

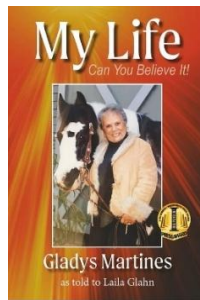
# LAUREL ANNE HILL

## (AUTHOR AND FORMER UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK OPERATOR)

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Hello my friends from Chanticleer, California Writers Club (CWC), Gold Country Writers, BayCon and the Independent Press Award BookCamp 2024 & 2026. This month's tale relates my April 2026 adventures with writing, life, editing and the world of publishing.



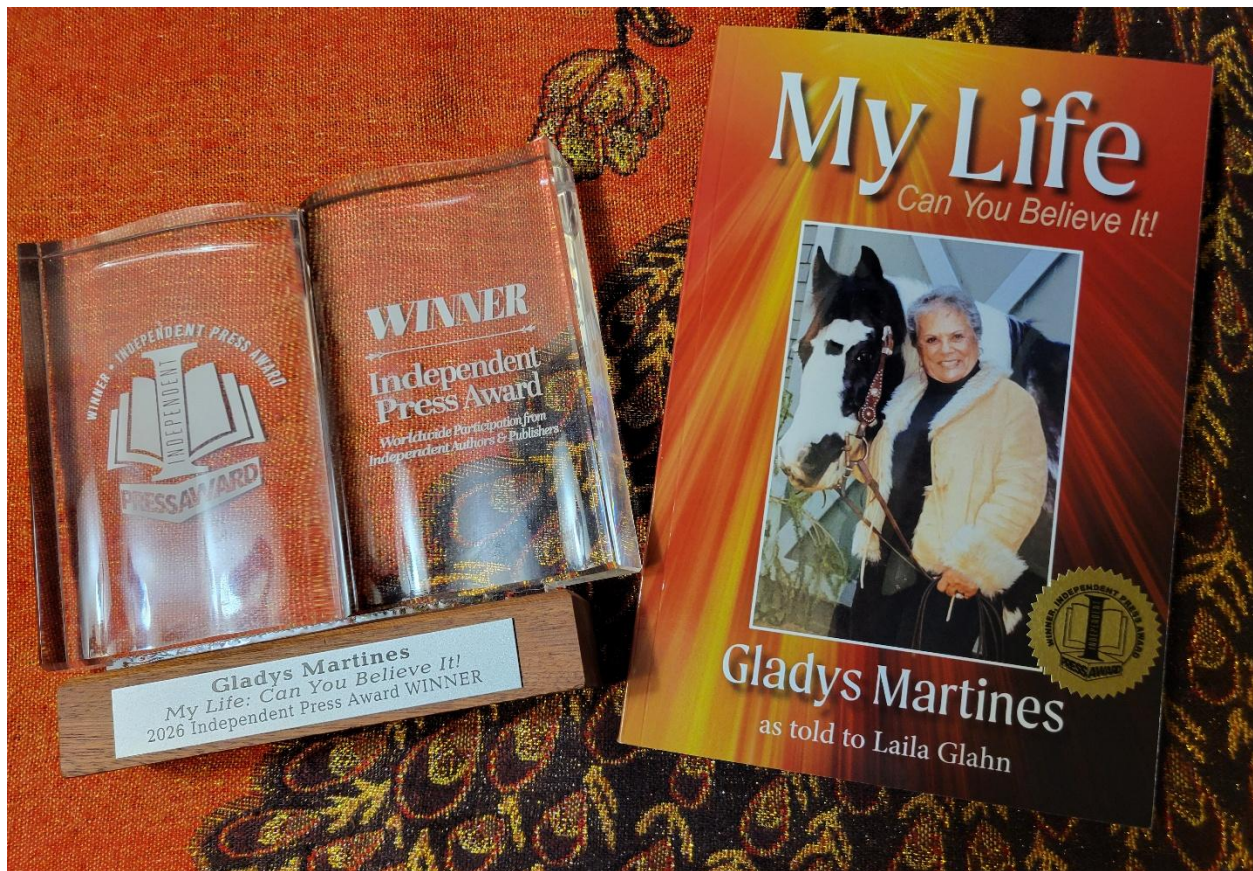
### Independent Press & NYC Big Book Award Celebration

Over 250 attended the Independent Press/NYC Big Book Awards dinner the night of April 25, 2026. Winners from four continents traveled to Newark, New Jersey. What a celebration! Below is a photo of me with Brice Mbonde (Author of *Sower*, *Gon's Infinity*, 2025 NYC Big Book Award, Young Adult Fiction Distinguished Favorite). Brice is from Liverpool. We were wearing different shades of purple. I had to get a photo with us together.



As the book's editor, I accepted the Independent Press Award (for *My Life: Can You Believe It!* by Gladys Martines, Hispanic/Latin Memoir, Nonfiction) as told to Laila Glahn. Ninety-three-year-old Gladys was unable to travel to New Jersey.

Each person accepting an award was permitted to choose the music that would accompany them to the stage. I chose my current favorite, brought to life on the grand organ of Saint Sulpice Cathedral in Paris, France: Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin playing the rousing Improvisation. The music and my cane assisted me across the dimly-lit ballroom while multi-colored lights flashed. What an amazing experience! Below is a photo I took of the award once I arrived home to California. Congratulations, Gladys Martines! I'll deliver the well-earned award to her soon in Penn Valley, California.



### **Independent Press Award (IPA) Book Camp**

This old dog learned a few new tricks about publicity and bookselling while attending the IPA Book Camp in 2024. Plus I met publicist Brian Feinbaum, who arranged interviews for me with various podcasters and radio stations. This year, however, new opportunities blossomed like spring flowers. Brian agreed to interview me on his blog this year, no charge. His questions have

arrived, so I'd better get to work.

Additionally, I've chosen to trust Creatorwood to create an AI-generated movie for my book, *Plague of Flies: Revolt of the Spirits, 1846*. Do you believe that? I'm the woman who keeps calling AI, "artificial unintelligence."

AI technology, however, has advanced at an amazing pace over the past couple years, and some of its uses aren't scary. I'll be working with Creatorwood, providing them with the electronic manuscript for their "Movie Machine" to build the script and storyboard, and then produce the first draft of a one-hour movie. I gather I'll serve as sort of an assistant director, periodically checking output to identify necessary corrections. Estimated cost at \$200 per minute of finished product comes to \$12,000. (I'll receive a discount as an attendee of the Independent Press Award Book Camp this year.) Far better than the millions Hollywood spends.

Of course, the Creatorwood final movie won't compare with a Hollywood production, but from the "film-sample" quality displayed during the Book Camp session, the movie ought to contain reasonably lifelike characters and scenery created by AI. If I'm unhappy with the production of the first five minutes, work will be stopped and I won't be charged. Also, I'll likely ask the company to create a one-minute ad for the movie.

Indie Author Magazine published an article about Creatorwood and its movie machine on December 5, 2025. Click the below link to read.

<https://indieauthormagazine.com/creatorwood-tv-revolutionizing-storytelling-with-ai-generated-films/>

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