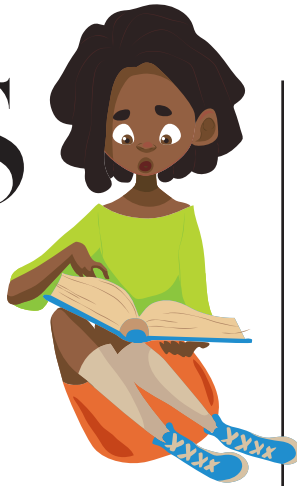


BOOKS

Gone Burt not forgotten



As the **Burt Award for Caribbean Literature** is awarded for the last time, we remember the wonderful youth fiction it inspired

Since 2014, the Burt Award for Caribbean Literature has recognised excellence in Caribbean-authored literature for young adults. Each year, three prizes have been awarded and 2,000-2,500 copies of the winning books distributed to libraries, schools and other organisations throughout the Caribbean. The existence of this prize has encouraged authors to write and has given publishers the opportunity to invest in excellent titles. As a result, the commended books – stories of teenage angst, political turmoil, romance and enticing fantasy – have found themselves on bookshelves and in the hands of young people throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

This prize was sponsored by CODE, an organisation founded by Canadian philanthropist Bill Burt who died in 2017. This March, CODE announced that the programme will end this year because the sponsorship focus of the new management has changed. CODE reports that its commitment to promoting and supporting literacy has not changed, and it is working to find a replacement donor for this valuable prize.

CaribbeanReads has been proud to have been involved with the Burt Award from the very beginning. In addition to publishing two winning books – *Musical Youth* by Joanne C Hillhouse and *The Protectors' Pledge* by Danielle YC McClean, CaribbeanReads has lent its support to the organisers whenever asked – and they have asked. The organisers must be credited for seeking advice from the region and adapting the prize to the nuances of Caribbean publishing. They partnered with Trinidad's NGC Bocas Lit Festival to administrate the award and, among other initiatives, launched a 'Read With Me' campaign, using Caribbean role models to encourage our youth to read.

The Burt Award has changed the landscape of YA literature in the Caribbean. Caribbean YA literature existed before the prize, but the Burt Award made it possible for a number of stories that might otherwise not be published to be enjoyed by thousands of Caribbean children. We will miss the anticipation of wondering what new YA titles will appear, and we wish CODE success in finding the funding to continue this valuable service.

PAGE BY **CAROL MITCHELL**, FOUNDER OF CARIBBEANREADS PUBLISHING AND AUTHOR OF THE CARIBBEAN ADVENTURE SERIES, AMONG OTHER CHILDREN'S BOOKS. VISIT WWW.CARIBBEANREADS.COM



YOUR BURT BOOK LIST

Six years of winners – a perfect reading plan for every young adult



2014

All Over Again
by A-dZiko Simba
Gegele (Jamaica)

Musical Youth
by Joanne C Hillhouse
(Antigua & Barbuda)

Inner City Girl
by Colleen Smith-Dennis (Jamaica)

2015

Children of the Spider
by Imam Baksh
(Guyana)

Gone to Drift
by Diana McCaulay
(Jamaica)

Dancing in the Rain
by Lynn Joseph
(Trinidad & Tobago)

2016

Dreams Beyond the Shore
by Tamika Gibson
(Trinidad & Tobago)

Girlcott
by Florenz Webbe Maxwell (Bermuda)



The Protectors' Pledge
by Danielle YC McClean
(Trinidad & Tobago)

2017

The Art of White Roses
by Viviana Prado-Núñez (Puerto Rico)

Home Home
by Lisa Allen-Agostini
(Trinidad & Tobago)

The Beast of Kukuoyo
by Kevin Jared Hoseini
(Trinidad & Tobago)

2018

The Dark of the Sea
by Imam Baksh
(Guyana)

My Fishy Stepmom
by Shakirah Bourne
(Barbados)

A Dark Iris
by Elizabeth J Jones
(Bermuda)

2019

The Unmarked Girl
by Jeanelle Frontin
(Trinidad & Tobago)

The Accidental Prize
by Tamika Gibson
(Trinidad & Tobago)

Daylight Come
by Diana McCaulay
(Jamaica)

