



## ***ASTRA THE LONELY AIRPLANE* SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL INDIE EXCELLENCE® AWARDS**

**CINCINNATI, OH – June 7, 2022** – The 16th Annual National Indie Excellence® Awards (NIEA) recently announced the Winners and Finalists from this year's robust competition, and local author Julie Whitney's picture book *Astra The Lonely Airplane* has been selected as a finalist in the "Picture Books For All Ages" category.

Whitney's book was just one of six books selected as a finalist in this category, after being meticulously judged by experts from various facets of the book industry profession including publishers, editors, authors and designers.

Says Whitney, "I am elated that *Astra The Lonely Airplane* was selected as one of the top six finalists in the Picture Books For All Ages category. The competition is fierce, and to be recognized by this prestigious organization in the independent book publishing industry, while competing against such a wide range of truly exceptional titles means the world to me. Especially as a first-time author."

The National Indie Excellence® Awards celebrate physical books in print as a strong and vital sector of our industry. Recognizing excellence in all aspects of the final presentation, NIEA champions self-publishers and the independent presses who produce the highest quality books across a spectrum of metrics.

Winners and Finalists are determined on the basis of superior written content coupled with excellent presentation in each and every facet of the final published product from cover to cover. The Sponsorship Awards and the monetary prizes awarded by the Juror's Choice Award are selected from the overall group of [Winners](#) and [Finalists](#).

According to Doug Fogelson, President of the National Indie Excellence® Awards, "Now in our 16th year, The National Indie Excellence® Awards (NIEA) has evaluated thousands of books across a wide range of diverse genres produced by self-published authors and independent imprints. From this position, we find that our current selection of NIEA award recipients represent the best and brightest talents to be found in contemporary indie publishing and self-published authors today."

For more information on *Astra The Lonely Airplane*, or to contact the author, visit [www.Astrathelonelyairplane.com](http://www.Astrathelonelyairplane.com). The book is available now on Amazon, Bookshop.org, BarnesandNoble.com, and at Joseph-Beth Booksellers in-store and online and at booksellers from coast-to-coast and internationally. Published by Belle Isle Books [www.belleislebooks.com](http://www.belleislebooks.com).