



The International
IMPAC
Dublin
Literary Award

No. 12 February 2006

The Newsletter of the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

Fiction Matters

Complete list of nominated books **2006**



Members of the judging panel at the announcement of the long list of nominated books, November 2005. L to R: Paolo Ruffilli, Jane Koustas, Eugene Sullivan, Mary O'Donnell, Councillor Catherine Byrne, Lord Mayor of Dublin and Andrew O'Hagan

The 2006 Award

Key Dates

22nd November 2005

Announcement of long list of nominated books and panel of international judges

5th April 2006

Shortlist Announcement

14th June 2006

Winner Announcement

Winner of the 2005 Award – The Known World by Edward P. Jones



Pictured at the Presentation Dinner, June 2005 are L to R: Liv Sæteren, Oslo City Librarian; John Fitzgerald, Dublin City Manager; Councillor Michael Conaghan, Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award; Edward P. Jones, winner; Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian and Eileen Hendrick, IMPAC, Chair of the Award Committee.

Judging Panel 2006



Percival Everett is the author of nineteen books of fiction. Among them are *Glyph*, *Frenzy*, *American Desert*, *Erasure* and most recently, *Wounded*. He teaches fiction writing and literary theory at the University of Southern California. He has received the Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, the Hillsdale Prize, the D.H. Lawrence Fellowship and a New American Writing Award. He is also a painter, a fly fisherman, a trainer of mules and wishes he was better at working with wood than he is.



Jane Koustas is currently serving as the Craig Dobbin Professor of Canadian Studies at University College Dublin. She is a Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. Professor Koustas' research interests include English-Canadian literature in translation, translation theory and practice, translation history in Canada Quebec theatre and theatre translation. She is the co-editor of two books, *Théâtre sans frontières: essays on the dramatic universe of Robert Lepage* with Joe Donohoe and *Vision/Division: l'oeuvre de Nancy Huston* with Marta Dvorak. She has served on the jury of the Governor General's Literary Awards and the Quebec Writers' Federation Translation Award.



Mary O'Donnell is a poet, novelist, translator and critic based in Co. Kildare, Ireland. She has published four volumes of poetry, most recently *September Elegies* in 2003 and has presented several series of poetry programmes for the Irish national broadcaster, RTE. Her critically acclaimed third novel, *The Elysium Testament*, appeared in 1999. Her work has been published in literary magazines and journals in Ireland, the UK and the USA and anthologised in collections in Ireland and abroad. She recently presented 'Crossing the Lines', a series of radio programmes on European poetry in translation. In 2001 Mary was elected to Aosdána, an affiliation of creative artists in Ireland.



Andrew O'Hagan was born in 1968 in Glasgow. In 1995 he wrote *The Missing* and in 1999 he published his first novel, *Our Fathers*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Whitbread First Novel Award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, and was winner of the Holtby Prize for Fiction. His latest novel *Personality*, published in 2003, won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction. Andrew also won the E.M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and was named one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists. Since 2000 Andrew has been a Unicef Ambassador.



Paolo Ruffilli was born in 1949 and attended the University of Bologna, where he studied modern literature. After a period of teaching, he became editor with the publisher Garzanti in Milan, and is presently the general editor of the Edizioni del Leone in Venice. Since 1972 he has published nine volumes of poetry. Among these are the prize-winning *Piccola colazione*, *Diario di Normandia*, *Camera oscura*, and *La gioia e il lutto* which was published in English translation as *Joy and Mourning* in 2004. He has also published a number of novels including *Preparativi per la partenza*, 2003, as well as essays and translations from English.



Eugene R. Sullivan, non-voting chair of the judging panel, is a former Chief Judge of a US Court of Appeals and brings a wealth of experience from sixteen years on the bench. His first novel, *The Majority Rules*, was published in 2005. He currently heads up a judicial consultancy group outside Washington, D.C.

The International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award
is presented annually for a novel written in
English or translated into English. The award is
an initiative of Dublin City Council, the municipal
government of Dublin, Ireland's capital city, and
operates in partnership with IMPAC, a leading
management productivity enhancement company,
with the objective of promoting excellence
in world literature. Nominations are submitted
by library systems in major cities throughout
the world.



Winner Announcement: 14th June 2006



The International
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Literary Award

Graceland

Chris Abani

NOMINATED BY:
Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

Elvis, a teenage Elvis impersonator, is hoping to make his way out of the ghetto. Broke, beset by floods and beatings by his alcoholic father, and with no job opportunities in sight, he is tempted by a life of crime. Thus begins his odyssey into the dangerous underworld of Lagos. Ultimately, young Elvis, drenched in reggae and jazz, and besotted with American film heroes and images, must find his way to a GraceLand of his own.

Nuanced, lyrical, and pitch perfect, *Graceland* is a remarkable story of a son and his father, and an examination of postcolonial Nigeria where the trappings of American culture reign supreme.

Chris Abani's fiction and poetry have been widely anthologized. *Graceland* is his first novel. His latest award-winning book, *Kalakuta Republic*, is a collection of poetry based on his experience as a political prisoner in Nigeria.

The Lambs of London

Peter Ackroyd

NOMINATED BY:
Helsinki City Library, Finland

At the centre of this intriguing novel are the young Lambs - Charles and his clever, adoring sister Mary. Into their lives comes William Ireland, an ambitious 17-year-old antiquarian and bookseller. When Ireland turns up a document in the handwriting of Shakespeare himself, he takes Mary into his confidence - but soon scholars and actors alike are beating a path to the little bookshop in Holborn Passage.

Touching and tragic, ingenious, funny and vividly alive, this is a masterly retelling of a nineteenth-century drama which keeps the reader guessing right to the end.

Peter Ackroyd, the author of eleven novels, was born in London in 1949. He has written biographies of Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, Dickens and Blake. His historical fiction frequently draws inspiration from the lives and characters of real people from the past. In 2003 he was awarded a CBE for services to literature.

Buenas Noches Buenos Aires

Gilbert Adair

NOMINATED BY:
Regional Library of Karviná, Karviná-Mizerov, Czech Republic

Wise and witty, *Buenas Noches Buenos Aires* is many things at once: a flamboyant chronicle of a period of sexual emancipation now long gone, an incisive dissection of the circuitous route taken by one young man from self-doubt to self-discovery, a tour de force of astonishing sexual candour and, not least, a dazzling stylistic exercise.

Gideon, a lonely young Englishman, arrives in Paris at the very beginning of the 1980s to take up a teaching post. He is increasingly fascinated by the intoxicating atmosphere.

The moment has surely arrived for him to overcome his own chronic timidity and actually do what he has only ever dared fantasise about.

Gilbert Adair is the author of, among others, *A Closed Book*, *The Death of the Author* and *The Dreamers*, which has now been filmed by Bernardo Bertolucci. He lives in London, UK.

PS, I Love You

Cecelia Ahern

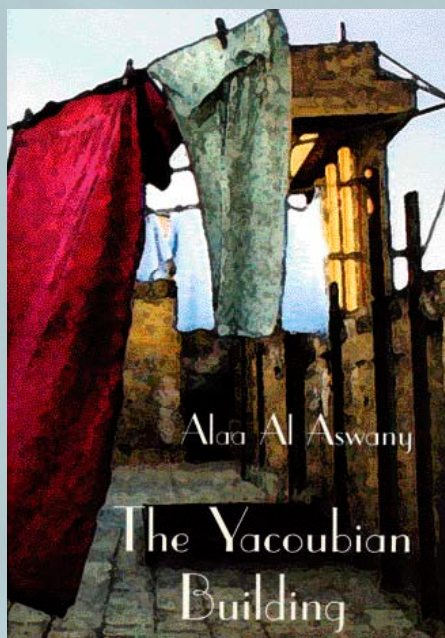
NOMINATED BY:
Liverpool Libraries & Information Services, England

Happily married, living in Dublin close to their friends and family, Holly and Gerry had the perfect life. Or so they thought. When Gerry dies, Holly is devastated. But Gerry promised he'd always be there for Holly. And he is: his last bequest to her is The List, a bundle of notes which form a monthly mission for Holly to get her life back on track. As the notes are gradually opened, and as the year unfolds,

Holly is both cheered up and challenged. Charming, heartfelt and funny, this debut novel celebrates life, love and friendship and proves that true love never dies.

Cecelia Ahern completed a degree in journalism and media studies before embarking on her writing career. *PS, I Love You* is her first novel. Cecelia lives in Dublin, Ireland.

The Yacoubian Building



Alaa al Aswany

Translated from the original Arabic by Humphrey Davies

NOMINATED BY:
Jafet Library - American University of Beirut, Lebanon

The Yacoubian Building holds all that Egypt was and has become over the 75 years since its namesake was built on one of downtown Cairo's main boulevards. From the pious son of the building's doorkeeper and the raucous,

impoverished squatters on its roof, via the tattered aristocrat and the gay intellectual in its apartments, to the ruthless businessman whose stores occupy its ground floor, each sharply etched character embodies a facet of modern Egypt - one where political corruption, ill-gotten wealth, and religious hypocrisy are natural allies.

Alaa Al Aswany was born in 1957. A dentist whose first office was in the Yacoubian Building, Al Aswany has written prolifically for Egyptian newspapers across the political spectrum on literature, politics, and social issues. *The Yacoubian Building*, his second novel, caused an unprecedented stir when it was first published in 2002 and has remained the world's best selling novel in the Arabic language since.

Kingdom of the Golden Dragon

Isabel Allende

Translated from the original Spanish by Margaret Sayers Peden

NOMINATED BY:
Biblioteca Publica No. 1 "Santiago Severin" de Valparaíso, Chile
Gateshead Libraries & Arts, England

Fifteen-year-old Alex Cold, his friend Nadia and his eccentric grandmother Kate embark on a journey to a mysterious, hidden land high in the Himalayas. There they find that the peaceful, spiritual lifestyle of the Forbidden Kingdom, which has remained unchanged for generations, is under threat. 'The Collector', a rich westerner, is plotting to steal the Golden Dragon, a valuable statue that can foretell the future!

Isabel Allende was born in Peru and raised in Chile. She is the author of many acclaimed novels including *The House of the Spirits*, *Eva Luna*, *The Infinite Plan*, *Paula*, *Portrait in Sepia* and *City of the Beasts*.

The Search

Premini Amerasinghe

NOMINATED BY:
Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

The Search is the story of an adopted boy's search for his real mother. It shuttles between England, Sri Lanka and Australia. Interwoven into the main theme is the concept of rebirth - as David, the boy, is conceived at the very moment that his uncle dies under tragic circumstances.

Premini Amerasinghe lives in Kandy, Sri Lanka. She is a radiologist by profession and has been writing poetry for many years. Her first collection, *Kaleidoscope*, was short-listed for the Gratiaen Prize in 1998. *The Search* is her first published novel.

Oceans of Time

Merete Morken Andersen

Translated from the original Norwegian by Barbara J. Haveland

NOMINATED BY:
Deichmanske Bibliotek, Oslo, Norway
Sølvberget KF - Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturhus, Stavanger, Norway

It is midsummer in Norway. A long-divorced couple, Johan and Judith, meet one another again in the wake of a family tragedy. Finally they are forced to confront what went wrong in their relationship and the effect it has had on those around them. In the extraordinary psychological drama that follows, Johan and Judith plumb the very depths of sorrow and despair, before emerging with a new understanding.

Set in the 'white night' of a Norwegian summer, this profound novel not only deals with loss and grief, but also - transformingly - with hope, recovery and love.

Merete Morken Andersen has published poetry, a book on Ibsen and three novels and was editor of the literary magazine *Vinduet*. She lives with her husband and two children outside Oslo, Norway.

The Famished Waterfall

Jean Arasanayagam

NOMINATED BY:
Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

The narrator, Erandathi, recalls her past, from her secure, strife-free childhood, through her unhappy marriage and divorce, her struggles to rear her three sons, her eventual journeying to Kuwait to work caring for children other than her own, to her return to Sri Lanka and her new-found strength and independence as she faces the future with hope. Jean Arasanayagam has dedicated the book to all migrant workers who have lived, suffered and survived far from their homes and families.

Jean Arasanayagam is a poet and eminent short story writer. Her volumes of short stories include *The Cry of the Kite*, *Fragments of a Journey* and *Peacocks and Dreams*.

Maps For Lost Lovers

Nadeem Aslam

NOMINATED BY:
City of Johannesburg Library & Information Services, South Africa
Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium

Jugnu and his lover, Chanda, have disappeared. Though unmarried, they had been living together, embracing the contemporary mores of the English town where they lived but disgracing themselves in the eyes of their close-knit Pakistani community. Rumours about their disappearance abound, but five months go by before anything certain is known. Finally, Chanda's brothers are arrested for the murder of their sister and Jugnu.

Shock and disbelief spread through the community, and for Jugnu's brother, Shamas, and his wife, Kaukab, it is a moment that marks the beginning of the unravelling of all that is sacred to them.

Nadeem Aslam is the author of the award-winning novel *Season of the Rainbirds*. He lives in the UK.

Case Histories

Kate Atkinson

NOMINATED BY:
Newcastle Libraries & Information Service, England
Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand
Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand
Limerick City Library, Ireland

As Private Detective Jackson Brodie investigates three separate cases, startling connections and discoveries emerge. Inextricably caught up in his clients' grief, joy, and desire, Jackson finds their unshakable need for resolution very much like his own.

Ingeniously plotted, full of suspense and heartbreak, *Case Histories* is a feat of bravura storytelling that conveys the mysteries of life, its inanities and its hilarities. It is a life-affirming work of profound insight and intelligence.

Kate Atkinson was born in York and now lives in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, won the Whitbread Book of the Year. She is the author of two other critically acclaimed novels, *Human Croquet* and *Emotionally Weird*, and a collection of short stories, *Not the End of the World*.

There is Room For You

Charlotte Bacon

NOMINATED BY:
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA

Anna Singer, an independent young New Yorker, feels derailed after losing her father to a car accident and her husband to a younger woman. She books a trip to India, hoping that there she will be able to put her grief into perspective.

As she departs, her English mother, Rose, gives her a manuscript in which she has recorded memories of her own childhood - growing up in India with a Hindu ayah and a widower father, torn between two cultures and belonging completely to neither.

Anna's sense of how she fits into the world is unexpectedly challenged by the daunting complexity of modern India. But even greater surprises are in store when she turns the pages of her mother's memoir.

Charlotte Bacon is the award-winning author of *Lost Geography* and PEN/Hemingway Award-winning story collection *A Private State*. She teaches English at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, USA.

Windows on the World

Frédéric Beigbeder

Translated from the original French by Frank Wynne

NOMINATED BY:
Richland County Public Library, Columbia, USA

"The only way to know what took place in the restaurant on the 107th Floor of the North Tower, World Trade Centre on September 11th 2001 is to invent it."

