

PRESS RELEASE

THINGS THEY BURIED NAMED TO KIRKUS REVIEWS' BEST BOOKS OF 2019

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Contact: Amanda K. King
Ismae Books
amanda@ismae.com
317-902-6910

Indianapolis, IN, 12/16/19: Indianapolis residents Amanda K. King and Michael R. Swanson's debut novel, *Things They Buried*, was named to *Kirkus Reviews'* Best Books of 2019. This indie publication was one of only one-hundred books selected from the thousands reviewed each year by *Kirkus Reviews*.

The starred review called the dark science fantasy action adventure novel “An empathetic, complex, and offbeat tale.”

“We were thrilled when the novel received a *Kirkus* star and flabbergasted when it was named to the Best Books of 2019 list,” King said. “We were just hoping to find an audience. To receive such an honor was beyond anything we expected.”

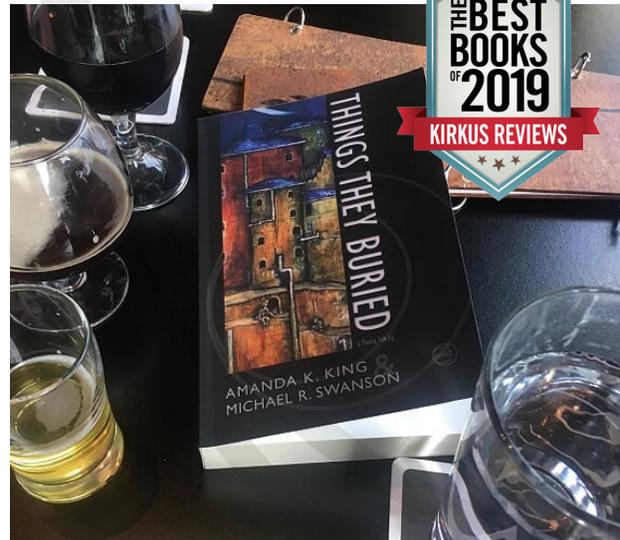
“With our debut, we decided to go indie instead of pursuing traditional publishing because we wanted to share *Things They Buried* with readers without delay or compromise,” Swanson said. “It’s gratifying to see that decision was not in vain.”

King is a native Hoosier while Swanson is a transplant from Western New York. They’ve spent nearly two decades in their Irvington neighborhood home.

“We moved in on October 30, not realizing just how huge the holiday was in Irvington,” King said. “That was a hectic evening.”

The novel’s success was aided by Indiana artists Michael B. Fee (cover painting) and Jacob Walker (concept art).

“We searched the internet for what seemed like months for artists we believed could interpret our work visually,” Swanson said. “We were fortunate to find two nationally known talents in our backyard. Working out designs and details is so much simpler



when we can sit down together and sketch rather than sending emails back and forth.”

In addition to the *Kirkus Reviews* distinction, *Things They Buried* was also named a Fantasy Gold Medalist in the IPPys, a Kindle Book Reviews Sci-Fi/Fantasy Finalist, and a New Apple Literary Action/Adventure Official Selection.

For press materials, more on these authors, details of this novel and its follow up (*They Eat Their Own*, due in early 2020), visit <https://ismae.com/press/>.