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**Julie Navickas Wins First Place for the Book *I Love You Today*  
at the BookFest® Awards Spring 2023**

Bloomington, ILL—Julie Navickas is a first place recipient at The BookFest Awards Spring 2023 for the book titled *I Love You Today*. The book is honored in the contemporary romance category.

The BookFest honors authors who create outstanding works of fiction and nonfiction. The BookFest's dedication to honoring authors is rooted in a belief in the transformative power of literature and a desire to support and celebrate those who create it.

Desireé Duffy, Founder of The BookFest, says, "It is important to recognize authors for the role they play in creating and sharing stories that entertain, educate, and inspire readers. Books transport us to new worlds, broaden perspectives, and foster empathy. As the Founder of The BookFest, I believe that by saluting authors and their literary achievements we elevate the importance of literature in our society."

Navickas says, "Being selected as a winner of The BookFest Awards is an incredible honor—especially for a second time! *I Loved You Yesterday* was a Fall 2023 first place recipient as well. I am grateful to be recognized for the hard work and dedication that went into both titles. I hope this award will inspire others to pursue their own literary passions."

Desireé Duffy, Founder of The BookFest, says, "This year's competition was particularly fierce, and Navickas should be very proud of this achievement."

For more information about The BookFest Awards and to see the list of winners, please visit the [Awards Page](#) on The BookFest website. To watch the Salute to The BookFest Award Winners video montage, or to see recordings of The BookFest videos, please visit the [Programming Page](#) of The BookFest website.

All three books in the Trading Heartbeats trilogy can be purchased on [Amazon](#) and other major retailers. More information about Julie Navickas can be found at [www.authorjulienavickas.com](http://www.authorjulienavickas.com) and in her [digital press kit](#).

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Julie Navickas** is a best-selling and award-winning, nationally recognized contemporary romance novelist, known for her keen ability to tell heart-wrenching, second-chance love stories through relatable characters with humility, humor, and heroism. She is also an award-winning university instructor in the



School of Communication at Illinois State University. Julie earned master's degrees in both organizational communication and English studies with an emphasis in book history, as well as a bachelor's degree in public relations, graduating cum laude from Illinois State University. She is a mom of three, a dog mom of two, and has been happily married to her high school sweetheart for eleven years.

### **ABOUT THE BOOKFEST®**

The BookFest is the leader in virtual literary events and produces vital conversations on the world's stage for those who love to read, and those who love to write. It launched May 2020 at a time when lockdown forced many live events to be canceled. Free to attend, the biannual event happens in the spring and fall, and streams panel discussions, conversations, and live interactive sessions. As an award winner, The BookFest has recognitions from the Webby Awards with a nomination in 2021, a gold award from the Muse Creative Awards in 2020, and a silver award from the w3 Awards in 2020. The BookFest features an array of literary speakers, experts, and authors, which has included: Mitch Albom; Kevin J. Anderson; Angela Bole; Mark Coker; Robert G. Diforio; Cheryl Willis Hudson; Wade Hudson; Sarah Kendzior; Jonathan Maberry; Lisa Morton; Karla Olson; James Rollins; Connie Schultz; Michael Shermer; Mark K. Shriver; Danny Trejo; Helene Wecker; Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, and many others. The BookFest is presented by Books That Make You and produced by Black Château Enterprises. The BookFest is a registered trademark of Desireé Duffy, who is the founder of all three. For more information, visit [The BookFest.com](https://www.thebookfest.com).