A daring yet moving evocation of the last moments for a father and his children on top of the World Trade Centre on September 11th.

Weaving fact and fiction, empathy and dark humour, autobiography and intellect, *Windows on the World* dares to confront the terrifying image that has come to define our world, the image onto which we project our fears, our compassion, our anger, our incomprehension.

Frédéric Beigbeder was born in 1965 and lives in Paris. He works as a publisher, literary critic and broadcaster.

Havoc, in its Third Year

Ronan Bennett

NOMINATED BY:
Newcastle Libraries & Information Service, England
Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland
Waterford County Library, Ireland

England in the 1630s: an unsettled country in turbulent times. People are gripped by fear: fear of crime and disorder, of foreign invasion, of Catholic conspiracies, of the vagrant poor. In a town in northern England a group of Puritan reformers tightens its hold on the lives of the inhabitants.

John Brigge is the local coroner, a respected man who wants nothing more than to work his farm and be with his wife, now expecting their first child. But when he is called to investigate an infanticide, Brigge finds himself drawn unwillingly into a vicious power struggle.

Like the best historical novels, *Havoc, In Its Third Year* vividly captures the period yet resonates with the present.

Ronan Bennett was brought up in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He is the author of three novels, *The Second Prison*, *Overthrown by Strangers*, and *The Catastrophist*, shortlisted for the 1998 Whitbread Novel Award. He has also written screenplays for film and television. Ronan lives in London with his family.

Cape Grimm

Carmel Bird

NOMINATED BY:
State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Cape Grimm is a chilling and bewitching novel about the terrible power of faith.

When Caleb Mean is born, his grandmother has a vision telling her he is the Chosen One. On Caleb's thirty-third birthday, he locks the whole community into the meeting hall and incinerates them. The only survivors are Caleb, his lover Virginia, and their baby daughter, Golden. How could such a thing happen? Do the answers lie in the history of Skye itself - an isolated community on the coast of Tasmania founded by the unlikely survivors of a nineteenth-century shipwreck? Or do the only real clues lie in the dark truths of fairytales?

Carmel Bird has been publishing fiction for three decades. Her previous novels include *Red Shoes*, shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award in 1998, *The White Garden* and *The Bluebird Cafe*. Carmel has also published several volumes of short stories and two guides to writing fiction: *Dear Writer* and *Not Now, Jack - I'm Writing a Novel*.

Before I Forget**André Brink**

NOMINATED BY:

National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown, Barbados
Tshwane Library and Information Service, Pretoria, South Africa

Chris Minaar is a distinguished old South African writer who has lost whatever gift he had for writing. On New Year's Eve, courtesy of his stalled car, he meets Rachel, a young sculptress, a good Samaritan who becomes the great love of his life, a love greater for being unfulfilled.

Chris has known many women in his time - brief affairs, extended affairs, a marriage; intensely carnal encounters and tender attachments.

Erotic, searingly honest, elegaic and profoundly moving, *Before I Forget* is the history of a life set against the history of a nation, and the history of a transforming love.

André Brink is the author of fifteen acclaimed novels in English, including *A Dry White Season*, *Imaginations of Sand*, which was shortlisted for the 1998 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, *The Rights of Desire* and *The Other Side of Silence*. He is Professor of English at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

Budapest**Chico Buarque**

Translated from the original Portuguese by Alison Entekin

NOMINATED BY:

Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília BDB, Brazil
Biblioteca Daniel Cosío Villegas of El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico
Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

José Costa has just attended the Anonymous Writers Congress in Istanbul and is on his way back to Rio when a bomb scare on his flight forces him to spend a night in Budapest.

Fascinated by the Hungarian language - he is after all a ghost writer by trade and a man who lives by language - he spends the night watching television, trying to pick out words in this tongue, 'the only one the devil respects'.

In charting José's life we enter a storytelling labyrinth, as his myth-making, love-making and essays into another culture become mired in the world where celebrities make reputations and fortunes from the writing of others, and where the reader is not sure what language, or what reality, is being offered.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, where he still lives, **Chico Buarque** is a world-renowned singer and composer. His novels *Turbulence* and *Benjamin* were translated into many languages.

The Rule of Four**Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason**

NOMINATED BY:

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, USA

Tom Sullivan, about to graduate from Princeton, is haunted by the violent death of his father, an academic who devoted his life to one of the rarest, most complex books in the world. Coded in seven languages, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, an intricate mathematical mystery and a tale of love and arcane brutality, has baffled scholars since 1499. Tom's friend Paul is similarly obsessed and when a long-lost diary surfaces they finally seem to make a breakthrough. Only hours later, a fellow researcher is murdered and the two friends suddenly find themselves in great danger. Working desperately to expose the book's secret, they slowly uncover a Renaissance tale of passion and blood, a hidden crypt and a secret worth dying to protect...

Ian Caldwell lives in Newport News, Virginia. **Dustin Thomason** lives in New York City. They began writing *The Rule of Four* after graduating in 1998. The two have been best friends since they were eight years old.

All That Matters**Wayson Choy**

NOMINATED BY:

Calgary Public Library, Canada
Halifax Regional Library, Canada
Vancouver Public Library, Canada

The Chen family arrive in Vancouver with dreams of a better future. First Son Kiam-Kim is deeply conscious of his responsibilities to maintain the family's honour and to set an irreproachable example to his Canada-born brothers and sisters.

As he grows up, Kiam-Kim's life is broadened as well as complicated by his burgeoning awareness of the world outside Vancouver's Chinatown. In a city divided into neighbourhoods as sharply defined as nation-states, Kiam-Kim becomes ever more sensitive to the nuances of belonging and exclusion.

In *All That Matters* Wayson Choy accomplishes the extraordinary: blending a haunting evocation of tenacious, ancient traditions with a precise, funny, and very modern coming-of-age story.

Wayson Choy is the author of one previous award-winning novel, *The Jade Peony*. His highly acclaimed memoir, *Paper Shadows: A Chinatown Childhood*, was published in 1999. He lives in Toronto, Canada.

Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell**Susanna Clarke**

NOMINATED BY:

Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium
Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada
Mestska Knihovna v Praze / Municipal Library of Prague, Czech Republic
Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany
Waterford County Library, Ireland
Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
Jacksonville Public Library, USA
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, USA
Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA

The year is 1806. England is beleaguered by the long war with Napoleon, and centuries have passed since practical magicians faded into the nation's past. But scholars of this glorious history discover that one remains: the reclusive Mr Norrell whose displays of magic send a thrill through the country. Yet the cautious, fussy Norrell is challenged by the emergence of another magician: the brilliant novice Jonathan Strange. Young, handsome and daring, Strange is the very opposite of Norrell. So begins a dangerous battle between these two great men which overwhelms the one between England and France. And their own obsessions and secret dabblings with the dark arts are going to cause more trouble than they can imagine.

Susanna Clarke was born in Nottingham, UK, in 1959. She has published seven short stories and novellas in US anthologies. From 1993 to 2003 Susanna was an editor at Simon and Schuster UK, where she worked on their cookery list. *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* is her first novel. She lives in Cambridge.

The Closed Circle**Jonathan Coe**

NOMINATED BY:

Liverpool Libraries & Information Services, England

Set against the backdrop of the Millennium celebrations and Britain's increasingly compromised role in America's war against terrorism, *The Closed Circle* lifts the lid on an era in which politics and presentation, ideology and the media have become virtually indistinguishable. Darkly comic, hugely engaging, and compulsively readable, it is the much-anticipated follow-up to Jonathan Coe's bestselling novel *The Rotters' Club*, and reintroduces us to the characters first encountered in that book. But whereas *The Rotters' Club* was a novel of innocence, *The Closed Circle* is its opposite: a novel of experience.

Jonathan Coe was born in Birmingham, UK, in 1961. His novels include *The Rotters' Club*, *The Accidental Woman*, *A Touch of Love*, *The Dwarves of Death* and the award-winning *What a Carve Up!*

Norman Bray in the Performance of his Life**Trevor Cole**

NOMINATED BY:

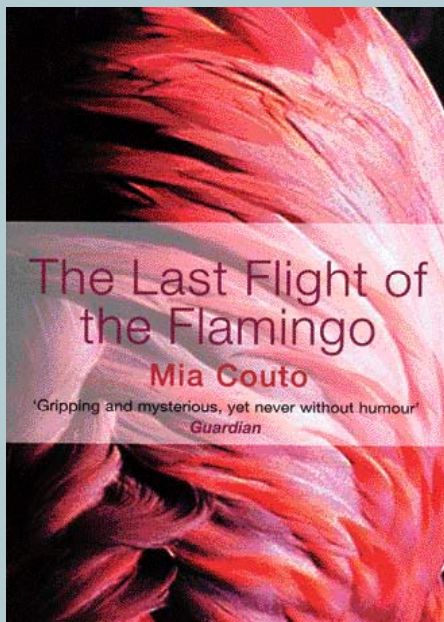
Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada

For years, Toronto stage actor Norman Bray has renounced all responsibility in the name of his "art." Now, middle-aged, teetering on the edge of financial ruin, and clinging to the faded light of his career, Norman must answer to the bank, to the adult children of his recently deceased common-law wife and, most of all, to his own illusions about himself.

Highly original, skewering, hilarious, humane, Trevor Cole's brilliant debut looks at the precarious ties of love and family and the plight of a man who has reached the end of the line - and has only himself to blame.

Trevor Cole lives in Hamilton, Canada. *Norman Bray in the Performance of His Life*, his first novel, was a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction and earned him the City of Hamilton Arts Award for Literature.

The Last Flight of the Flamingo



Mia Couto

Translated from the original Portuguese by David Brookshaw

NOMINATED BY:

Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, Bogota, Colombia

'In Tizangara, the only facts are supernatural ones... To put it crudely and rudely, here's what happened: a severed penis was found right there on the trunk road just outside Tizangara. A large organ on the loose. Folk turned up from all around.' So the translator of Tizangara begins his tale. Car loads of foreign investigators and even a UN official, the Italian Massimo Risi, sweep into the small Mozambican town. And what a minefield they have come to investigate! A labyrinth of witnesses tell stories about each other, the town's past, its folklore, magic and occasional mayhem.

In this witty and playful, yet incisive, novel Mia Couto provides a subtle look at emergent nationhood as it wrestles with the consequences of colonialism.

Mia Couto was born in Beira, Mozambique, in 1955. He has also published poetry, five collections of short stories and two novels, *Terra Sonâmbula* (1992) and *A Varanda do Frangipani* (1996), published in English as *Under the Frangipani*. He lives in Mozambique and works as an environmental biologist.

Birds Without Wings

Louis de Bernières

NOMINATED BY:

Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany
Lincoln City Libraries, USA
Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA

Set against the backdrop of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, the Gallipoli campaign and the subsequent bitter struggle between Greeks and Turks, *Birds Without Wings* traces the fortunes of one small community in south-west Anatolia - a town in which Christian and Muslim lives and traditions have co-existed

peacefully for centuries. When war is declared and the outside world intrudes, the twin scourges of religion and nationalism lead to forced marches and massacres, and the peaceful fabric of life is destroyed. Philothei, a Christian girl of legendary beauty, and Ibrahim the Goatherd, who has courted her since infancy, are but two of the many casualties. With the end of a community that once transcended religious differences, their great love seems destined to end in tragedy and madness...

Louis de Bernières' first three novels are *The War of Don Emmanuel's Nether Parts*, *Senor Vivo and The Coca Lord*, and *The Troublesome Offspring of Cardinal Guzman*. *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* won the Commonwealth Writers Prize, Best Book, 1995. His most recent book is *Red Dog*.

Becoming Strangers

Louise Dean

NOMINATED BY:

The Gambia National Library, Banjul, The Gambia

Jan and Annemieke are going on their last holiday together. Thirty years their senior, Dorothy and George are on one of their first.

When these four people meet on an island in the Caribbean, they find more than an escape from their daily existence. They discover that it is not too late to save the rest of their lives.

Written in moving and startlingly funny prose, *Becoming Strangers* is a different love story - about how there's seldom a 'happily ever after', but sometimes a chance to redeem a life half-lived.

Louise Dean lives in France. *Becoming Strangers*, long-listed for the 2004 Man Booker Prize and winner of the Betty Trask Award, is her first book.

Ireland

Frank Delaney

NOMINATED BY:

Knjižnica Otona Župancica, Ljubljana, Slovenia

One evening in 1951, an itinerant storyteller arrives unannounced and mysterious at a house in the Irish countryside. By the November fireside he begins to tell the story of this extraordinary land. One of his listeners, a nine-year-old boy, grows so entranced by the storytelling that, when the old man leaves, he devotes his life to finding him again. It is a search that uncovers both passions and mysteries, in his own life as well as the old man's.

But the life of this boy is more than just his story: it is also the telling of a people, the narrative of a nation, the history of Ireland in all its drama, intrigue and heroism.

Frank Delaney is the author of eight previous novels including *The Sins of the Mothers*, *A Stranger in Their Midst*, *Pearl* and *At Ruby's*. He has also published many best-selling non-fiction works including *James Joyce's Odyssey*, *The Celts* and *Bejeman Country*. Born in Ireland he now lives in the USA.

About Grace

Anthony Doerr

NOMINATED BY:

Houston Public Library, USA

David Winkler sees things before they happen. When he dreams that his infant daughter will drown in a flood as he tries to save her, he comes undone. He travels thousands of miles, fleeing family, home, and the future itself, to deny the dream.

On a Caribbean island, destitute, alone, and unsure if his child has survived or his wife can forgive him, David is sheltered by a couple with a daughter of their own. Ultimately it is she who will pull him back into the world, to search for the people he left behind.

Doerr's compassion for human frailty is extraordinarily moving. In luminous prose, he writes about the power and beauty of nature and about the tiny miracles that transform our lives.

Anthony Doerr is the author of the award-winning collection of short stories *The Shell Collector*. He lives with his wife and two sons in Boise, Idaho, USA.

Oh, Play That Thing

Roddy Doyle

NOMINATED BY:

Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Ghent, Belgium

Henry Smart, on the run, arrives in Chicago. It is the 1920s. The place is wild, as new as he is, and newest of all is the music. Furious, wild, happy music played by a man with a trumpet and bleeding lips called Louis Armstrong. But Armstrong is a prisoner of his colour and the mob is in Chicago: they own every stage - and they own the man up on the stage. Armstrong needs a man, a white man, and the man he chooses is Henry Smart.

This is a novel of prodigious energy and invention. Its language and its rhythms are as breathtaking as the music it celebrates.

