



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**February 13, 2018**

**Alabama Book Festival**  
[www.alabamabookfestival.org](http://www.alabamabookfestival.org)

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## **Alabama Book Festival Announces 2018 Author Lineup for April 21 Event**

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- A former Auburn football player, a death row exoneree, a coloring book designer and an award-winning food blogger are part of the diverse lineup for the 2018 Alabama Book Festival scheduled for April 21 in Montgomery. They join a long list of best-selling authors taking part in the annual event at Montgomery's historic Old Alabama Town from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Here are just a few authors scheduled to appear:

**Ace Atkins** -- Ace Atkins is the New York Times bestselling author of 21 novels. A former newspaper reporter and SEC football player—he was a member of Auburn's undefeated 1993 team—Ace also writes essays and investigative pieces for several national magazines. Atkins currently writes the "Spenser" detective novels, which he took over after the death of Robert B. Parker. Atkins is the 2018 recipient of Troy University's Hall-Waters Prize for his distinguished career in Southern writing.

**Callie Chapman** -- Elementary school student Callie Chapman has written three books about Glitter the Unicorn. The 8-year-old will kick off the festival in the children's tent and read from her books during a special noon storytime session on the Old Alabama Town playground.

**Wayne Flynt** -- Wayne Flynt is the author of 14 books, most recently “Mockingbird Songs: My Friendship with Harper Lee,” which recounts his relationship with the beloved Alabama author during her final years.

**Anthony Ray Hinton** -- Hinton shares his story of wrongful conviction, survival on Alabama's death row, and his decades-long journey to exoneration and freedom in “The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row.”

**Linda Howard** -- Howard is the award-winning author of numerous New York Times bestsellers including “Up Close and Dangerous,” “Drop Dead Gorgeous,” “Dying to Please,” and her latest, “The Woman Left Behind.” She lives in Gadsden, Alabama.

**P. F. Kluge** --- The author of the classic cult novel “Eddie and the Cruisers” and the journalist whose original reportage inspired the classic movie “Dog Day Afternoon” will lead a workshop on novel-writing.

**Laura Murray** -- Author/illustrator Laura Murray was inspired to create “Amazing Alabama: A Coloring Book Journey Through Alabama's 67 Counties” after moving to Alabama from Georgia.

**Eric Motley** -- Motley serves as Executive Vice President of The Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit think tank. He tells the story of his proud black Alabama roots in his memoir, “Madison Park: A Place of Hope,” one of the most acclaimed inspirational books of the year.

**Gin Phillips** -- This Birmingham author’s latest novel, “Fierce Kingdom,” was named one of the Best Books of 2017 by “The New York Times.”

**Hanna Raskin** -- Raskin is the food editor and chief critic of “The Post and Courier,” the largest newspaper in South Carolina. She was named the nation’s best food blogger by the Association of Food Journalists and co-hosts “The Winnow,” a weekly podcast about food and beverage in the American South.

**Doug Stutsman** -- No matter which team you root for, football fans will enjoy hearing Stutsman speak about his book, “The Deep South's Oldest Rivalry: Auburn vs. Georgia.”

**Warren Zanes** -- Zanes is the New York Times bestselling author of “Petty: The Biography.” No one other than Zanes, rocker and writer and friend, could author a book about Tom that is as honest and evocative of Petty's music and the remarkable rock and roll history he and his band helped to write.

A Student Readers Group has been formed as part of this year's festival activities. Students in grades 9-12 and university undergraduates are invited to participate in reading books by two festival authors and participating in discussions both prior to and on festival day. Selected books are "Fake ID" by Lamar Giles and "The Education of Margot Sanchez" by Lilliam Rivera. Information on how to participate is on the festival website at [www.alabamabookfestival.org](http://www.alabamabookfestival.org).

These are just a few authors who will be participating in this year's event. Joining them will be more than 40 additional authors, literary related exhibitors, a variety of children's activities, food vendors and more. Genres represented will be Children's, Young Adult, Romance, Mystery, Cookbooks, History, Poetry and Memoirs.

Books by festival authors will be available for purchase courtesy of Barnes and Noble, and authors will be signing books immediately following their presentations.

For aspiring writers, several workshops are scheduled throughout the day on a variety of fiction and nonfiction topics. The workshops are free on a first-come, first-served basis, but registration is required online at [www.alabamabookfestival.org](http://www.alabamabookfestival.org).

Sponsors of the 2018 festival include the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Troy University, Old Alabama Town/Landmarks Foundation, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the City of Montgomery, the Montgomery City-County Public Library, Barnes and Noble, the Alabama Library Association, the Alabama Bench and Bar Historical Society, the Alabama Writers' Forum, The Fitzgerald Museum, Mayor Todd Strange and the Alabama Tourism Department.

To view the full festival schedule, sign up for a workshop or volunteer to help at the festival, visit the website at [www.alabamabookfestival.org](http://www.alabamabookfestival.org).

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