

Hi, I'm Marty Sandler.

I'm sorry that family illness has prevented me from being with you in person, but I want you to know how honored I am both to receive this nomination and to be in the company of such accomplished fellow nominees.

If there is one thing above all else that all of us who have been nominated have in common it is that we are all story tellers. The Whydah is an extraordinary story and I feel most privileged in having had the opportunity to tell it. The recognition you have given me is particularly important to me because it lets me know that I have given at least a fair amount of justice to those past and present who have been an integral part of this amazing true tale.

Finally, I would be amiss if I did not acknowledge the role that Candlewick's Hilary Van Dusen played in shaping this book. Thank you, Hilary. And, once again, thank all of you.