Roddy Doyle was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1958. He is the author of six acclaimed novels, including *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, which won the Booker Prize in 1993.

The Red Queen

Margaret Drabble

NOMINATED BY:

San Francisco Public Library, USA

200 years after being plucked from obscurity to marry the Crown Prince of Korea, the Red Queen's ghost decides to set the record straight about her extraordinary existence - and Dr Babs Halliwell, with her own complicated past, is the perfect envoy. Why does the Red Queen pick Babs to keep her story alive, and what else does she want from her?

Set in 18th century Korea and the present day, *The Red Queen* is a rich and atmospheric novel about love and what it means to be remembered.

Margaret Drabble, born in Sheffield, UK, in 1939, is the author of many novels including *A Summer Bird-Cage*, *The Waterfall*, *The Needle's Eye*, *A Natural Curiosity*, *The Witch of Exmoor* and *The Peppered Moth*. She was awarded the CBE in 1980. She lives in London, UK.

Piano

Jean Echenoz

Translated from the original French by Mark Polizzotti

NOMINATED BY:

Médiathèque de l'Agglomération de Montpellier, France
Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland

Max Delmarc, age fifty, is a famous concert pianist with two problems: the first, severe stage fright for which the second, alcohol, is the only cure. In this playful and daring novel, we journey with Max from the trials of his everyday life to his untimely death and on into the afterlife.

After a brief stay in purgatory - part luxury hotel, part minimum-security prison supervised by dead celebrities - Max is sentenced to "the urban zone", a section of hell bearing an uncanny resemblance to his native Paris on an eternally gloomy day.

Forbidden to reveal his true identity, Max engages in a hapless struggle to piece his former life back together while searching in vain for the woman he once loved.

Jean Echenoz is the winner of France's prestigious Prix Goncourt for *I'm Gone*. He is the author of four previous novels in English translation, including *Big Blondes* and *Cherokee*. He lives in Paris.

Nordkraft

Jakob Ejersbo

Translated from the original Danish by Don Bartlett

NOMINATED BY:

Aarhus Kommunes Biblioteker, Aarhus, Denmark
Helsinki City Library, Finland
Sølvberget KF - Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturhus, Stavanger, Norway

Nordkraft is a novel in three parts about a group of young people living in Aalborg, a town in Northern Jutland, Denmark, in the first half of the 1990s. It is about dreamers, junkies, pushers, cynics, and bewildered parents who can only just keep their heads above water.

Maria, a "pusherfrau", is on a regular run from Aalborg to Christiania in Copenhagen. Allan has one ambition: he does not want to fall back into the lifestyle he abandoned a couple of years before. One of the friends dies of an overdose. The others meet at the wake and are confronted with their common pasts. In the course of the day old wounds are torn open, and new prospects beckon.

Jakob Ejersbo is a journalist. He has published one collection of short stories, *Superego*. *Nordkraft* is his first novel.

Shock Waves Across the Ocean

Bananuka Jocelyn Ekochu

NOMINATED BY:

National Library of Uganda, Kampala, Uganda

Straddling two continents, *Shock Waves Across The Ocean*, portrays the struggles of people trying to make sense of their lives, and of the web of relationships that holds them together. Nico - the trouble-shooter, Denis - her long-suffering husband, Cola - puerile and enigmatic, Jeremy - the pimp, Peter, Hazel and Jenna.

They are all part of a rich tapestry depicting the strength and foibles, joys and tragedies, as well as greed and generosity that characterise human life as it is lived from day to day. In these characters we see an authentic reflection of ourselves, of those things about us that we find admirable and those we find less flattering.

Bananuka Jocelyn Ekochu works with Femrite, Uganda Women Writers Association, Kampala, Uganda. *Shock Waves Across The Ocean* is her first novel. Her short story, *Not Until I Find My Daughter*, was published in 2003.

Happy Baby

Stephen Elliott

NOMINATED BY:

Chicago Public Library, USA

Happy Baby, explores how pain can define desire, how the future becomes the past, and how grace struggles with self-destruction. The story, told in reverse, begins with thirty-six-year-old Theo and his search for sexual and emotional freedom, and slowly unravels back to a childhood of abuse in the juvenile detention centres of Chicago.

Without judgment, Elliott traces a life defined by yearning - for love, for pain, for certainty. His clear words and unflinching gaze reveal the difficulty of simple truths and the possibility of transcendence in the face of unforgivable crimes.

Stephen Elliott grew up a ward of the court in various institutions and group homes in Chicago. He earned his Bachelors degree at the University of Illinois and a Masters degree from Northwestern University. He has worked as a stripper, a cabdriver, a bartender, and a law school admissions consultant. Stephen is the Truman Capote Fellow in the Wallace Stegner Creative Writing Program at Stanford University, USA.

The Persistence of Memory

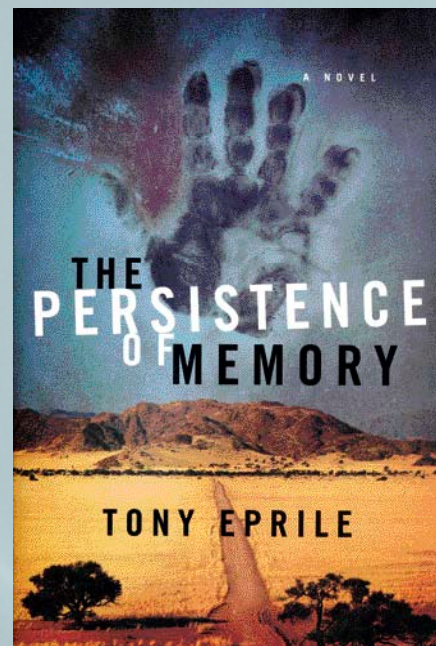
Tony Eprile

NOMINATED BY:

San Francisco Public Library, USA

The Persistence of Memory fuses a searing political and cultural satire with a haunting coming-of-age story to render South Africa's turbulent past with striking clarity.

The precocious Paul Sweetbread, cursed with a perfect memory, is born into the civilized Jewish world of Johannesburg in the twilight of apartheid, becomes a veteran of the secret war in Angola and Namibia, and is eventually forced to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, with astonishing results.



Tony Eprile is the author of *Temporary Sojourner & Other South African Stories*, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. He grew up in South Africa and now lives in Vermont, USA.

Celestial Harmonies

Péter Esterházy

Translated from the original Hungarian by Judith Sollosy

NOMINATED BY:

Helsinki City Library, Finland
Leipzig Stadtbibliothek, Germany

The Esterházy's, one of Europe's most prominent aristocratic families, are closely linked to the rise and fall of the Hapsburg Empire. Princes, counts, commanders, diplomats, bishops, and patrons of the arts, revered, respected, and occasionally feared by their contemporaries, their story is as complex as the history of Hungary itself.

Celestial Harmonies is the intricate chronicle of this remarkable family, a saga spanning seven centuries of epic conquest, tragedy, triumph, and near annihilation. It is dazzling in scope and profound in implication.

Péter Esterházy was born in Budapest in 1950. He is the author of essays, short stories and novels including *The Book of Hrabal*, *She Loves Me* and *A Little Hungarian Pornography*.

Young Turk

Moris Farhi

NOMINATED BY:

Jafet Library - American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Young Turk is a novel in thirteen positions. Against the backdrop of Nazism, in a multi-racial Turkey giving sanctuary to many of Europe's fleeing Jews, a group of teenage friends struggles to understand events while reeling from (and relishing) the sexual and emotional discoveries of adolescence.

An alluring woman initiates Mustafa and his classmates in the carnal delights of rose petal jam; Musa discovers the hard facts of reaching manhood when he is expelled from the women's baths; Bilal, 14-year-old Jewish boy, sets off for Greece to rescue his mother's sister; and a circus orphan known only as 'Girl' falls head over heels for the new trapeze artist . . .

Moris Farhi was born in Turkey in 1935. His novels include the award-winning *Children of the Rainbow* and *Journey through the Wilderness*. He is a vice-president of International PEN, and in 2001 was appointed an MBE for services to literature. He lives in London, UK.

Book Book

Fiona Farrell

NOMINATED BY:
Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand

As war is waged in the Middle East, a woman in New Zealand has her nose in a book. Kate is immersed in other battles, engrossed in eyewitness accounts of an earlier war in ancient Persia. She has grown up, left her Otago home and returned, and in all these years books have shaped her life and made sense of the world - offering mystery and solace, entertainment and enlightenment.

Frequently funny and always original, *Book Book* is an evocative and moving mix of memoir and fiction, in which Fiona Farrell writes of life from *The Little Red Hen* to *Owls Do Cry*, from T.S. Eliot to Aphra Behn.

Fiona Farrell was born in Oamaru, New Zealand, in 1947. She has worked as an editor and a teacher in both Canada and New Zealand and now lives in Palmerston North. She is the author of two books of poetry, two collections of short stories and two previous novels, *The Skinny Louie Book* and *The Hopeful Traveller*.

Away From You

Melanie Finn

NOMINATED BY:
The Free State Provincial Library Service,
Bloemfontein, South Africa

When Ellie's father dies she returns to Kenya after twenty-five years to wind up his affairs. She becomes embroiled in trying to discover the secret at the heart of his life and her parents' marriage in 1960s Kenya. It was a time of keeping up appearances, stiff whiskies, English gardens amidst the African Bush, and reined-in violence.

Told through three voices and set against the poignant backdrop of a changing Africa, this is a wonderfully atmospheric debut novel about fathers, daughters - and Africa.

Melanie Finn was born and raised in Kenya and educated in the United States. She has lived and worked on four continents as a journalist, screenwriter, ranch hand, documentary filmmaker, ski bum and waitress. *Away From You* is her first novel.

Whiteout

Ken Follett

NOMINATED BY:
Bibliotecas Municipales de Madrid, Spain

An injured lab technician, a missing canister... Toni Gallo, the new head of security at the local pharmaceutical-research company, knows she has problems, but she has no idea of the nightmare to come.

As his family converges on a remote farmhouse in Scotland for the Christmas period, Stanley Oxenford is a worried man. Everything is riding on a new drug he has developed to fight a lethal virus: all have something to gain with the money he's going to make. Then a blizzard whips out of the north, and as the storm worsens, the emotional sparks - jealousies, distrust, sexual attraction - crackle; desperate secrets are revealed; hidden traitors and unexpected heroes emerge.

Ken Follett is the author of sixteen novels, most recently *Hornet Flight*, *Jackdaws*, and *Code to Zero*. He lives with his family in London and Stevenage, UK.

The Jane Austen Book Club

Karen Joy Fowler

NOMINATED BY:
Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Frankfurt,
Germany

Six Californians join to discuss Jane Austen's novels. Over the six months they meet, marriages are tested, affairs begin, unsuitable arrangements become suitable, and love happens. With her finely sighted eye for the frailties of human behaviour and her finely tuned ear for the absurdities of social intercourse, Fowler has never been wittier nor her characters more appealing. The result is a delicious dissection of modern relationships.

Dedicated Austenites will delight in unearthing the echoes of Austen that run through the novel, but most readers will simply enjoy the vision and voice that, despite two centuries of separation, unite two great writers of brilliant social comedy.

Karen Joy Fowler is the author of *Sarah Canary*, *The Sweetheart Season*, *Black Glass: Short Fictions*, and *Sister Noon*.

Old Filth

Jane Gardam

NOMINATED BY:
The Free State Provincial Library Service,
Bloemfontein, South Africa

Old Filth was a 'child of the raj'. His earliest memories are of his amah, a teenage Malay girl - not of his mother who is dead, nor his father who can't cope. But very soon he is sent to be educated at 'Home', where he is boarded out with strangers...

What is the terrible secret that the children shared? What exactly happened at the farmhouse in the Lake District from which Filth is rescued by 'Sir', whose 'outfit' is one of the oddest schools in England?

Old Filth is funny and heart-breaking at the same time. Jane Gardam has a unique understanding not only of the human heart but also of the bizarre workings of the minds of the elderly.

Jane Gardam is a novelist, writer of short stories and author of children's books. She lives in Kent, Wimbeldon and Yorkshire. She has won The Whitbread Fiction Award twice, for *The Hollow Land* and *Queen of the Tambourine*, and has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize for *God on the Rocks*. Her other books include *The Flight of the Maidens*, *Faith Fox*, and *Missing the Midnight*.

The Hungry Tide

Amitav Ghosh

NOMINATED BY:
Médiathèque de l'Agglomération de Montpellier,
France
Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany

The Hungry Tide is a story of adventure and unlikely love, identity and history, set in the Sundarbans, an immense labyrinth of tiny islands off the easternmost coast of India. Life is extremely precarious for settlers here. Attacks by deadly tigers are common. Unrest and eviction are constant threats. Without warning, at any time, tidal floods rise and surge over the land, leaving devastation in their wake.

In this place of vengeful beauty, the lives of three people from different worlds collide. As they launch into the elaborate backwaters, they are drawn unawares into the hidden undercurrents of this isolated world, where political turmoil exacts a personal toll that is every bit as powerful as the ravaging tide.

One of the most widely known Indians writing in English today, **Amitav Ghosh's** books include the award-winning *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *In An Antique Land*, *Dancing in Cambodia*, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, and *The Glass Palace*. He lives with his wife and their children in Brooklyn, USA.

Tu

Patricia Grace

NOMINATED BY:
Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand
Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand

Pita - Little Father, Big Brother - stays at home to look after his family as he's done since he was a small boy. There's Jess and Ani Rose to keep him there, but he decides he has to go to war.

Rangi - chatterer, mischievous - is the first to go to war. He has loads of mates and is one of the bravest fighters in the Maori Battalion. He's the go-between for Pita and Tu.

Te Hokowhitu-a-Tu-Tuboy, Tu Bear - is the family's hope for the future. First chance he gets he becomes a soldier, and finds there's no place he'd rather be than with his battalion.

Some years later, a niece and nephew come looking for answers.

It is time for revelations.

Patricia Grace is the author of five novels, four short story collections and several children's books. She was born in Wellington, New Zealand in 1937. She lives in Plimmerton on the ancestral land of Ngati Toa, Ngati Raukawa and Te Ati Awa in close proximity to her home marae at Hongoeka Bay. *Dogside Story* won the Kiriama Pacific Rim Fiction Prize in 2001 and was longlisted for the Booker Prize.

The Confessions of Max Tivoli

Andrew Sean Greer

NOMINATED BY:
San Francisco Public Library, USA

Born with the physical appearance of an elderly man, Max grows older mentally like any child, but his body appears to age backwards, growing younger every year. And yet, his physical curse proves to be a blessing, allowing him to try to win the heart of the same woman three times as at each successive encounter she fails to recognize him, taking him for a stranger, so giving Max another chance at love.

