



PRESS RELEASE

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***Omega Crag* earns The Golden Wizard Book Prize**

OLNEY, MD (July 23, 2024) — Level Best Books (LBB) announced today that *Omega Crag* by Micki Bare was selected as a 2024 recipient of The Golden Wizard Book Prize. The international accolade out of the UK recognizes “extraordinary storytellers who bring magic to children's literature.” *Omega Crag* is now under consideration for The Golden Wizard 2024 Book of the Year.

Omega Crag is the third book in Bare’s Zahra of the Uwharries series, which chronicles Zahra’s journey of self-discovery and heroism. This is also the third award for the series. *Blind Fairy* (2023) earned the 2023 AAUW NC Young People’s Literature Award. *Society of the Sentinelia* (2022) earned the 2022 AAUW NC Young People’s Literature Award.

“Micki Bare's *Omega Crag* is a superbly written piece of literature that will sweep readers away on an enchanting, one-of-a-kind escapade!” CEO of The Golden Wizard Book Prize Louise Jane said.

“The author's exceptional creativity and remarkable skill are evident in the way they have crafted such authentic characters and woven an exceedingly intricate, compelling plot.

“Unlike traditional fairy-based tales, Bare introduces a plethora of innovative elements such as Scraebins, Heart Animals, The Trilaterian, Rain Flowers, and more, injecting a fresh and unique twist into the genre. These imaginative components breathe life and excitement into the story, transporting readers to a fascinating world unlike any other.

“The protagonist Zahra emerges as a remarkable heroine who is sure to command admiration from readers. Her determination and positive traits are truly inspiring, making her a character that readers will root for and remember long after finishing the book. I particularly enjoyed how through the use of this compelling individual, the narrative delves into

significant themes such as anger resolution and the benefits of meditation in difficult situations. This makes it a thought-provoking and impactful read that can offer valuable insights for children.

“On the whole, *Omega Crag* emerges as a beacon of ingenuity in the realm of children's literature, offering a fresh and exhilarating perspective that is sure to spark the imagination of readers far and wide.”

Omega Crag is the third of five middle-grade magical realism novels in the Zahra of the Uwharries series. Bare was contracted to write under the Level Elevate imprint of Level Best Books. *KIMIMILA RETURNS*, book four in the series, is due out in May 2025.

Bare is also the author of three early reader children's books, has short stories in two anthologies, and wrote a human interest column for 18 years. She is an active member of the Carolinas Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and the North Carolina Writers' Network (NCWN). She teaches sixth-grade social studies. She and her husband reside in NC. www.MickiBareAuthor.com.

ABOUT LEVEL BEST BOOKS: Founded in 2003 as the publisher of crime fiction novels and short story anthologies, Level Best Books (LBB) has expanded into multiple genres. LBB publishes quality and award-winning contemporary and historical mystery, thriller, and crime fiction novels, literary fiction, fantasy, science fiction, select non-fiction titles, and middle-grade and YA children's literature. www.LevelBestBooks.us

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