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Professor emeritus weaves tale of land use, threesome

The prestigious Colorado Books Awards ceremony held Wednesday in Denver honored local authors Laura Pritchett, Richard Knight and Jeff Lee for "Home Land: Ranching and a West That Works" in the anthology/collection category. Laura Resau won the young adult category for her "Red Glass."

**'Rabbit Creek Country: Three Ranching Lives in the Heart of the Mountain West'**

> **Author:** Jon Thiem, professor emeritus of English and comparative literature at CSU.

> **About the book:** While on a hike following a fork of Rabbit Creek near Livermore, Thiem and his friends discovered an abandoned ranch house. The curious author researched the lives of the ranch's inhabitants and discovered an unusual turn-of-the-century living arrangement. The threesome who lived together on the ranch for more than 40 years included a husband and wife and schoolteacher. It was a relationship that had as much to do with their love of the land as of each other.

The story of the threesome weaves around changes in land use in

pastoral economies throughout the West as well as gender roles in ranching life. In this intimate portrait, Thiem has managed to preserve a valuable part of local history that would have been lost if he had not wandered upon the old ranch house ruins. Highly recommended.

> **Available:** CSU Bookstore  
> **Price:** \$29.95

**'Bliss'**

> **Author:** Lauren Myracle, who also penned the New York Times best-selling "Internet Girls trilogy -ttyl, ttfn and 18r.g8r" along with "Rhymes with Witches". Myracle will have another bestseller on her hands with this scary work.

> **About the book:** When Bliss's hippie parents leave the commune and dump her at the home of her wealthy, aloof grandmother in a tiny Atlanta neighborhood, it is like being set down on an alien planet. She must learn to navigate life at Crestview Academy, an elite school where dark veil of tensions between the present and the dark past hangs over everyone. Openhearted Bliss only wants to make new friends, which makes her the prey of a troubled girl whose obsession with a

long-ago death puts Bliss in mortal danger.

Adults should read this in the daytime, the younger set will delight at being horrified during the dark hours.

> **Available:** All book-sellers  
> **Price:** \$16.95.

**'In Real Life'**

> **Author:** Maggie Goins has produced the sought-after instruction manual in the form of a short novel for all 8- to 12-year-olds plus parents and educators who need to understand how a young person can be hooked into involvement with an Internet predator.

> **About the book:** Libby is distraught and sad. After her mother died, the family consisted of Libby and her father for a long time. On the day her father's new, young wife and her two little kids move in, Libby's life changes dramatically for the worst.

Enter the Internet friend representing himself as "Eric," a 13-year-old who understands her when no one else does. Goins takes innocent Libby through a situation that happens all too often, giving valuable insights to all readers that might save lives. An important work.

> **Available:** All book-sellers

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## Local authors, editors win Colorado Book Awards

**BY NANCY HANSFORD**  
For the Coloradoan

Creative writing talent abounds in Fort Collins as evidenced by last week's top honors at the Colorado Book Awards for three area authors.

Laura Pritchett won for editing an anthology, "Home Land: Ranching and a West That Works." Her co-editors on the project were Richard Knight of Livermore and Jeff Lee of Denver. The collection of essays and poems by ranchers, academics, poets and environmentalists delivers the concerns of protecting open spaces in the West.

For the second time, Laura Resau took top honors with one of her popular young adult fiction books. "Red Glass"

was the winner at this year's awards program at the Tivoli Turnhalle on the Auraria campus in Denver.

Her first book, "What the Moon Saw," was her first winner from Colorado Humanities.

"I would have been happy if any one of us from Fort Collins would have won," Resau said.

"I have a lot of respect for the other authors who were finalists.

Resau lived in the Mixtec region of Oaxaca, Mexico, for two years, working as an English

teacher and anthropologist. Her books are inspired by that experience.

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**v.i.party!**

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## Booklovers mingle with characters

**■ The event:** Booklovers' Ball "Night At The Library When the Books Come Alive" held Oct. 18 at the Denver Central Library  
**■ Raised:** 620 people raised \$100,000 for the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation, which assists and supports the library.  
**■ The evening's fun:** Cocktails, dinner and dancing  
**■ Chairmen:** Library Commissioner Kevin O'Connor and his wife, Janet Raasch  
**■ Seen:** John Hickenlooper and Helen Thorpe, Bill and Jeannie Ritter, Diana DeGette and Lino Lipinsky, Jim and Shelly Berstorf, Jack Finlaw and Greg Mavesian, Landri and Gloria Taylor, Lois Ann Rovira and Judge Luis Rovira, Hanne Lichtenfels, Michelle Onoda.  
**■ The theme:** Characters from tomes old and new joined in the fun. Scarecrow and Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* made an appearance. In a nod to the recent *One Book, One Denver* selection, the title character from *The Thin Man* enjoyed a scotch, while Geisha from *Memoirs of a Geisha* mingled with the crowd.  
**■ A green event:** Event organizers, including Richter Scale Productions and Footer's Catering, produced an event with a low carbon footprint. Locally grown and produced goods were used, and recycling or composting was managed onsite.

**The Thin Man (aka Vic Valenzuela), above left, greets Mayor John Hickenlooper at the Booklovers' Ball. Others in attendance, below from left, Janet Raasch and Kevin O'Connor; Mike Daves and Robin Gaensslen, enacting Lonesome Dove; Eric Duran, Susana Cordova and Gloria and Landri Taylor; Fofi Mendez and Tony Bierbrauer.**





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**THE THIN MAN RADIO DRAMA:**

The Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA), University of Colorado Denver (UCD) and Colorado Public Radio present "The Thin Man" Radio Drama as part of the 2008 "One Book, One Denver" program. Part one will air twice today at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., part two tomorrow at the same times, part three on Thursday at the same times and part four on Friday at the same times. Parts one and two will be re-broadcast on Sunday at 2 p.m. and parts three and four on Monday at 9 p.m. Colorado Public Radio can be heard on 90.1 FM in Denver and 1490 AM in Boulder. Visit [www.cpr.org](http://www.cpr.org) for a complete list of Colorado stations and to listen online.