Set against the historical backdrop of San Francisco at the turn of the twentieth century, *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* is a heartbreaking love story with a narrator like no other, questioning the very nature of love, time, and what it means to be human.

Andrew Sean Greer is the author of the story collection *How It Was for Me* and most recently a novel, *The Path of Minor Planets*. He lives in San Francisco, USA.

In Another Light

Andrew Greig

NOMINATED BY:
Belfast Education & Library Board, Northern Ireland
Aberdeen Library & Information Services, Scotland

In the early 1930s, an ambitious young Scotsman sets out on the long sea voyage to Penang, eager for the new opportunities that will open up for him there. He very quickly makes the acquaintance of two sisters, both very beautiful young women, one looking for a husband, the other married. In the confines of the ship, when conventional morality is shelved for the duration, the seeds of a scandal, which will rock the close island community of Penang, are sown.

Seventy years later, Edward Mackay, begins to unravel the story of a man he thought he knew: his father, the respectable Doctor Alexander Mackay, now years dead after a long and blameless career. What he discovers astonishes him, and begins to shed light on his own existence.

Andrew Greig is a poet and novelist. He has published six volumes of poetry and four novels, including, *That Summer*. He lives in Orkney, Scotland and Sheffield. Among other things, he is known as the unofficial poet laureate of the mountaineering community, and a love of the land characterises much of his work.

An Altered Light

Jens Christian Grøndahl

Translated from the original Danish by Anne Born
NOMINATED BY:
Copenhagen Central Library, Denmark

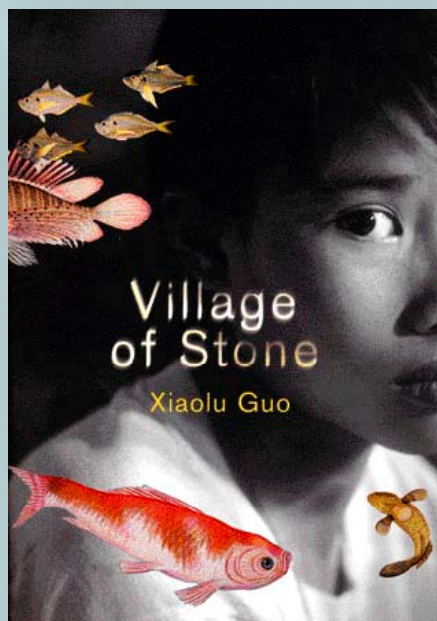
Irene Beckman appears to have a perfect life: two grown children, a house in a prosperous suburb of Copenhagen, and a successful career as a family lawyer. She is cool, sophisticated, and still exotically good-looking, the dyed hair her only concession to time.

Then her husband announces that he's leaving her, and her mother reveals some unexpected information about Irene's father. Suddenly, Irene Beckman is neither wife nor daughter. Nor, she realizes, is it at all clear who she has been all these years. It is time to find out.

An Altered Light is a fascinating exploration of the nature of chance and relationships - between parents and children, husbands and wives, friends and strangers.

Jens Christian Grøndahl is one of the most celebrated and widely read novelists in Europe today. He has written plays, essays, and twelve novels, and his work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. He lives in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Village of Stone



Xiaolu Guo

Translated from the original Chinese by Cindy Carter
NOMINATED BY:
Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland

Coral and her boyfriend, Red, live in a cramped tower block in modern-day Beijing. The epitome of disaffected youth, their already fragile existence is shattered by the arrival of a mysterious fishy package. As the smells of the sea wash over her, Coral is transported back to a traumatic childhood of solitude, fear and shame among the stern and superstitious fishermen of the remote village of Stone. At fifteen, she escaped to the big city and shut the door on the darkness of her past. But when a sick old man appears on Coral's doorstep, the

past and present shockingly converge, and she is forced to confront the secrets of her history.

Beautifully poetic, lyrical and haunting, yet infused with a quiet and gentle humour, *Village of Stone* is a startling and bewitching novel.

Xiaolu Guo was born in a fishing village in the south of China in 1973. She was awarded an MA in Film from the Beijing Film Academy and has worked as a novelist, screenwriter and filmmaker. She now lives in England.

In Remembrance of Her

Denise Harris

NOMINATED BY:
National Library & Information System Authority (NALIS), Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Set in Guyana, *In Remembrance of Her* is full of unforgettable characters like Disguile with his dreams of a new empire ruled by Black men, cross-dressing Baby-Boy with his white painted face, and Blanche Steadman, who with her enlarging vision becomes a warmly sympathetic guide for the reader to the unfolding mysteries of the story.

What emerges, beyond the individual tragedies, is the picture of a wilfully amnesiac society that shuts its eyes and ears to past and present suffering. What Harris's gothic, richly poetic novel shows is the need for a new compassion if the restless dead are to find release and cruelty, pain, guilt and retribution are not to be endlessly recycled.

Denise Harris was born in Guyana. She worked for UNICEF for many years, in Beijing, Barbados and Jamaica, where she also worked as a freelance photographer. She currently lives in Barbados.

True North

Jim Harrison

NOMINATED BY:
Bibliothèques Municipales, Geneva, Switzerland

The scion of a family of wealthy timber barons, David Burkett has grown up with a father who is a malevolent force, and a mother made vague and numb by alcohol and pills. He and his sister Cynthia, a firecracker who scandalizes the family at fourteen by taking up with the son of their Finnish-Native American gardener, are mostly left to make their own way. As David comes to adulthood, he realizes he must come to terms with his forefathers' rapacious destruction of the woods of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, as well as with the working people who made their wealth possible.

Jim Harrison is the author of four volumes of novellas, including *Legends of the Fall*; seven novels, including *The Road Home* and *Dalva*; seven collections of poetry; and two collections of non-fiction.

The Sundial

Maarten 't Hart

Translated from the original Dutch by Michiel Horn
NOMINATED BY:
Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Openbare Bibliotheek Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Gemeentebibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands
The Association of Public Libraries, The Hague, The Netherlands
Gemeentebibliotheek Utrecht, The Netherlands

Roos Berczy, a brilliant pharmacological research assistant, is dead and she has made her friend Leonie her sole heir, provided she moves into Roos' apartment and cares for her cats. Gradually Leonie assumes Roos' identity. As she begins to resemble her deceased friend Roos' past starts to crowd in on Leonie. Questions arise that demand answers. Her curiosity piqued, Leonie starts looking for answers and reveals herself to be a first-rate detective.

Was Roos involved in the manufacture of Ecstasy? And how exactly did she die? In the meantime, the murderer, alarmed by Leonie's detective work, swings into action - and a startling denouement follows.

Maarten 't Hart is one of Holland's best-selling writers. He has written more than ten novels, several collections of short stories, and many volumes of essays. His work has been translated into a number of languages.

Eventide

Kent Haruf

NOMINATED BY:
Denver Public Library, USA
Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA

When the McPherson brothers see Victoria Roubideaux, the single mother they'd taken in, move from their ranch to begin college, an emptiness opens before them - and for many other townspeople it also promises to be a long, hard winter.

In a small town a great many people encounter one another frequently, often surprisingly, and destinies soon become entwined - for good and for ill - as they confront events that sorely test the limits of their resilience and means, with no refuge available except what their own character and that of others afford them.

Spring eventually does reach across the land, and how the people of **Eventide** get there makes for an engrossing, profoundly moving novel, rich in wisdom, humour, and humanity.

Kent Haruf is the author of the bestselling and award-winning novel, **Plainsong**. He lives with his wife, Cathy, in his native Colorado, USA.

Flesh and Blood

John Harvey

NOMINATED BY:
Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada

Fifteen years ago Susan Blacklock disappeared. Although Detective Inspector Frank Elder has taken early retirement, the case still haunts him. Prime suspects Shane Donald and Alan McKeirnan were convicted a year later of the brutal rape and murder of a young girl, and now that Shane has been granted parole, Elder feels compelled to revisit the past.

Then Shane disappears and another young girl is murdered. Elder's involvement is now crucial. Taunted by postcards from the killer, an increasingly desperate Elder battles to keep

his estranged family from being drawn into the very heart of the crime.

John Harvey is the author of the richly praised Charlie Resnick novels, the first of which **Lonely Hearts** was named by *The Times* as one of the '100 Best Crime Novels of the Century'. He is also a poet, dramatist and broadcaster. John has recently moved to Cornwall, UK, with his partner and their young daughter.

The Line of Beauty

Alan Hollinghurst

NOMINATED BY:
Municipal Library of Prague, Czech Republic
Edinburgh City Libraries & Information Services, Scotland
Knjižnica Otona Župancica, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Stadt-und Universitätsbibliothek, Bern, Switzerland

The Line of Beauty traces the history of a decade of change and tragedy in 1980s England. Richly textured, emotionally charged, disarmingly comic, it recounts the story of Nick Guest, an innocent in the worlds of politics and money. As the Thatcher boom-years unfold, Nick finds his life altered by the rising fortunes of the glamorous family he is entangled with. Two vividly contrasting love affairs, with a young black clerk and a Lebanese millionaire, dramatize the dangers and rewards of his own private pursuit of beauty, a pursuit as compelling to him as that of power and riches to his friends.

Alan Hollinghurst was born in 1954. His previous novels include **The Swimming-Pool Library** and the award-winning **The Folding Star**. **The Line of Beauty** won the 2004 Man Booker Prize. He lives in London, UK.

Bedlam

Greg Hollingshead

NOMINATED BY:
Edmonton Public Library, Canada

Conspiracies and paranoia sweep across England in the aftermath of the French Revolution, landing tea broker James Tilly Matthews in Bethlem Hospital, a notorious, crumbling home for the insane. Although delusional, Matthews also appears to be incarcerated for unspecified political reasons, a pawn in a cruel game of ambition and power.

Profoundly moving and extraordinarily evocative of time and place, **Bedlam** sweeps the reader into a world teetering between darkness and light, love and hate.

Greg Hollingshead is the author of **The Healer**, **The Roaring Girl**, winner of the 1995 Governor General's Award for Fiction, and **Spin Dry**. He lives in Edmonton, Canada.

The Stowaway

Robert Hough

NOMINATED BY:
Vancouver Public Library, Canada

The Stowaway is an adventure story of the highest calibre and a riveting tale of good and evil, all the more moving because it is based on actual events.

When two Romanian stowaways show themselves on the container ship Maersk Dubai one day into its passage across the Atlantic Ocean, bosun Rodolfo Miguel escorts them to his captain, assuming they'll be fed and put to work. To his horror, and that of the rest of the crew, the officers order the men to be put onto a flimsy raft, which, in an instant, is sucked under the frigid, unforgiving water.

When on a later voyage more stowaways are found, the crew is forced to come to terms with the earlier murders and, at the risk of their own lives, act for good or evil.

Robert Hough is the author of one previous novel, **The Final Confession of Mabel Stark**, which was shortlisted for major prizes in the UK and Canada. He lives in Toronto, Canada, with his wife and two daughters.

Down to the Dirt

Joel Hynes

NOMINATED BY:
St. John's Public Libraries, St John's, Canada

Hard-drinking, hard-fighting, hardticketed hooligan Keith Kavanagh is the turbulent anti-hero of **Down to the Dirt**. Following Keith, along with his girlfriend Natasha, and reluctant best friend, Andy, from the kitchens and basements of the Cove, his Newfoundland outpost hometown, to the bars of St. John's and the alleys of Halifax, this is a stark and edgy chronicle of violence, drugs, sex and black humour.

Joel Hynes comes from Calvert, Newfoundland, Canada and now lives in St. John's. **Down to the Dirt**, his first novel, was originally published by Killick Press. The author also co-wrote an acclaimed stage adaptation of the book, called **The Devil You Don't Know**, and is currently developing the novel as a screenplay.

Tapestry

Sobani Iddamalgod

NOMINATED BY:
Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

Tapestry is a story about a Sri Lankan academic, who is at a crisis in his life. Together with his friend, who is from a different ethnic group and religion, he finds the answers to his questions on love, ethnicity, gender and purpose of life. The tragedy of the human being, which is the inability to sift the real from the unreal, is brought clearly to his vision and the duality and ambiguity of a world caught in an ever-changing flux is experienced, though to some, his actions seem wrong and controversial. It is a book about the equality of all human beings, a book necessary for the time, a book both beautiful and meaningful.

Sobani Iddamalgod teaches English Language in the Department of English of the University of Colombo. She has obtained an M.A. in Linguistics at the University Kelaniya. She draws from her wide experience of Sri Lankan life and culture in **Tapestry**.

Jar City (also published as **Tainted Blood**)**Arnaldur Indriðason**

Translated from the original Icelandic by Bernard Scudder

NOMINATED BY:

Reykjavik City Library, Iceland

A man is found murdered in his Reykjavik flat. There are no obvious clues apart from a cryptic note left on the body and a photograph of a young girl's grave. Detective Erlendur is forced to use all the forensic resources available to find any leads at all.

Delving into the dead man's life he discovers that forty years ago he was accused of an appalling crime. Did his past come back to haunt him? Finally, Erlendur's search leads him to Iceland's Genetic Research Centre in order to find the disturbing answers to the mystery.

Arnaldur Indriðason was born in 1961. He won the Nordic Crime Novel Award for **Tainted Blood** (originally published in the UK under the title **Jar City**) and, in the following year, for its sequel, **Silence of the Grave**. **Tainted Blood** is his first novel to be translated into English.

The Story of My Baldness**Marek van der Jagt**

Translated from the original Dutch by Todd Armstrong

NOMINATED BY:

Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Openbare Bibliotheek Eindhoven, The Netherlands
The Association of Public Libraries, The Hague,
The Netherlands
Gemeentebibliotheek Utrecht, The Netherlands

In **The Story of My Baldness**, Viennese philosophy student Marek van der Jagt tells the story of his quest for "l'amour fou". Van der Jagt introduces a host of unforgettable characters and weaves a web of shameful secrets in this novel that uses Vienna the way Kafka used Prague - as the (strangely familiar) landscape where the narrator's obsessions are given free rein.

Marek Van Der Jagt is a Viennese philosopher. His first book, **The Story of My Baldness** was awarded the Anton Wachter Prize for a debut novel, until it was revealed that he had already won the prize previously for **Blue Mondays**, written under the name of the Arnon Grunberg. Arnon Grunberg's **Phantom Pain** was shortlisted for the 2005 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

Hidden**Paul Jaskunas**

NOMINATED BY:

Jacksonville Public Library, USA

Maggie Wilson was assaulted one summer night. She identifies her husband, Nate Duke as the man who nearly killed her. But now, six years later, another inmate has confessed to the crime. Written in spare, elegant prose, Paul Jaskunas's novel reads like a waking dream as Maggie is torn by the question - was it Nate? Or was it this stranger who seems to know intimate details? And what will it cost her to discover the truth?

