

Press Release

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Metro Detroit Author's Debut Novel Wins Literary Award

"Where Souls Collide" tops Science Fiction category at New York's Literary Awards Show

SOUTHFIELD, MICH. (September 26, 2008) -- A Detroit-based story about a newspaper's struggle to survive a changing marketplace has taken a top honor at the 2008 African American Literary Awards Show.

Where Souls Collide by local author Stefanie Worth won the AALAS Science Fiction category. Last year's winner, L.A. Banks (author of the popular Vampire Huntress series) was again in contention for the award along with well-known national bestsellers Tananarive Due and Brandon Massey. Worth is ecstatic that her debut novel held its own in the field.

"First of all, I was very excited to learn that my book had been nominated for the award. When I saw my competition, I was both humbled and inspired," said Worth. "I can't say thank you enough to all my friends, family and fans who voted for *Where Souls Collide*. They made this happen."

AALAS nominees were chosen by an advisory panel of authors, publishers and literary industry experts. Winners were chosen by a public online voting process that ran throughout the summer. They were announced during the annual awards dinner held at New York's Harlem Gatehouse last night.

"I hope this award allows me to share this character's struggle to overcome with a bigger audience," Worth continued. "The topic of financial difficulty is especially timely right now. Combined with the story's romantic theme, there are enough twists to keep readers guessing – and hoping – until the very end of the book."

Worth, who won national recognition for her editorial work at the Michigan Chronicle, chose the setting for *Where Souls Collide* based on her fond memories of that job.

"It's a reality-based story woven with a supernatural premise, so my novel landed in the Science Fiction category," Worth said. "I consider the book a sort of 'ode to second chances' because both the heroine's professional and personal lives are going through major transitions."

In addition to her days as a newspaper reporter, Worth also spent time in broadcasting at National Public Radio and ABC affiliates in Missouri. She worked as a reporter and anchor for WJLB radio in Detroit before moving on to the Chronicle and, eventually, her current role as director of communications for an area nonprofit. Meanwhile, she keeps plugging away toward a full-time career as a novelist.

Where Souls Collide, published through Dorchester Publishing, is available at major book sellers in-store and online. Her next work, a short story titled *Can You Believe*, appears in The Holiday Inn anthology just released by Dorchester. For more information about the author or her writing, please visit www.stefanieworth.com.

For more information about the African American Literary Awards Show or to view the full listing of 2008 winners, visit www.literaryawardshow.com.

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