

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed judges, fellow writers, and distinguished guests,

Thank you for gathering here today to celebrate the incredible talent present in this room. It is an honor to stand before such a passionate and creative community.

When my work was nominated for this anthology award, I felt an immense sense of gratitude and excitement. However, in this moment, I must graciously accept that tonight is not my night. The judges have selected a winner whose work truly embodies the spirit and excellence we all strive to achieve.

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the award recipient. Your dedication and artistry have truly resonated with the judges, and your work deserves this recognition.

I am inspired by all of my fellow nominees and grateful for the opportunity to share my voice among such talented individuals. This experience has further fueled my passion for writing, and I look forward to continuing my journey within this creative community.

Thank you all for your support, and congratulations once again to the deserving winner.