A work of searing suspense written in the heroine's brave voice, **Hidden** is ultimately about a woman confronting the betrayal of her body and the ambiguity of her mind.

A recipient of a Fulbright fellowship, **Paul Jaskunas** lives in the USA. **Hidden** is his first novel. He is currently at work on his second.

My Nine Lives**Ruth Prawer Jhabvala**

NOMINATED BY:

New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA

My Nine Lives are "Chapters of a Possible Past," as the subtitle declares. It is, as the author has commented, a book filled with "invented memories." Nine vignettes - autobiographical fictions - are linked to portray a rich life, filled with searching, from London to Delhi, from Hollywood to New York. Each chapter gathers a different cast of characters, some new and some vaguely familiar, and the linked assembly is as exciting and illuminating as an artist's first show at a Chelsea gallery or a new play at the Studio Theatre.

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala was born of Polish parents in Germany, then moved with her family to London at the time of Hitler's rise to power. She is the author of twelve novels, including **Heat and Dust**, which won the Booker Prize. She has written many screenplays for Merchant-Ivory Productions, two of them earning Academy Awards - **A Room with a View** and **Howard's End**. Jhabvala divides her time between Delhi and New York.

War Trash**Ha Jin**

NOMINATED BY:

San José Public Library, USA

Set in 1951-53, **War Trash** takes the form of the memoir of Yu Yuan, a young Chinese army officer, one of a corps of "volunteers" sent by Mao to help shore up the Communist side in Korea. When Yu is captured, his command of English thrusts him into the role of unofficial interpreter in the psychological warfare that defines the POW camp.

Taking us behind the barbed wire, Ha Jin draws on true historical accounts to render the complex world the prisoners inhabit - a world of strict surveillance and complete allegiance to authority. Here every human instinct is called into question, to the point that what it means to be human comes to occupy the foremost position in every prisoner's mind.

Ha Jin left his native China in 1985 to attend Brandeis University, USA. He is the author of three novels, the award-winning **Waiting**, **The Crazy** and **In the Pond**; three short story collections **The Bridegroom**, **Under the Red Flag**, and **Ocean of Words** and three books of poetry. **War Trash** was the winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction 2005. He is a professor of English at Boston University.

Music From a Distant Room**Stephanie Johnson**

NOMINATED BY:

Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand

"I'll give you his beginning, and then you can tell me his ending. In exchange."

A fortnight after jazz pianist Carl Tyler's funeral, Tamara has one week before she leaves New Zealand to return to her native Chicago. Nola wants to solve the mystery of her son's death, to know everything Tamara knows, so she begins to tell Carl's lover about her son's conception, his childhood and his early love of music, in the hope that Tamara will remember.

Music from a Distant Room is a book about how memory can shape our lives, about storytelling, fate, forgiveness and the search for meaning in loss.

Stephanie Johnson is the author of five other novels, two collections of short stories, two volumes of poetry and five stage plays. Stephanie is the co-founder and co-creative director of the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival.

The Broken Book**Susan Johnson**

NOMINATED BY:

National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia
State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Katherine Elgin grew up in a small coastal town in Australia, desperate to transcend her beginnings and make her mark. From her rebellious and contemplative childhood Katherine emerges as a stunningly beautiful young woman, with a voracious appetite for life's most interesting experience and an overwhelming desire to write the best book she possibly can.

But beauty is a double-edged sword and throughout her life - from Sydney, to London, to the islands of Greece - Katherine carries the burden of being both siren and artist.

Inspired by the fascinating life of one of Australia's most talented and intriguing literary figures, Charmain Clift, **The Broken Book** is wonderfully rich, complex and compelling.

Susan Johnson is the author of five novels and a memoir. Since 2001, she has lived in London with her husband and two sons.

Sixty Lights**Gail Jones**

NOMINATED BY:

National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia
State Library of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Lucy's adolescent journey of discovery takes her away from her childhood home in Australia, first to London, then to Bombay and, finally, to her death, at the age of twenty-three.

It is a life abbreviated, but not a life diminished. Lucy is a remarkable character, forthright, gifted and exuberant; she touches the lives of all who know her.

Written in confident, finely interwoven and intricate layers, **Sixty Lights** is the powerful chronicle of a modern and independent young woman's life in the Victorian world.

Gail Jones teaches literature, cinema and cultural studies at the University of Western Australia. She is the author of two collections of short stories and one previous novel, **Black Mirror**. **Sixty Lights** won the 2004 W.A. Premier's Award.

An Unfinished Season

Ward Just

NOMINATED BY:
Seattle Public Library, USA

Chicago in the 1950s - a time of rabid anticommunism, worker unrest, and government corruption. Teddy Ravan - gruff, unapproachable, secure in his knowledge of the world - is confronting a strike and even death threats from union members who work at his printing business. Wilson, his nineteen-year-old son, finds himself straddling three worlds when he takes a job at a newspaper: the newsroom where working-class reporters find class struggle at the heart of every issue, the glittering North Shore debutante parties where he spends his nights, and the growing cold war between his parents at home.

An Unfinished Season is a brilliant exploration of culture, politics, and the individual conscience.

Ward Just is the author of fourteen acclaimed novels including **A Dangerous Friend**, and **Echo House**. He received the Chicago Tribune's Heartland Prize for **An Unfinished Season**. He lives on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, USA.

Ordinary Wolves

Seth Kantner

NOMINATED BY:
Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA
San Diego Public Library, USA
New York Public Library, USA

From the opening pages of **Ordinary Wolves**, the voice of Cutuk tells a story from America's last frontier. He lives with his brother, sister, and father, Abe - "our best friend, no dad at all" - in an igloo in remote Alaska. Outside, caribou, bears, moose, and ravens move under frozen pastel skies.

A day's journey away, in the Iñupiaq village, live Cutuk's adopted family, the Wolfgloves: Eruk, a legendary hunter; his son Melt, savaged by alcohol; Melt's wife, Janet; and their daughter, Dawna, Eskimo princess and carrier of Sears catalogue collages and hopes for the future.

In the far distance, the grinding machine of America drones on - and approaches.

Seth Kantner was born and raised in the wilderness of northern Alaska. He has worked as a trapper, fisherman, gardener, mechanic, igloo builder, and adjunct professor. His writing and photographs have appeared in many journals and anthologies. He lives with his wife and daughter in Kotzebue, Alaska.

The Maze

Panos Karnezis

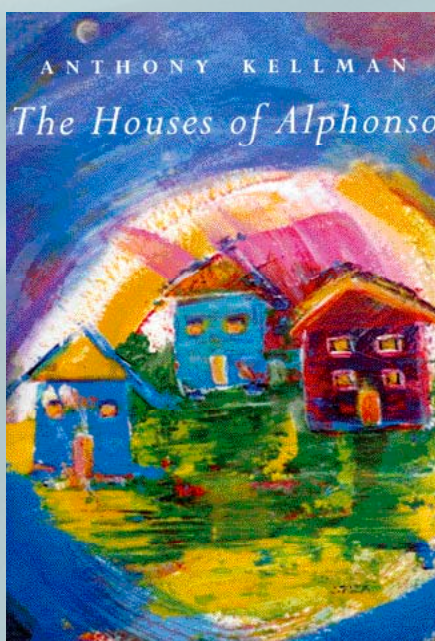
NOMINATED BY:
Veria Central Public Library, Greece
Municipal Library of Thessaloniki, Greece

Anatolia, 1922. A retreating Greek brigade has lost its way. Pursued by a Turkish army seeking vengeance for three years of Greek occupation, and commanded by a brigadier with a passion for Greek mythology and an addiction to morphia, the brigade's only chance of salvation is to reach the Mediterranean coast and sail home.

As the army wanders through the Anatolian desert, their internal divisions become more pronounced and their dementias more florid. Eventually they reach a small town, until now untouched by the war, which is run by a simple-minded mayor and is peopled by a gallery of wonderfully strange characters. When the soldiers leave at last, a tragedy has taken place and the town has changed forever.

Panos Karnezis was born in Greece in 1967. He was awarded an MA in Creative Writing by the University of East Anglia. His first book, a collection of short stories, **Little Infamies**, was published in 2002. He lives in London, UK.

The Houses of Alphonso



Anthony Kellman

NOMINATED BY:
National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown, Barbados

Barbadian-born Alphonso Hutson has lived in the USA for nearly sixteen years. But he cannot settle. He has dragged his long-suffering American wife, Simone, and their children from house to rented house. He has refused to share with her any real explanation for the complex feelings that drive him. But this time she has had enough, refuses to move with him and threatens the end of their marriage. Only then is Alphonso forced into confronting the ghosts that propel his perpetual migrancy.

Kellman combines a poetic and imaginative exploration of Alphonso's personal journey into his past, with an acute engagement with racial and political issues as Alphonso rediscovers his country.

Anthony Kellman was born and grew up in Barbados. His poetry, fiction and critical essays have appeared in journals all over the world. He now lives in the USA, where he is a professor of English and creative writing at Augusta State University, Georgia.

You Have to be Careful in the Land of the Free

James Kelman

NOMINATED BY:
San Diego Public Library, USA

Jeremiah Brown is a man of extremes. So when he nips out for a quick drink on the eve of returning to his native Scotland after twelve years in America, anything could happen. Anything at all. Just one quick drink to help him sleep but there's something about this town and this bar that reminds him of his ex. Soon the memories are flooding in and as the night goes on and the decision to stop smoking looks increasingly ill-timed for a card-carrying alien of questionable politics, Jeremiah getting on that flight tomorrow starts to seem far from certain. Is there any such thing as a certainty? Not tonight. Tonight the only thing certain is that you have to be very careful in the land of the free.

James Kelman is the celebrated author of a number of novels and collections of short stories, including **Translated Accounts**, **A Disaffection**, and **How Late It Was, How Late**, which won the Booker Prize in 1994. He lives in Glasgow, Scotland.

Paradise

A.L. Kennedy

NOMINATED BY:
Stadt-und Universitätsbibliothek Bern, Switzerland

Almost forty and with nothing to show for it, even Hannah is starting to notice that her lifestyle is not entirely sustainable: her subconscious is turning against her, her soul is a little unwell. Her family is wounded, her friends are odd, her body is not as reliable as it once was and her drinking frankly out of hand. From the north-east of Scotland to Dublin, from London to Montreal, Budapest and onwards, Hannah travels in search of the ultimate altered state: the one where she can be happy - her paradise.

Paradise is a compelling examination of failure that is also a comic triumph, a novel of dark extremes that is full of the most ravishing lyrical beauty.

A.L. Kennedy has published three previous novels including **So I Am Glad**, two books of non-fiction, and three collections of stories, most recently **Indelible Acts** in 2002. She lives in Glasgow, Scotland.

The Swallows of Kabul

Yasmina Khadra

Translated from the original French by John Cullen

NOMINATED BY:

Tampere City Library, Finland
Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway
Cleveland Public Library, USA
New York Public Library, USA

Since the ascendancy of the Taliban the lives of Mosheen and his beautiful wife, Zunaira, have been gradually destroyed. Mosheen's dream of becoming a diplomat has been shattered and Zunaira can no longer even appear on the streets of Kabul unveiled. Atiq is a jailer who guards those who have been condemned to death; the darkness of prison and the wretchedness of his job have seeped into his soul. Atiq's wife, Musarrat, is suffering from an illness no doctor can cure.

The lives of these four people become inexplicably intertwined, through death and imprisonment to passion and extraordinary self-sacrifice. *The Swallows of Kabul* is an astounding and elegiac novel of four people struggling to hold on to their humanity in a place where pleasure is a deadly sin and death has become routine.

Yasmina Khadra is the nom de plume of the Algerian army officer, Mohammed Moulessehoul, who took a feminine pseudonym to avoid submitting his manuscripts for approval by the army. He is the author of two other books published in English, *In the Name of God* and *Wolf Dreams*. He lives in France.

Taikor

Khooh Kheng-Hor

NOMINATED BY:

National Library of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A historical saga set in the years between 1922 and 1982.

This story revolves around the life of a boy as he grows to manhood and traces the migration of his family from South Thailand to Penang after his father passes away. He survives the bloody days of the Japanese Occupation, emerges as a Taikor (big brother) in Penang's chaotic underworld when Communist insurgents try to destabilize the country's development.

Finally, when Malaya becomes an independent sovereign state, the Taikor seeks to break away from his past involvement in triad activities to build a new life for himself and his family.

Khooh Kheng - Hor, journalist, business executive and management consultant, has published fifteen books and nine handbooks on business and management. Now retired, he lives in the mountains with his wife and dog and has turned to creative fiction writing.

A Private Man

Malcolm Knox

NOMINATED BY:

National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia

It is two days since Dr John Brand's death and his eldest son, Davis, suspects a cover-up. The circumstances of his father's death are murky.

Scattered over Sydney, the Brand's lives - and John Brand's funeral - are put on hold for the duration of the Sydney Test Match, where Chris Brand is battling to save his career: five days of suspense, silences, revelations, recriminations and redemption.

Filtered through two arenas of masculinity - cricket and pornography - *A Private Man* is at once a poignant story of a family's grief, an artfully constructed thriller and a provocative dissection of Australian men and their private passions.

Malcolm Knox was born in 1966. He has worked as a journalist for the *Sydney Morning Herald* since 1994. His first novel *Summerland* was published to great acclaim in 2000. He lives in Sydney with his wife and two children. *A Private Man* was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize and the Tasmanian Premier's Award.

Transmission

Hari Kunzru

NOMINATED BY:

Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna im Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego, Łódź, Poland

There's a message in your inbox. Then, a few moments later, your computer crashes. Leela Zahir, Bollywood actress and temperamental star, is being catapulted from the fringes of fame into a million inboxes. Arjun Mehta, computer geek, looks up from his screen to find that he does, after all, have a role to play in the world. Guy Swift, marketing executive with his own agency, a beautiful girlfriend and a handle on modern life, is losing his grip.

In this age of instant worldwide communication, anything can happen and anything will. Taking in three continents and following the lives of Guy, Arjun and Leela as they make their way in the real world, *Transmission* is a brilliant and funny take on life at the click of a mouse.

Hari Kunzru was born in 1969 and lives in London, UK. He is the author of one previous novel, the award-winning and bestselling *The Impressionist*.

