

Doug Crandell is an award-winning American author, essayist, and disability rights advocate based in Douglasville, Georgia. His diverse career spans literary fiction, gritty memoirs, true crime, and influential public policy research.

## Literary Career

Crandell has authored several acclaimed books, often drawing on his upbringing in rural Indiana.

- **Memoirs:** *Pig Boy's Wicked Bird* (2004), which recounts his childhood on a hog farm and losing two fingers in an accident at age seven, and *The All-American Industrial Motel* (2007).
- **Novels:** *The Flawless Skin of Ugly People* (2007), a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers pick, and *They're Calling You Home* (2022).
- **True Crime:** *Fear Came to Town*, which explores a murder case in Santa Claus, Georgia.
- **Magazines:** He is a frequent contributor to *The Sun Magazine*, with dozens of essays published over two decades, and has had work included in *Best American Mystery Stories* and the *Pushcart Prize*.
- **Short Story Collection:** Crandell won the 2025 Spokane Prize in Short Fiction for his book, *Equipment for the Darkness*. The book includes 11 stories and was published in December 2025.

## Disability Advocacy and Academic Work

In addition to his writing, Crandell is a prominent figure in the field of disability employment.

- **Academic Role:** He serves as Public Service Faculty at the Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD) at the University of Georgia (UGA).
- **Policy Research:** His 2022 book, *Twenty-Two Cents an Hour*, is a critical analysis of the history and exploitation of workers with disabilities under subminimum wage laws (Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act).
- **Expertise:** He is a subject matter expert in disability employment and provides technical assistance to state agencies to improve employment outcomes for individuals with complex barriers to work, including offering expert testimony in court cases.

## Recognition

- Won the **Georgia Author of the Year Award**, notably beating out former President Jimmy Carter for the honor.
- Recipient of fellowships from the **Sherwood Anderson Foundation**, the **Hohenberg Foundation**, and the **Virginia Center for the Creative Arts**.

## Trivia

- Crandell had two fingers on his right hand mauled in a farming accident.
- He is the founder of Palomino Coal; a project focused on bringing singer/songwriters together with short story writers for collaboration.
- He worked in a factory with his father to get through college.
- Doug's book tour for his Flawless Skin of Ugly People novel had him appearing with dermatologists.
- His first book tour was the subject of a [documentary](#):  
[https://youtu.be/o\\_vUXNi5wQ0?si=mJQBflhKuJ5luruj](https://youtu.be/o_vUXNi5wQ0?si=mJQBflhKuJ5luruj)