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## **“Emma and the Reindeer” Is Long Listed For 2026 Green Earth Book Awards**

INDIANAPOLIS, March 4 — “Emma and the Reindeer,” a middle-grade environmental novel by Indianapolis author Linda Mansfield writing under the pen name Emma Gallagher, has been selected for the long list of the Nature Generation’s 2026 Green Earth Book Awards.

The 97 long list finalists were announced March 3 by Romany Hall Siefertman, executive director of the Nature Generation. They will contend for awards in six categories.

“Emma and the Reindeer” is one of 12 books in the “Children’s Fiction” category for readers ages 8-12.

Six judging panels comprised of over 40 professionals are currently reviewing all long list titles. The judging panel includes educators, librarians, environmental management professionals, and several who work in the field of science, including at the National Wildlife Federation, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Nature Generation will announce the short list in April, and the final winners, honors, and recommended reading will be announced on Earth Day, April 22.

The Green Earth Book Award honors authors and illustrators whose books best convey the importance of environmental stewardship to children and young adults.

The annual award promotes books that inspire children to grow a deeper appreciation, respect, and responsibility for their natural environment.

The Nature Generation is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit that inspires and empowers youth to make a difference. It reaches America's youth through environmental stewardship programs in literature, science, and the arts. It is headquartered in Arlington, Va., and has field offices in Lewes, Del., and Pacifica, Calif.

The original artwork for the cover of "Emma and the Reindeer" was done by freelance artist Lejda Ramo of Avon, Ind.

"It's exciting and gratifying to see 'Emma' on a long list that includes titles from big publishers like Disney-Hyperion, Penguin Random House, Scholastic, Delacorte, and the like," Mansfield said. "There's definitely a David versus Goliath theme here."

"Emma and the Reindeer" follows 11-year-old Emma Gallagher, who receives an unexpected visitor: her 15th great-grandmother, Grandma Hazel — an elf straight from Santa's North Pole. With Christmas at risk due to climate change affecting the reindeer's food supply that allows them to fly, Emma is chosen for an urgent mission: write a children's book to inspire kids worldwide to quit procrastinating and make lifestyle changes to help the environment. Whisked to the North Pole, Emma interviews Santa's reindeer, each offering eco-friendly tips, and encouraging young readers to believe in their power to make a difference and save Christmas and the Earth!

Mansfield said her motivation to write the book came when she realized how important it is to encourage children to be environmentally conscious, since many adults aren't. "One frigid winter day a plumber doing some work at my house left my lights on in all three levels and my front door standing wide open when he left," she said. "I guess not everyone was as lucky as I was to have a dad who yelled at me if I did anything like that. I remember as a kid him telling me repeatedly that he wasn't going to pay to heat or air-condition the outdoors."

"Emma and the Reindeer" was a silver winner in the children's environmental books category for the 2025 Global Book Awards.

It is Mansfield's fifth book but her first children's book and her first novel. She is currently doing research for a sequel.

It is available as a hardcover, a paperback, and an ebook on Amazon and Barnes and Noble's websites.

For more information see [LindaMansfieldBooks.com](http://LindaMansfieldBooks.com) and [NatGen.org](http://NatGen.org).

The children's fiction long-listed titles follow:

**CHILDREN'S FICTION** Books for young readers ages 8-12

**Armando and the Amazing Animal Race**, by Diana Schaffter, illustrated by Juan Pablo Ruiz Morales and Leo Hartas (Sea Otter Press)

**Emma and the Reindeer**, by Emma Gallagher, illustrated by Lejda Ramo (Restart Communications)

**Green Jolene and the Neighborhood Swap**, by Wendy Mass, illustrated by Billy Yong (Disney-Hyperion)

**Make Way For Monarchs, Eco Warriors Book 3**, by Carolyn Armstrong (Climate Kid Adventure Books)

**Outfoxed: A Wish Novel**, by Elise McMullen-Ciotti (Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.)

**Project Share Table**, by Carol Kim, illustrated by Flavia Zuncheddu (Picture Window Books, a Capstone imprint)

**Supa Nova**, by Chanté Timothy (Nosy Crow)

**The Burning Season**, by Caroline Starr Rose, cover by David Dean (Penguin Random House, Penguin Young Readers)

**The Secret of the Catapus**, by Robin Elsbeth Jenkins (12 Willow Press)

**The Sunshine Project**, by Uma Krishnaswami, illustrated by Julianna Swaney (Groundwood Books)

**The Wildes: The Vaquita**, by Roland Smith (Sleeping Bear Press)

**Three Blue Hearts**, by Lynne Kelly (Delacorte Press/RHCB)