Aloft

Chang - Rae Lee

NOMINATED BY:

Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek, Bonn, Germany
Stadtbücherei Frankfurt - am - Main, Frankfurt, Germany
Kansas City Public Library, USA
Richmond Public Library, USA
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, USA

At 59, Jerry Battle is coasting through life. His favourite pastime is flying his small plane high above Long Island. Aloft, he can escape from the troubles that plague his family, neighbours, and loved ones on the ground. From this comfortable distance, he can't see the messy details, let alone begin to confront them. But Jerry is learning that in avoiding conflict, he is

also avoiding contact with the people he loves most. Only months before his 60th birthday, a series of family crises finally pulls Jerry down from his emotionally distant course.

A haunting, lyrical, indelible portrait of an ordinary man and his family, *Aloft* illuminates what it means to be a father, husband, son, and lover.

Chang-rae Lee is the author of the award-winning novels, *A Gesture Life* and *Native Speaker*. He was selected by *The New Yorker* as one of the twenty best American writers under forty. He is the director of the MFA program at Hunter College in New York City.

Small Island

Andrea Levy

NOMINATED BY:

Toronto Public Library, Canada
Municipal Library of Prague, Czech Republic
Birmingham Libraries, England
Gateshead Libraries & Arts, England
London's Public Libraries, England
Time to Read - NW Libraries' Partnership, Manchester, England
Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Frankfurt, Germany
Belfast Education & Library Board, Northern Ireland

In this delicately wrought and profoundly moving novel, Andrea Levy handles the weighty themes of empire, prejudice, war and love, with a lightness of touch and a generosity of spirit that challenges and uplifts the reader.

It is 1948, and England is recovering from a war. But at 21 Nevean Street, London, the conflict has only just begun. Queenie Bligh's neighbours do not approve when she agrees to take in Jamaican lodgers.

Gilbert Joseph, one of the several thousand Jamaican men who joined the RAF to fight against Hitler, finds himself treated very differently as a civilian. Gilbert's wife Hortense had longed to leave Jamaica and start a better life in England. But when she joins him she is shocked at what she finds.

Andrea Levy was born in England to Jamaican parents. She is the author of *Every Light in the House Burnin'*, *Never Far From Nowhere*, and *Fruit of the Lemon*. *Small Island* won the 2004 Orange Prize for Fiction and the 2004 Whitbread Book of the Year.

Hash

Torgny Lindgren

Translated from the original Swedish by Tom Geddes

NOMINATED BY:

Tampere City Library, Finland
Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

Hash charts the bizarre, black-comic odyssey of two men searching to find a ray of light in the darkest of times.

Setting out in 1947 from a small village, Robert Maser, a travelling salesman (who may or may not be the fugitive Nazi Martin Bormann), and the local school - teacher, Lars, embark on a bizarre quest to find the world's best Swedish hash - a culinary marvel whipped up from an assortment of grains and entrails and

renowned for its delectability and restorative powers.

Their adventures are narrated from the present by a 107-year-old newspaper reporter, who was witness to the events and has waited until now to confront his own relationship to life and death, happiness and suffering, and the power of art to express life's ambiguities.

Torgny Lindgren, born in 1938, is one of Sweden's most internationally successful contemporary writers. He has been awarded the August Prize and the Nordic Prize, and his novels have been published in more than twenty-five languages. In 1991, Lindgren was elected to the Swedish Academy, the eighteen-member committee that selects the honourees for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Ghost Story

Toby Litt

NOMINATED BY:
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Ghent, Belgium

When Agatha and Paddy decide to leave London and buy a house on the coast, they are full of hope for themselves and their growing family - baby Max and a new child on the way. Three months later, when the builders move out and they move in, things look very different. A personal tragedy threatens to destroy all they have carefully built up and only a small miracle, it seems, will save them.

Ghost Story is a book both haunted and haunting, which asks how we can ever mourn something that hasn't lived. Emotionally resonant, beautifully crafted and ultimately redemptive, it will take you to the heart of suffering and desire.

Toby Litt was born in 1968. He grew up in Bedfordshire, UK. He is the author of *Adventures in Capitalism*, *Beatniks*, *Corpsing*, *Deadkidsongs*, *Exhibitionism*, *Finding Myself* and *Ghost Story*.

Breaking the Tongue

Vyvyane Loh

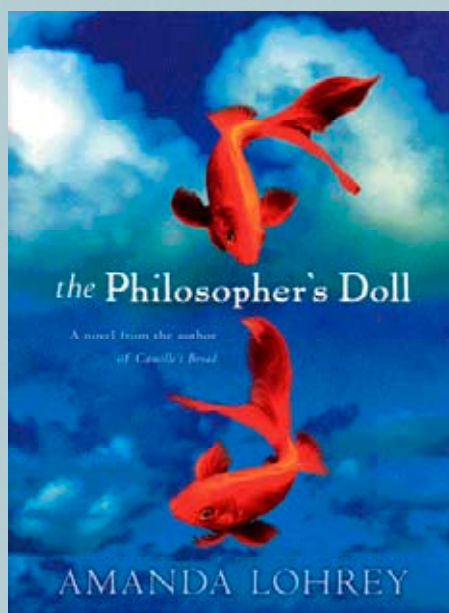
NOMINATED BY:
New York Public Library, USA

This brilliant novel chronicles the fall of Singapore to the Japanese in World War II. Central to the story is one Chinese family: Claude, raised to be more British than the British and ashamed of his own heritage; his father, Humphrey, whose Anglophilia blinds him to possible defeat and his wife's dalliances; and the redoubtable Grandma Siok, whose sage advice falls on deaf ears.

With penetrating observation, Vyvyane Loh unfolds the coming-of-age story of a young man and a nation, a story that deals with myth, race, and class, with the ways language shapes perceptions, and with the intrigue and suffering of war.

Vyvyane Loh was born in Malaysia and grew up in Singapore. She now lives outside Boston, USA.

The Philosopher's Doll



Amanda Lohrey

NOMINATED BY:
State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

What happens when one partner in a relationship wants to have a child and the other doesn't? Lindsay Eynon, a philosophy lecturer, isn't ready to start a family yet; he has other plans. But Kirsten's biological clock is ticking and she sees the world differently. As their arguments intensify, so does the probability of the unexpected . . .

The Philosopher's Doll is a highly unusual, constantly surprising novel about the perennial conflict between the head and the heart. Thought-provoking and compellingly readable, it reverberates with the dilemmas of contemporary life. In a culture of affluence, what do we need in order to be happy? And just how much control do we really have over our lives?

Amanda Lohrey is an award-winning writer whose previous novels include *Camille's Bread*, *The Morality of Gentlemen* and *The Reading Group*. She now lives in Brisbane, Australia where she teaches creative writing at the University of Queensland.

Day After Day

Carlo Lucarelli

Translated from the original Italian by Oonagh Stransky

NOMINATED BY:
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma, Rome, Italy

A professional killer is at large in the cities of Italy. Code-named 'The Pit Bull', the killer is a master of disguise and an expert with weapons. He modifies his guns and his bullets are untraceable. His skill with prosthetics, wigs, makeup and padding means that no two victims witness the same before their death and, as with the search for the ever-reincarnating 'Iguana' in *Almost Blue*, once again this is a hunt for a man with no face.

Only the picture of a pit bull terrier, left behind at each murder, can link the crimes. Day after day, Ispettore Negro works on her seemingly impossible case. When an innocent young man, surfing the Internet, unwittingly places himself in serious danger from the Pit Bull, Negro uses the man's knowledge of cyberspace to help her close in on her terrifying target.

Carlo Lucarelli, born in 1960 in Modena, Italy, is the author eleven novels, all of them noirs. Lucarelli hosts a popular television series in Italy that examines unsettling and unsolved crimes and the urban centres in which they occur. He also teaches writing in Turin and edits an on-line magazine.

Touching Earth

Rani Manicka

NOMINATED BY:
National Library of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

THE BALINESE TWINS - Beautiful and exotic, they exchange an island paradise for the shabby squalor of London, and innocence for corruption.

THE SICILIAN - Ricky Delgado strikes a devil's bargain with a blood goddess: 'Build my temple and bring me the souls of damaged people, and you will see what rewards I give.'

THE COURTESAN - Elizabeth makes her living from men's desire. With a flick of the switch in her head, she feels nothing: no pain, no hate, no sorrow, no joy.

THE ARTIST - Anis takes to painting as an outlet for his rage. His artist's eye knows his subjects before they know themselves, and he paints them all, a gallery of broken people.

Can they escape the deadly web of decadence and sin?

Rani Manicka divides her time between Malaysia and the UK. Her first novel, *The Rice Mother* has been translated into 17 languages, and gained international acclaim.

One Tongue Singing

Susan Mann

NOMINATED BY:
City of Johannesburg Library & Information Services, South Africa

Camille Pascal, a young, French nurse comes to South Africa with her father and her small daughter, Zara, during the closing years of the apartheid regime.

Interwoven with Camille's story is that of Jake Coleman, a painter with an international reputation. It is in the exclusive Jake Coleman School of Art that Zara, now a talented artist in her late teens, decides to enrol. She is a troubled girl, obsessed with scenes of violence, and quite unlike anything Jake has encountered.

One Tongue Singing explores some of the different faces of power. It is written with economy, humanity and a hard brilliance, and it announces a distinctive new voice from South Africa.

Susan Mann teaches in the University of Cape Town's Film and Media Programme. She lives in Cape Town, South Africa.

Don't Move

Margaret Mazzantini

Translated from the original Italian by John Cullen

NOMINATED BY:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma, Rome, Italy

Timoteo, a high-flying surgeon with a beautiful wife, seems the epitome of success and glamour. But then his daughter falls off her scooter and is rushed to the hospital in a coma. A colleague operates on her head injuries and, while the agonised Timoteo awaits the outcome, he holds the reader in the vice-like grip of his confession.

For, beneath the veneer of his apparently charmed life, there is a story of squalor, degradation, deceit and strange passion. In the end, the suspense of wondering whether Timoteo's daughter will live is overtaken by the question of deciding just how much pity her guilty father deserves.

Margaret Mazzantini was born in Dublin, Ireland and now lives in Rome, Italy, with her husband and three children. *Don't Move* is her second novel.

The White Earth

Andrew McGahan

NOMINATED BY:

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

His father dead by fire and his mother plagued by demons of her own, William is cast upon the charity of his unknown uncle - an embittered old man encamped in the ruins of a once great station homestead, Kuran House.

It's a baffling and sinister new world for the boy, a place of decay and secret histories. But as the past and present of Kuran Station unravel and merge together, the price of that inheritance may prove to be the downfall of them all. *The White Earth* is a haunting, disturbing and cautionary tale.

Andrew McGahan lives Brisbane, Australia. His novels include *Praise* and *Last Drinks*. *The White Earth* won the 2005 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Black Waltz

Patrícia Melo

Translated from the original Portuguese by Clifford E. Landers

NOMINATED BY:

Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília BDB, Brazil

A successful and renowned conductor of a major symphony orchestra in São Paulo is married to a beautiful and talented violinist, close to thirty years his junior. But his happiness is undermined by the fear she is unfaithful to him. He is haunted by a voice that gnaws at his trust, his love, and, ultimately, his sanity.

Black Waltz opens a fascinating and harrowing window into a mind bordering on paranoia and psychosis. It is a compelling portrait of the disintegration of a marriage and a telling insight into the self-destructive passions that engulf it.

Patrícia Melo is a novelist, scriptwriter and playwright. She is the author of three previous novels, *In Praise of Lies*, *The Killer* and *Inferno*.

Cloud Atlas

David Mitchell

NOMINATED BY:

Toronto Public Library, Canada

Birmingham Libraries, England

London's Public Libraries, England

Cork City Libraries, Ireland

Waterford County Library, Ireland

M.I. Rudomino State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia

The Free State Provincial Library Service, Bloemfontein, South Africa

Chicago Public Library, USA

Jacksonville Public Library, USA

Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA

Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA

A reluctant voyager crossing the Pacific in 1850; a disinherited composer blagging a precarious livelihood in between-the-wars Belgium; a high-minded journalist in Governor Reagan's California; a vanity publisher fleeing his gangland creditors; a genetically modified "diner server" on death-row; and Zachry, a young Pacific Islander witnessing the nightfall of science and civilisation - the narrators of *Cloud Atlas* hear each other's echoes down the corridor of history, and their destinies are changed in ways great and small.

David Mitchell erases the boundaries of language, genre and time to offer a meditation on humanity's dangerous will to power, and where it may lead us.

David Mitchell is the author of the award-winning novel, *Ghostwritten*, and *numberdream*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. *Cloud Atlas* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2004. He lives in Ireland.

The Man in My Basement

Walter Mosley

NOMINATED BY:

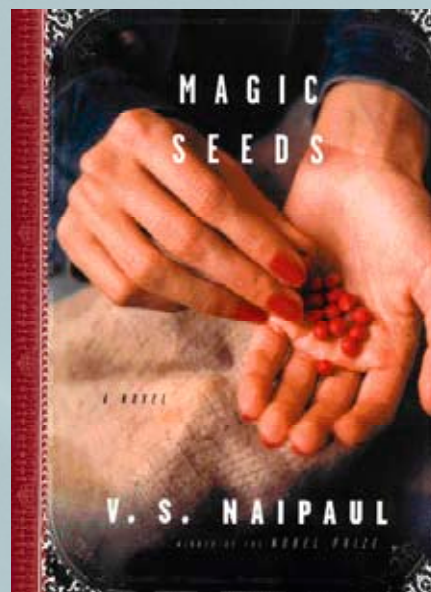
Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

Charles Blakey is a young black man whose life is slowly crumbling. His parents are dead, he can't find a job, he drinks too much, and his friends have begun to desert him. Worst of all, he's fallen behind on the mortgage payments for the beautiful home that has belonged to his family for generations.

When a stranger offers him \$50,000 in cash to rent out his basement for the summer, Charles needs the money too badly to say no even after hearing of the stranger's very particular - and bizarre - set of requirements. But he sees an opportunity to understand secrets of the white world, and his summer with a man in his basement turns into a journey into inconceivable worlds of power and manipulation, and unimagined realms of humanity.

Walter Mosley is the author of the acclaimed Easy Rawlins series of mysteries and other works of fiction and non-fiction. He was born in Los Angeles and lives in New York, USA.

Magic Seeds



V.S. Naipaul

NOMINATED BY:

National Library & Information System Authority (NALIS), Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Willie Chandran is a man in his early forties who has allowed one identity after another to be thrust upon him, including that of revolutionary when he joins an underground movement in India ostensibly devoted to unfettering the lower castes. But seven years of revolutionary campaigns and several years in jail convince him that the revolution has more to do with words than action.

When Willie returns to England he finds the fruit of another unexpected social revolution and comes to see himself as a man "serving an endless prison sentence" - a revelation that may finally release him into his true self.

