

## The BANTA AWARD

## BANTA AWARD WINNERS

**The Banta Award** is a medallion presented at each annual conference of the Wisconsin Library Association for literary achievement by a Wisconsin author. The Banta Award is made possible by the Banta Foundation of the Banta Corporation of Menasha, Wisconsin, through a grant to the WLA Foundation. Annual selection of the Banta Award winner is made by the Literary Awards Committee of the Wisconsin Library Association, 5250 East Terrace Drive, Suite A1, Madison, Wisconsin 53718-8345.

### Criteria

A. To be considered for this award a book must:

- Normally be more than thirty-two pages in length.
- Be copyrighted and published in the calendar year preceding the giving of the award.

B. The award is given for a single publication, not for the body of an author's work.

C. The work must be written by a person who was born in Wisconsin, or is currently living in Wisconsin, or lived in Wisconsin for a significant length of time.

D. The work must contribute to the world of literature and ideas.

E. Texts and works with specialized or technical content will not ordinarily be considered.

- 1974 *Theophilus North*, Thornton Wilder  
1975 *Time's Foot*, Madeleine Doran  
1976 *The Land Remembers*, Ben Logan  
1977 *The Civil Ear Era, 1848-1873*, Richard Current  
1978 *Climates of Hunger*, Reid A. Bryson & Thomas J. Murray  
1979 *The Westing Game*, Ellen Raskin  
1980 *The Road From Home*, David Kherdian  
1981 *Bernard Shaw and the Actresses*, Margot Peters  
1982 *Hang Me Up My Begging Bowl*, Chad Walsh  
1983 *Pastorale*, Susan Engberg  
1984 *Remembering the Wilderness*, Sara Rath  
1985 *Mrs. Pat: The Life of Mrs. Patrick Campbell*, Margot Peters  
1986 *From this Condensery: The Complete Writing of Lorine Niedecker*, Lorine Niedecker  
1987 *The Autobiography of Henry VIII*, Margaret George  
1988 *Suite for Calliope*, Ellen Hunnicutt  
1989 *The Book of Ruth*, Jane Hamilton  
1990 *The Island Within*, Richard Nelson  
1991 *Threshing Days: The Farm Paintings of Lavern Kammerude*, Chester Garthwaite  
1992 *The Imposter*, Paula Sharp  
1993 *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture*, Paul Boyer  
1994 *Montana 1948*, Larry Watson  
1995 *Time's Fancy*, Ronald Wallace  
1996 *Mapping the Farm: The Chronicle of a Family*, John Hildebrand  
1997 *Sister*, A. Manette Ansay  
1998 *Self Storage and Other Stories*, Mary Helen Stefaniak  
1999 *Hunger: A Novella and Stories*, Lan Samantha Chang  
2000 *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*, Linda Gordon

# THE BANTA AWARD 2001

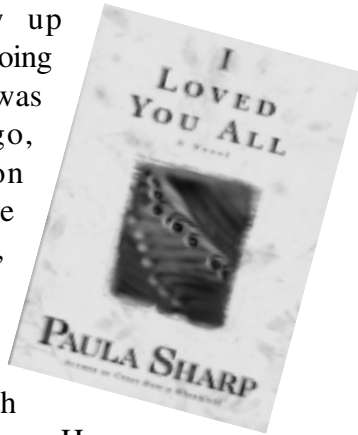
## *I Loved You All*

By Paula Sharp  
Hyperion Books, 2000



## Paula Sharp

Paula Sharp grew up knowing that she was going to be a writer. She was born in San Diego, California, but soon traveled across the country with her mother, sister and brother while her mother studied in doctoral programs in anthropology in South Carolina and Louisiana. Her mother then settled in Ripon, Wisconsin, where Paula spent many of her teen years. After high school, she attended Dartmouth College, receiving her degree in comparative literature in 1979. She returned to New Jersey to teach in a Catholic grade school, followed by work for the Jersey City Public Defenders Office. This exposure to the legal system led her to law school at Columbia University where she received her law degree in 1985. In 1988, while visiting her sister on an archeological dig in South America, Paula completed her first novel, *The Woman Who Was Not All There*, which won the New Voice Award from the Quality Paperback Book Club. *The Imposter*, her collection of short stories published in 1991, was awarded the Banta Award from the Wisconsin Library Association in 1992. Her second novel, *Lost in Jersey City*, was published in 1993, followed by *Crows over Wheatfield* in 1996. Paula now resides in New York State and writes full time.



*I Loved You All* is set in Stein, New York, in 1977, and tells the story from the voice of eight-year-old Penny Daigle. Sharp details a vivid cast of characters, such as Penny's 15-year-old sister Mahalia and their alcoholic mother, Marguerite. Characters also include F.X., Marguerite's blind, ex-reporter brother, and David, Marguerite's fiance. Into this mix enters Isabel Flood, a local right-to-life activist now given the responsibility of babysitting Penny and Mahalia while their mother goes to Louisiana to dry out. As Isabel draws Mahalia further and further into the web of the anti-abortion struggle and her fundamentalist church, her influence over Mahalia grows so that it is eventually stronger than Marguerite's. Sharp describes the shattering of the intricate balance of this family with the result being a strangely gentle and funny book that elevates the discussion about the role politics plays in the complexities of family life.

In an interview, Paula Sharp states that the purpose of the book was to "write a lively story that contains vivid characters who seem to breathe free air, who broadcast their feelings and speak their minds."

## Literary Awards Committee

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