry fee is \$50 per entry. Entry fee must be paid by check and mailed to Shelf Media Group, PO Box 852321, Richardson, Texas 75085-2321, or via PayPal (the PayPal address is [margaret@shelfmediagroup.com](mailto:margaret@shelfmediagroup.com)). Book receipt will be acknowledged by email. Please include email address with entry. If paying by check, please write book title on your check.

## **6. Winner Selection**

On or about November 1, 2016, the Sponsor will select the winner. The Sponsor will attempt to notify the potential winner via email on or about November 2, 2016. If the potential winner cannot be contacted within five (5) days after the date of the first attempt to contact him/her, the Sponsor may select an alternate potential winner in his/her place from the remaining eligible entries.

## **7. Winner Notification**

The potential winner will be notified by email.

## **8. Prizes**

The winner will receive \$500 as well as editorial coverage in the December/January 2017 issue of *Shelf Unbound* magazine. The five finalists will receive editorial coverage in the December/January 2017 issue of *Shelf Unbound*, along with more than 100 notable books from the competition.

The winner of the Pete Delohery Award for Best Sports Book will receive \$1,000.

## **9. General Conditions**

In the event that the operation, security, or administration of the Contest is impaired in any way for any reason, including, but not limited to fraud, virus, bug, worm, unauthorized human intervention or other technical problem, or in the event the Contest is unable to run as planned for any other reason, as determined by Sponsor in its sole discretion, the Sponsor may, in its sole discretion, either (a) suspend the Contest to address the impairment and then resume the Contest in a manner that best conforms to the spirit of these Official Rules or (b) terminate the Contest. The Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Contest or to be acting in violation of these Official Rules or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to damage the website or undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and, should such an attempt be made, the Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages (including attorneys fees) and any other remedies from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. Failure by the Sponsor to enforce any provision of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

## **10. Release and Limitations of Liability**

By participating in the Contest, entrants agree to release and hold harmless the Sponsor, and each of their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, advertising and promotion agencies, other companies associated with the Contest, and each of their respective officers, directors, employees, shareholders, representatives, and agents (the Released Parties) from and against any claim or cause of action arising out of participation in the Contest or receipt or use of the prize (including any travel or activity related thereto), including, but not limited to: (a) any technical errors associated with the Contest, including lost, interrupted or unavailable Internet Service Provider (ISP), network, server, wireless service provider, or other connections, availability or accessibility or miscommunications or failed computer, satellite, telephone, cellular tower or cable transmissions, lines, or technical failure or jumbled, scrambled, delayed, or misdirected transmissions or computer hardware or software malfunctions, failures or difficulties; (b) unauthorized human intervention in the Contest; (c) mechanical, network, electronic, computer, human, printing or typographical errors; (d)(e) any other errors or problems in connection with the Contest, including, without limitation, errors that may occur in the administration of the Contest, the announcement of the winner, the cancellation

or postponement of the event and/or the flyover, if applicable, or in any Contest-related materials; or (f) injury, death, losses or damages of any kind, to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from entrants participation in the contest or acceptance, receipt or misuse of the prize (including any travel or activity related thereto). Entrant further agrees that in any cause of action, the Released Parties liability will be limited to the cost of entering and participating in the Contest, and in no event shall the entrant be entitled to receive attorneys fees. Released Parties are also not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by site users, tampering, hacking, or by any equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest. Entrant waives the right to claim any damages whatsoever, including, but not limited to, punitive, consequential, direct, or indirect damages.

#### **11. Disputes**

Except where prohibited, each entrant agrees that any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of, or connected with, the Competition or any prize awarded shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and exclusively by the appropriate court located in Texas. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules, entrants rights and obligations, or the rights and obligations of the Sponsor in connection with the Competition, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of Texas, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules, which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than Texas.

#### **12. Privacy**

Information collected from entrants is subject to sponsor's privacy policy.

#### **13. Winner List**

Winners, finalists, and notable books will be announced in the December/January 2017 issue of *Shelf Unbound* magazine, which can be found at [www.shelfmediagroup.com](http://www.shelfmediagroup.com). The issue will be published the first week of December 2016.