V. S. Naipaul has published more than twenty books of fiction and non-fiction, including *A House for Mr. Biswas*, *A Bend in the River*, *A Turn in the South*, and *A Way in the World*, which was shortlisted for the 1996 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and a collection of letters, *Between Father and Son*. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2001.

The Book of Proper Names

Amélie Nothomb

Translated from the original French by Shaun Whiteside

NOMINATED BY:

Rijeka City Library, Croatia

To have an extraordinary life, Lucette believes, one must have an extraordinary name. Horrified by the pedestrian names her husband chooses for their unborn child, Lucette does the only honourable thing to save her baby from such an unexceptional destiny - she kills her spouse. While in prison, Lucette gives birth to a daughter to whom she bequeaths

the portentous name of an obscure saint, Plectrude, before hanging herself.

The novel therefore begins on the borderline between tragedy and absurdity, but as Plectrude grows - raised by a loving, indulgent, and eccentric aunt - it becomes a deeply moving and simultaneously chilling portrait of girlhood.

Belgian by nationality, **Amélie Nothomb** was born in Kobe, Japan, and currently lives in Paris, France. She is the author of eight novels, including *The Character of Rain* and *Fear and Trembling*.

The Falls

Joyce Carol Oates

NOMINATED BY:
Bács-Kiskun County Government, Katona József County Library, Kecskemét, Hungary
Deichmanske Bibliotek, Oslo, Norway
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, Cincinnati, USA

A newly-wed man climbs over the railings and plunges into Niagara Falls, leaving his wife to begin a relentless, seven - day vigil in the mist, waiting for his body to be found. Dirk Burnaby, a pillar of the community, is unexpectedly transfixed by the widow, falling in love with her though they barely exchange a word. What follows is their passionate love affair, marriage, and children - a seemingly perfect existence.

But the tragedy by which their life together began shadows them. What unfurls is a drama of parents and their children; of secrets and sins; of lawsuits, murder, and, eventually, redemption.

Joyce Carol Oates is the author of many short story collections and novels including the bestsellers *We Were the Mulvaney's*, *Blonde* and *I'll Take You There*. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978.

Heir to the Glimmering World (also published as *The Bear Boy*)

Cynthia Ozick

NOMINATED BY:
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Heir to the Glimmering World takes us to the outskirts of the Bronx in the 1930s, as New York fills with Europe's ousted dreamers, turned overnight into refugees.

Rose Meadows, orphaned at eighteen, unknowingly enters this world when she becomes the "assistant" to a Herr Mitwisser, the patriarch of a large, chaotic household. Cast out from Berlin's elite, the Mitwissers live at the whim of a mysterious benefactor, James A'Bair.

Ozick lovingly evokes these perpetual outsiders thrown together by surprising chance. The hard times they inherit hold glimmers of past hopes and future dreams.

Cynthia Ozick is the author of more than a dozen acclaimed works of fiction and

non-fiction including *The Puttermesser Papers*, which was shortlisted for the 1999 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and *Quarrel & Quandary*. She lives in the New York City area, USA.

100 Strokes of the Brush Before Bed

Melissa P

Translated from the original Italian by Lawrence Venuti

NOMINATED BY:
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, Florence, Italy

Melissa begins her diary a virgin, but a stormy affair at the age of fourteen leads her to regard sex as a means of self - discovery, and for the next two years she plunges into a succession of encounters with various partners. In graphic detail she describes her entry into a Dante - esque underworld of eroticism, where she willingly participates in group sex and sadomasochism, as well as casual pickups.

Told with disarming candour, Melissa P.'s bittersweet tour of extreme desires is as poignant as it is titillating. *100 Strokes of the Brush Before Bed* is a stunning debut, a *Story of O* for our times.

Born in Catania, Sicily, in 1985, **Melissa P.** lives in Rome. Her first book, *100 Strokes of the Brush Before Bed* was published when she was seventeen and will be translated into twenty-three languages.

Snow

Orhan Pamuk

Translated from the original Turkish by Maureen Freely

NOMINATED BY:
San Diego Public Library, USA

Ka, an exiled poet, returns to Turkey and travels to the forlorn city of Kars. His ostensible purpose is to report on a wave of suicides among religious girls forbidden to wear their head - scarves. But Ka is also drawn by his memories of the radiant Ipek, now recently divorced.

Amid blanketing snowfall and universal suspicion, Ka finds himself pursued by figures ranging from Ipek's ex-husband to a charismatic terrorist. And finding god may be the prelude to losing everything else. Touching, slyly comic, and humming with cerebral suspense, *Snow* is of immense relevance to our present moment.

Orhan Pamuk's novel *My Name Is Red* won the 2003 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His work has been translated into more than twenty languages. He lives in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Queen of the South

Arturo Pérez-Reverte

Translated from the original Spanish by Andrew Hurley

NOMINATED BY:
Biblioteca Daniel Cosío Villegas of El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico
Consorci de Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain

Teresa Mendoza's boyfriend is a drug smuggler nicknamed "the king of the short runway," because he can get a plane full of coke off the ground in three hundred yards. But in a ruthless business, life can be short. Teresa has a special cell phone that Guero gave her along with the dark warning that if it ever rings, it means he's dead and she'd better run because they're coming for her next.

A sweeping story set to the irresistible beat of the drug smugglers' ballads, *The Queen of the South* encompasses sensuality and cruelty, love and betrayal, as its heroine's story unfolds.

Internationally acclaimed and bestselling author **Arturo Pérez-Reverte** lives in Cartagena, Spain. His five books, among them *The Nautical Chart* and *The Flanders Panel*, have been translated into twenty-eight languages in fifty countries and have sold millions of copies.

Little Children

Tom Perrotta

NOMINATED BY:
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Tom Perrotta's thirty-ish parents of young children are a varied and surprising bunch. There's Todd, the handsome stay-at-home dad; Sarah, a lapsed feminist with a bisexual past; Richard, Sarah's husband, immersed in an online sexual fantasy life; and Mary Ann, who schedules everything, down to weekly intercourse with her husband.

Their sleepy suburban routine is shaken up one eventful summer, when a convicted child molester moves back to town, and two restless parents begin an affair. Unexpectedly suspenseful, but written with all the fluency and dark humour of Perrotta's previous novels, *Little Children* exposes the adult dramas unfolding amidst the swing sets and slides of an ordinary American playground.

Tom Perrotta is the author of several works of fiction, including *Joe College* and *Election*. He lives with his wife and two children in Massachusetts, USA.

My Sister's Keeper

Jodi Picoult

NOMINATED BY:
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Anna is not sick, but she might as well be. The product of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, Anna was conceived as a bone marrow match for her sister Kate, a childhood leukaemia sufferer. It is a life and a role that she has never challenged... until now. Always defined in terms of her sister, Anna makes a seemingly unthinkable decision, a decision that will tear her family apart and have perhaps fatal consequences for the sister she loves.

In *My Sister's Keeper*, Jodi Picoult tackles a controversial real-life subject with grace, wisdom, and sensitivity.

Jodi Picoult is the author of ten previous novels, including *Second Glance*, *Perfect Match*, and *Salem Falls*. She lives in New Hampshire, USA with her husband and three children.

The Skin of the Sky

Elena Poniatowska

Translated from the original Spanish by Deanna Heikkinen

NOMINATED BY:

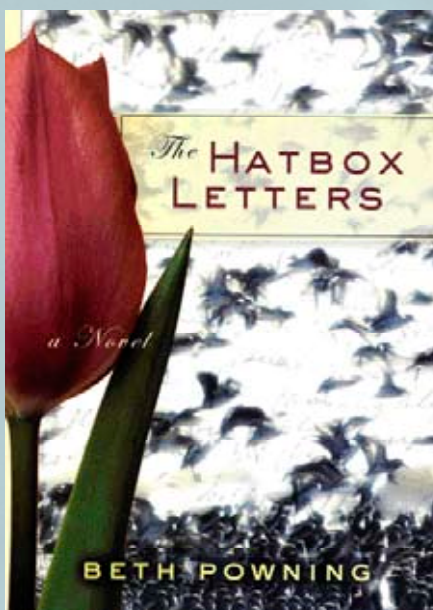
Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, Bogota, Colombia

Born in the 1930s, the illegitimate son of a businessman and a peasant woman, Lorenzo lives happily with his mother, brothers, and sisters, until her death when he is thrust into the privileged world of his father. Struggling to adjust, an angry Lorenzo turns to the study of the stars to find solace, pursuing his studies at Harvard, and then returning to Mexico, where he attempts to do first-world scientific research in a third-world country.

A complex and contradictory man, Lorenzo strives to make his country a better place for all her people, especially the very poor and disenfranchised.

Elena Poniatowska is the author of more than forty works, including the classic *Massacre in Mexico* and the novels *Dear Diego*, *Tinisima* and *Here's to You, Jesusa!* She lives in Mexico City.

The Hatbox Letters



Beth Powning

NOMINATED BY:

Halifax Regional Library, Canada

Kate Harding faces her second winter since the untimely death of her husband. Her children, now grown, are living away, and Kate is truly on her own. To keep her company are several hatboxes filled with letters, from her grandparents' attic.

As she begins to read the hatbox letters, she discovers that what to a child seemed a serene and blissful marriage was in fact founded on a tragic event. Coming to terms with this, a new tragedy unfolds, and Kate's own house becomes the refuge where she can connect the strands of her unravelled life.

Beth Powning is the author of *Home: Chronicle of a North Country Life*, and *Shadow Child*.

An Apprenticeship in Love and Loss. Born in Connecticut, she now lives in Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada.

In the Shadow of the Ark

Anne Provoost

Translated from the original Dutch by John Nieuwenhuizen

NOMINATED BY:

Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam, The Netherlands
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Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium
Gemeentebibliotheek Utrecht, The Netherlands

When ReJana first sets eyes on the giant hull of the boat rising up from the dry centre of the desert, she doesn't understand what she is seeing. The rumour of the impending flood seems too remote to be believable in this land where water is so scarce.

Even as she falls in love with the Builder's son, Ham, the skies darken and panic spreads in the gathered tribes. ReJana questions all that she hears - and believes her family will be saved; even as the deluge begins and the doors to the ark are sealed...

Anne Provoost is the author of four novels, including *Falling*, that have together been translated into ten languages, and won twelve major awards. She lives in Antwerp, Belgium with her husband and three children.

Something Borrowed

Tina Reilly

NOMINATED BY:

Tanzania Library Services Board, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Adopted as a baby Vicky McCarthy's curiosity about where she came from has finally gotten the better of her: she wants to trace her birth mother.

If that doesn't cause friction enough, there's a new threat to her job in the shape of Ed O'Neill, and complications in her new relationship with Marti, the manager of an up-and-coming boy band...

Something Borrowed is the brilliant fourth novel from Tina Reilly: a fresh, frank, funny tale of loves lost and found.

Tina Reilly is the author of three successful novels - *Flipside*, *The Onion Girl* and *Is This Love?* She has worked as a columnist for the Irish *Evening Herald*. She lives in Dublin, Ireland.

The Ballad of the Low Lifes

Enrico Remmert

Translated from the original Italian by Aubrey Botsford

NOMINATED BY:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, Florence, Italy

Meet Vittorio and Milo, two young grifters living by their wits in modern Turin, and dreaming of becoming rich with their big plan - the Big Con. Enter Milo's uncle Grissino, a

con man with years of experience and Cristina, Milo's girlfriend and the object of Vittorio's hopeless passion, and you have all the ingredients of success, or disaster!

The Ballad of the Low Lifes is quirky, fresh and funny, filled with rapid-fire dialogue and the droll philosophical musings of a swindler with a literature degree.

Enrico Remmert has published numerous stories in literary anthologies and magazines in Italy and abroad. His first novel, *Rossetti*, has been translated into several languages.

The Ballad of the Low Lifes is his second novel. He lives in Turin, Italy.

Thirteen Steps Down

Ruth Rendell

NOMINATED BY:

M.I. Rudomino State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia

Mix Cellini is obsessed. And not just with the supermodel he's been stalking. He's also endlessly fascinated by the life of Reggie Christie, the infamous serial killer hanged fifty years ago.

So when things get difficult - his snoopy landlady and her friends watch him with growing suspicion and the object of his desire ignores him - Mix turns to his hero, Reggie Christie, for inspiration.

Chilling, charming, and utterly compelling, **Thirteen Steps Down** winds its way to a conclusion that defies the reader's expectations in every way. This is psychological suspense at its very best.

Ruth Rendell is the award-winning author of seven volumes of short stories, one novella, two works of non-fiction, and fifty-two novels, including tales of psychological suspense, the Inspector Wexford mysteries, and eleven novels under the pseudonym Barbara Vine. She lives in London, England.

Gilead

Marilynne Robinson

NOMINATED BY:

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Hartford Public Library, USA
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San José Public Library, USA
Seattle Public Library, USA
Lincoln Library, Springfield, USA

In 1956, toward the end of Reverend John Ames's life, he begins a letter to his young son, an account of himself and his forebears. He writes about the tension between his father, an ardent pacifist, and his grandfather, who "preached men into the Civil War," and of the sacred bonds between fathers and sons, which are tested in his tender and strained

relationship with his namesake, John Ames Boughton, his best friend's wayward son.

Gilead is a hymn of praise and lamentation to the God - haunted existence that Reverend Ames loves passionately, and from which he will soon part.

Marilynne Robinson is the author of the modern classic **Housekeeping** and two books of non-fiction, **Mother Country** and **The Death of Adam**. **Gilead** won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

The Voyage Home

Jane Rogers

NOMINATED BY:
Time to Read - NW Libraries' Partnership,
Manchester, England

Anne is taking the long way home, by container ship, from Nigeria to England. She has recently buried her father and has his diaries from his time in Africa. However, from her involvement in clandestine and sexual relationships to the discovery, through her father's diaries, of an illegitimate sibling, the journey does not turn out to be the haven of solitude she was hoping for.

As the twin stories of David's mission and Anne's journey intertwine, they dovetail to provide a profound and gripping narrative. **The Voyage Home** is a story of love and loss, of power and its abuse, and of family and faith.

Jane Rogers has written seven novels including **Mr. Wroe's Virgins** and **Promised Lands**. She also writes for TV and radio, and teaches on the Writing MA at Sheffield Hallam University, UK.

Brazil Red

Jean - Christophe Rufin

Translated from the original French by Willard Wood

NOMINATED BY:
Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília BDB, Brazil

Just and Colombe are brother and sister, heirs to the Clamorgan estate. A scheming aunt and shortage of suitable interpreters, however, means the children soon find themselves aboard a ship bound for the Bay of Rio during the period of the French conquest of Brazil.

