

Debut novel by Tulsa native wins Oklahoma Book Award

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Tulsa native Ken Steele was awarded the 2025 Oklahoma Book Award in Fiction for his debut novel, “The Promise of Unbroken Straw,” published by Tulsa-based Yorkshire Publishing.

Rooted in Oklahoma history and heart, Steele’s novel draws inspiration from his own family’s wheat farm and the lives of his father and grandfather. The story follows Paul, a young boy coming of age during World War II, as he grapples with loss, strained family ties and the search for meaning across a lifetime.

“This book is a tribute to Oklahoma – to the land, the people and the legacy that shaped me,” Steele said. “I wanted to honor those who came before me and show readers that even through hardship, there’s always a path to hope.”

The Oklahoma Depart-

ment of Libraries recognized *The Promise of Unbroken Straw* for its poignant storytelling, deep Oklahoma ties and emotional resonance. It stood out among hundreds of entries for its authenticity and literary quality.

In addition to the Oklahoma Book Award, the novel has received glowing praise from Readers’ Favorite, Midwest Book Review and The US Review of Books.

Steele, a graduate of Oklahoma State University and MIT, now resides in Colorado but credits his Tulsa upbringing and farm-town roots for shaping his storytelling. He and his wife, Cathy, have been married 41 years. For more information about the author, go to kensteeleauthor.com.

“*The Promise of Unbroken Straw*” is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and wherever books are sold.