

Avon author wins international book award



David P. Miraldi leafs through a file on the Casper Bennett murder trial on March 2, 2018, at the Lorain Palace Theater, 617 Broadway Avenue in Lorain. Keith Reynolds — The Morning Journal file

By Keith Reynolds, The Morning Journal

POSTED: 09/03/18, 7:18 PM EDT | UPDATED: 7 HRS AGO

0 COMMENTS

An Avon author has received an international book award for his historical novel based on a Lorain murder case.

Attorney David P. Miraldi was awarded the 2018 International Rubery Book of the Year Award for his retelling of the 1964 trial of Lorain man Casper Bennett, who was accused of drowning his wife in a tub of scalding water.

Miraldi's father had been one of two defense attorneys hired to represent Bennett in the trial and is a character in the novel titled "The Edge of Innocence: The Trial of Casper Bennett."

He said that when he wrote the book, he wasn't thinking of winning any awards for it.



David P. Miraldi speaks to fans about the Casper Bennett murder trial on March 2, 2018, at the Lorain Palace Theater, 617 Broadway Avenue in Lorain.

Keith Reynolds — The Morning Journal file

Side Aways
ELYRIA Ford
CAR & TRUCK BUYING MADE EASY

HOURS
MONDAY 9 TO 9 FRIDAY..... 9 TO 6
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY 9 TO 6 SATURDAY..... 9 TO 5
THURSDAY..... 9 TO 9 SUNDAY.....CLOSED

-Now Hiring-
SERVICE TECHNICIAN | **Call Chad**
440-366-3673

Like Us On Facebook **366-FORD (3673)**
www.buyabraham.com **1115 East Broad St.**

"Oh no," Miraldi said with a laugh. "When I wrote the book, I wondered if anyone would read it."

The Rubery Award, which is based in the United Kingdom, seeks out books from independent, self-published and published by small independent presses from around the world and has them judged by a group of established authors and critics.

Miraldi said he was surprised that readers outside of the U.S. would appreciate the book.

In the announcement of Miraldi's being awarded Book of the Year, the judges wrote that "there is a force of intellect behind" the book.

“(The book) offers an insight into the jury system, and reveals how much of it depends on presentation, persuasion, and spin, regardless of how the legal world strives to privilege objectivity and fact,” the judges wrote. “Miraldi, who is himself an attorney, tells it with an insider’s understanding of that world, and he seems to be a natural storyteller.

“It also gives an appealing view of America at a certain point in history: the sense of community; the significant contribution of immigration; the inevitable demise of that world when confronted with technology, a loss of innocence and cynicism. It’s a very impressive book.”

Miraldi classifies the book as historical fiction because the dialog is not directly quoted from his copious background material on the case, but the judges disagreed.

As such, the book also was the winner in the nonfiction category for the award.

“We disagree and feel that even with nonfiction, there is room for imagination,” the judges wrote.

Miraldi said he was excited and pleased by the announcement.

The book also has garnered other accolades such as the Indie B.R.A.G. Medallion and it was named a finalist in the 2018 Eric Hoffer Book Awards.

“The Edge of Innocence: The Trial of Casper Bennett” is available at Nielsen’s Jewelers, [753 Broadway](#) in Lorain, and Jax Store for Men, [36840 Detroit Road](#) in Avon, which are both mentioned in the book.

It is also available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble in Westlake.

Those without the time to sit and read also can enjoy the story as it was released Aug. 1 as an audiobook on Audible.com narrated by Steve Wannall.