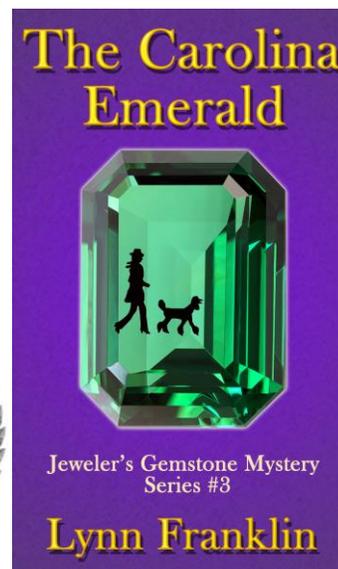


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lynn Franklin Finalist in International Book Competition

Chesapeake Beach, MD February, 2018

The Carolina Emerald by local novelist Lynn Franklin has been named a finalist for the prestigious EPIC™ eBook Awards.



EPIC™, the Electronic Publishing Industry Coalition is one of the oldest voices in the E-publishing industry. The annual award recognizes authors who adhere to rigorous storytelling and publishing standards. Finalists are judged on literary quality and whether they are “good reads”.

Entries from all over the globe are divided into 15 categories. The multi-step judging process is intended to winnow the thousands of entries down to three or four in each category. Books are judged on plot, character development, setting, continuity, editing and presentation.

The 2018 winners will be announced later this year.

The Carolina Emerald is one of only four finalists in the broad Mystery category.

“I can’t tell you how honored I am,” Franklin said. “Not only was *The Carolina Emerald* judged by professionals in electronic publishing, but it was selected as a

finalist in a field that includes everything from hard-boiled to police procedurals and cozies. That's a huge number of books!"

The Carolina Emerald is the third book in Franklin's Gemstone Mystery Series. While the first books are set along the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, *The Carolina Emerald* takes place in a real North Carolina Emerald mine.

"Most people are surprised to learn there are emerald mines in the United States," Franklin said. "I was too. When I thought of American gemstones, Southwestern Turquoise, Montana Sapphires or Arizona Diamonds came to mind. It was a thrill to learn about emeralds in North Carolina, and I just had to set a yarn there."

The novel features a real 60-year-old mystery, a one-of-a-kind emerald, and a small town steeped in secrets.

Franklin assures her readers that all of their favorite characters from the first two books – Kimberley West, Scott Wilson, Kim's grandfather and Aunt Ginny and, of course, Rory the standard poodle and Al the longhaired dachshund – appear in the book.

Though now available in quality paperback, Franklin's series originally appeared only in eBook form, which makes the EPIC™ nod appropriate.

Franklin and her two-time, Pulitzer-Prize winning husband Jon, were early pioneers in ePublishing. Beginning in 1995, they edited and moderated WriterL, a discussion list for writers of narrative nonfiction. In 1999, long before the advent of Kindle and PayPal, they launched an ePublishing company called *bylines*. The goal of *bylines* was to bring quality writing to readers at a low cost while paying the writers the bulk of their sales.

bylines received an enthusiastic audience from readers, writers and *The New York Times*. Among the companies' best-sellers was Lynn Franklin's "Comfort Me With Apples," a nonfiction novella that traced the history of the human love of apples.

Due to the difficulty of processing micropayments, *bylines* eventually closed its doors. But the audience for quality stories remained – even if they were published electronically.

“Books are not paper, ink and glue,” Franklin said. “Books are the images and stories that form in your mind, the characters that we love, the new worlds they open. That’s why readers were willing to read stories electronically.”

It’s also why, when Franklin published *The Blue Diamond*, the first in her Gemstone Mystery Series, she turned down standard publishing contracts and published the book electronically.

“EBooks have opened up a new world,” she said. “It’s a world that’s good for both readers and writers.”

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