

**JUNCTION CITY**— Oregon author, Danuta Pfeiffer scored the Finalist honors from the [American Book Fest](#) in the [The 2021 Best Book Awards](#) on November 16, 2021. Over 400 winners and finalists were announced in over 90 categories. Awards were presented for titles published in 2019-2021.

Pfeiffer's novel, *LIBERTAS*, the first book in the *Pocket Full of Seeds Trilogy*, is the story of Fredericka, the daughter of a White plantation owner and his Black house slave, and Horace, a literate slave companion to the son of a New York hotel baron.

The story follows their flight for freedom through nineteenth-century America. It was a time when runaway slaves were hunted, steamships sailed around the Horn to San Francisco, horse-tugged boats navigated the Erie Canal, a midnight tsunami struck Buffalo, Mormons sought a new Zion, and wagon trains lumbered across a continent littered with unmarked graves. Most of all, this is a story driven by an unquenchable thirst for LIBERTAS.

Hailed by the Historical Fiction Company as “a literary masterpiece of the highest caliber,” *LIBERTAS* is Pfeiffer's debut novel as a fiction writer. Previously, her memoir, *Chiseled*, earned the coveted Eric Hoffer Finalist Award and the Readers' Favorite International Gold Medal.

[Jeffrey Keen](#), President and CEO of American Book Fest said this year's contest yielded over 2,000 entries from mainstream and independent publishers.

Keen says of the awards, now in their 19th year, “The [2021 results](#) represent a phenomenal mix of books from a wide array of publishers throughout the United States. Our success begins with the enthusiastic participation of authors and publishers and continues with our distinguished panel of industry judges who bring to the table their extensive editorial, PR, marketing, and design expertise”

Winners and finalists traversed the publishing landscape: HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, John Wiley and Sons, Rowman & Littlefield, Revell/Baker Publishing, Macmillan Publishers, Routledge/Taylor and Francis, Sounds True, HCI Press, New World Library, Lake Union Publishing, She Writes Press, American Psychological Association, NYU Press, Oxford University Press, John Hopkins University Press and hundreds of Independent Houses contribute to this year's outstanding competition!

Danuta Pfeiffer, a former broadcast journalist, lives in Junction City, Oregon with her husband Robin, where they own and manage Pfeiffer Vineyards and Winery in the foothills of the Coast Range.

Pfeiffer's novel, *LIBERTAS*, is published by Luminare Press of Eugene, Oregon. The book is available through Netgalley, Amazon, Kindle, and [www.DanutaPfeiffer.com](http://www.DanutaPfeiffer.com).