Amidst fanatics, zealots, cannibals and villains, Just and Colombe can no longer be sure who is friend and who is foe, and soon learn they can take no one for granted. As the story builds to its dramatic climax, conquerors and conquered are - like Just and Colombe - forced to reconsider the nature and future of their relationship.

Jean-Christophe Rufin is the award-winning author of **The Abyssinian**. A doctor and founder of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organisation *Medicins sans Frontières*, he has journeyed to many war-torn regions to administer aid. He lives in France.

Air (or, Have not Have)

Geoff Ryman

NOMINATED BY:
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Chung Mae is the only connection her small farming village has to culture of a wider world beyond the fields and simple houses of her village. A new communications technology is sweeping the world and promises to connect everyone, everywhere, without power lines, computers, or machines. This technology is Air.

An initial testing of Air goes disastrously wrong and people are killed from the shock. Not to be stopped Air is arriving with or without the blessing of Mae's village. Mae is the only one who knows how to harness Air and ready her people for its arrival, but will they listen before it's too late?

Geoff Ryman is the author of **253, Was**, **The Child Garden**, and **The Unconquered Country**. He lives in London, England.

Psychoraag

Suhayl Saadi

NOMINATED BY:
Aberdeen Library & Information Services, Scotland

It's midnight in Glasgow as DJ Zaf presents Radio Chandni's last ever programme. As his broadcast goes out, Zaf's thoughts and memories unfold - from a battered black Ford Popular car toiling its way from Lahore to Britain, to the once - exotic sight of a sari swishing along the cold wet streets of Govan. . . Spanning generations, continents and cultures, **Psychoraag** will take you on a whirlwind journey into a cosmic world where the real and the surreal dissolve and the past and the present segue into each other. A unique experience for those in search of something different.

Suhayl Saadi is a published poet with an award-winning short story collection **The Burning Mirror**. He lives in Glasgow, Scotland.

Night Calypso

Lawrence Scott

NOMINATED BY:
National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown, Barbados

In the sultry heat of the dry season of the small Trinidadian island of El Caracol a young orphan, Theo, is sent to live with the island's doctor, Vincent Metivier. The doctor knows little of Theo's past, only that it has been troubled and that he now needs love and attention.

Every night, Theo sleepwalks his own strange, disturbing calypso about his childhood. Vincent listens and, gradually, learns what demons still haunt the boy's mind. And as his friendship intensifies with the passionate, unpredictable Sister Thérèse Weil, a nun at the local convent, Vincent finds his settled life spiralling dangerously out of control...

Lawrence Scott is from Trinidad and Tobago, resident in London, England. He is the author of the much - acclaimed novel **Witchbroom** and **Ballad for the New World** which contains the award - winning short story **The House of Funerals**.

Snowleg

Nicholas Shakespeare

NOMINATED BY:
Veria Central Public Library, Greece

A young Englishman visits Cold War Leipzig and falls for an East German girl. Her situation touches him, but he is too frightened to help. Decades later, with Germany reunited, he decides to go back and look for her. But who was she, how will his actions have affected her, and how will he find her?

Snowleg is a powerful love story that explores the close, fraught relationship between England and Germany, between a man who grows up believing himself to be a chivalrous English public schoolboy and a woman who tries to live loyally under a repressive regime.

Nicholas Shakespeare, born in 1957, is the author of three previous novels - **The Vision of Elena Silves**, **The High Flyer**, and **The Dancer Upstairs** and a biography, **Bruce Chatwin**, published in 1999.

The Last Song of Dusk

Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi

NOMINATED BY:
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The Last Song of Dusk is written with an exhilarating verve for language that conveys the intensity, colour, and pungency of India.

Anuradha Patwardhan is a young woman of legendary beauty, endowed with a gift for singing magical songs, and about to marry Vardhmaan, a well-to-do doctor so handsome, serious, and dashing, that women feign illness to see him. They are such a charmed couple, only a fairytale marriage can be their due. But **The Last Song of Dusk** tells the far darker and deeper story of love freighted with envy, passion, and loss.

Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi is a past contributor to the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Elle*. He divides his time between San Francisco, USA and Bombay, India. **The Last Song of Dusk** is his first novel.

Islands

Dan Sleight

Translated from the original Afrikaans by André Brink

NOMINATED BY:
Cape Town Central Library, South Africa

Islands covers the first half - century or so of Dutch settlement at the Cape. For the indigenous peoples it is the beginning of the end of a way of life in close interaction with the subcontinent, its seasons and rhythms, its harshness and abundance.

Through the life stories of seven men - all defined in one way or another by the central female character, Pieternella - the reader is offered an understanding of the vast historical forces at work in the shaping of the world in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

Dan Sleigh works as a researcher in the National Archives in Cape Town, South Africa. *Islands* is his first novel.

Muriella Pent

Russell Smith

NOMINATED BY:

Winnipeg Public Library, Canada
Tshwane Library & Information Service, Pretoria,
South Africa

This post-colonial comedy is the story of what happens when Caribbean writer Marcus Royston, a worldly, Oxford-educated, jaded writer from the island of Saint Andrew's finds himself sent to Canada on a cultural exchange, and lodged in the sprawling art nouveau mansion of middle-aged socialite Muriella Pent.

By turns funny, melancholy, and erotically charged, *Muriella Pent* is told through a collage of dialogue, letters, newspaper articles, and diary entries. It is an unnerving satire about age and youth, desire and privilege, and about warring definitions of art among people from different parts of the former British Empire.

Russell Smith is the author of the novels *How Insensitive and Noise*, the award winning story collection, *Young Men*, and an illustrated adult fable, *The Princess and the Whiskheads*. A weekly columnist with *The Globe and Mail*, he lives in Toronto, Canada.

In the Company of Cheerful Ladies

Alexander McCall Smith

NOMINATED BY:

Tshwane Library & Information Service, Pretoria,
South Africa

Precious Ramotswa, that cheerful Botswanan private investigator, is now married to Mr Matekoni, of Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors. The Agency is busy, but Precious cannot ignore the plea made to her by a woman with a tale of particular misfortune. Unfortunately, her attempts to help are interrupted by a close encounter between her tiny white van and a bicycle, and by a spectacular disagreement between her assistant and one of the apprentices at the garage.

Both entertaining and moving, *In the Company of Cheerful Ladies* is another masterpiece of comic understatement from Alexander McCall Smith and an affectionate homage to Botswana and its people.

Alexander McCall Smith is the author of more than fifty titles, including the hugely popular *The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series. Born in Zimbabwe, Africa, he now lives in Edinburgh, Scotland

The Finishing School

Muriel Spark

NOMINATED BY:

M.I. Rudomino State Library for Foreign Literature,
Moscow, Russia

Passionately determined to write his novel whilst running College Sunrise, a finishing school for both sexes and mixed nationalities, Rowland Mahler is assisted by his wife, Nina Parker. This term there is a new star pupil - Chris, seventeen, also determined to write his masterpiece. As Chris's novel takes shape while his own flounders, Rowland becomes increasingly obsessed and the finishing school becomes awash with his jealousy and envy. This new novel amply displays Muriel Spark's extraordinary talent: cool, biting humour and a unique vision of human nature.

Muriel Spark is the author of many novels and stories, such as *Memento Mori*, *The Girls of Slender Means*, *The Only Problem*, *A Far Cry From Kensington* and *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. She has also written plays, poems, children's books and biographies. Dame Muriel was elected an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1978 and Commandeur de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France in 1996.

An Unfinished Life

Mark Spragg

NOMINATED BY:

Denver Public Library, USA

Jean Gillyson, after living with yet another brutal boyfriend, finally realizes this kind of life has got to stop, especially for the sake of her daughter, Griff. But the only person who could take them in, her father-in-law, Einar, hasn't forgiven her for his son's death in a car accident. Of course, ten-year-old Griff knows none of this. But once she encounters this grandfather she'd never heard about she attempts to turn grievous loss, wrath, and recrimination toward reconciliation and love.

Immediately compelling and constantly surprising, *An Unfinished Life* shows a novelist of extraordinary talents in the fullness of his powers.

Mark Spragg is the author of *Where Rivers Change Direction*, a memoir that won the Mountains & Plains Booksellers Award, and *The Fruit of Stone*, a novel. He lives in Wyoming, USA.

Mansfield

C.K. Stead

NOMINATED BY:

Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand

Spanning three years in the life of the writer Katherine Mansfield during the First World War, this novel follows the ups and downs of her relationship with Jack Middleton Murry and her struggle to break through as a writer and write the 'new kind of fiction', which she feels the times demand.

While sticking scrupulously to what is known about Mansfield's life, this extraordinary novel takes the reader beyond biography into the mind and emotions of its subject. It is a sharp, subtle and appealing portrait of the person of whose work Virginia Woolf wrote: 'it was the only writing I was ever jealous of.'

C.K. Stead was for 20 years Professor of English at the University of Auckland until he took early retirement in 1986 to write full time. He was awarded a CBE in 1984 for services to New Zealand literature, elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1995. *Mansfield* is his tenth work of fiction.

A Castle in Romagna

Igor Štiks

Translated from the original Croatian by Tomislav Kuzmanović & Russell Scott Valentine

NOMINATED BY:

Rijeka City Library, Croatia

In eleven tightly woven chapters that alternate between Renaissance Italy and Tito's Yugoslavia, this novel tells two tales of love, intrigue and betrayal at one and the same time. Here it is Rimini, 1535, and the Croatian island of Rab, 1948, just days after Tito's momentous break with Stalin. Lives and fates are intertwined, history repeats itself, nostalgia for home is bittersweet and undying.

Igor Štiks is the author of the award-winning *Dvorac u Romagni* which has to date been translated into German, Spanish, French and, with this edition, English. He is a doctoral candidate at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. He lives and works in Paris, France and is currently writing his second novel.

A Complicated Kindness

Miriam Toews

NOMINATED BY:

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Ottawa Public Library, Canada
Vancouver Public Library, Canada
Winnipeg Public Library, Canada

Sixteen-year-old Nomi Nickel is trapped in East Village, Manitoba, a small town whose population is Mennonite: "the most embarrassing sub-sect of people to belong to if you're a teenager."

Living alone with her father, Ray, her days are spent piecing together the reasons her warm and spirited mother, Trudie, and her beautiful and mouthy sister, Tash, have gone missing. As she gets to the bottom of the truth about their disappearances, she finds herself on a direct collision course with her uncle, The Mouth, and the only community she has ever known.

Miriam Toews is the author of two previous award-winning novels, *Summer of My Amazing Luck* and *A Boy of Good Breeding* and one work of non-fiction, *Swing Low: a Life*. She lives in Winnipeg, Canada.

The Master

Colm Tóibín

NOMINATED BY:

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 Lincoln Library, Springfield, USA

In *The Master*, Colm Tóibín captures the exquisite anguish of a man who circulated in the grand parlours and palazzos of Europe, who was astonishingly alive and vibrant in his art, and yet whose attempts at intimacy inevitably failed him and those he tried to love. It is a powerful account of the hazards of putting the life of the mind before affairs of the heart.

Colm Tóibín is the author of four novels, *The South*, *The Heather Blazing*, *The Story of the Night* and *The Blackwater Lightship*, which was shortlisted for the 1999 Booker Prize and the 2001 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His non-fiction includes *Bad Blood*, *Homage to Barcelona*, *The Sign of the Cross* and *Love in a Dark Time*. He lives in Dublin, Ireland.

Making Love

Jean-Philippe Toussaint

Translated from the original French by Linda Coverdale

NOMINATED BY:

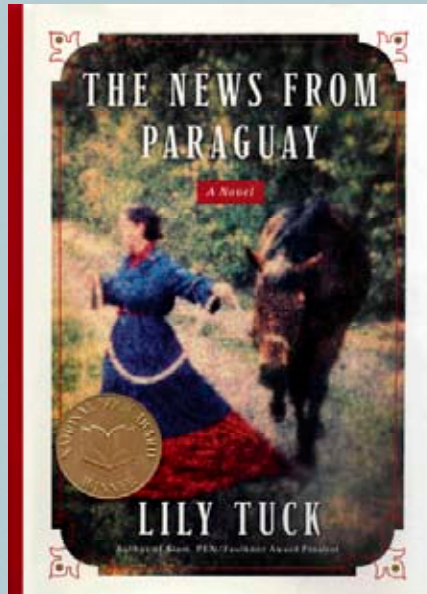
Regional Library of Karviná, Karviná - Mizerov, Czech Republic
 Münchner Stadtbibliothek, Munich, Germany

An immediate bestseller in France, *Making Love* is an original and daring retelling of a classic theme: the end of an affair. Following a couple's final days together in Japan, the novel explores the frustration of two lovers trying to break up with each other while on vacation, even as they go on a wild and intimate ramble through the streets of Tokyo.

Brilliantly written and strikingly original, this is a stunning work of new fiction from one of Europe's most promising authors.

Jean-Philippe Toussaint has written five previous novels, including *Monsieur* and *The Bathroom*.

The News from Paraguay



Lily Tuck

NOMINATED BY:

Warsaw Public Library, Poland

The year was 1854, and Francisco Solano Lopez - "Franco," the future dictator of Paraguay - began his courtship of the young, beautiful Irishwoman with a poncho, a Paraguayan band, and a horse named Mathilde.

A historical epic that tells an unusual love story, *The News from Paraguay* offers a kaleidoscopic portrait of nineteenth-century Paraguay, a largely untouched wilderness where Europeans and North Americans intermingle with both the old Spanish aristocracy and native Guaraní Indians. It captures the devastating havoc wrought on both a country's fate and a woman's heart by ruthless ambition and war.

Lily Tuck is the author of three previous novels, *Interviewing Matisse*, *The Woman Who Walked on Water*, and *Siam* and a collection of stories, *Limbo and Other Places I Have Lived*. Lily lives in New York City, USA.

The Amateur Marriage

Anne Tyler

NOMINATED BY:

Newcastle Libraries & Information Service, England
 Limerick City Library, Ireland

Michael and Pauline seemed like the perfect couple - young, good-looking, made for each other. But they never should have married.

Pauline, impulsive and impractical, tumbles hit-or-miss through life; Michael, plodding, cautious, and judgemental, proceeds deliberately. In time their foolish quarrels take their toll.

A 17-year-old daughter disappears, and some years later they are forced to rescue her little boy from drug-infested San Francisco, to take him home and raise him.

Throughout, as each of the competing voices bears witness, we are drawn ever more deeply into the complex entanglements of family life in this marvellous, multifaceted novel.

Anne Tyler is the award-winning author of *Breathing Lessons* and other bestselling novels, including *The Accidental Tourist*, *Ladder of Years*, *A Patchwork Planet* and *Back When We Were Grownups*. She lives in Baltimore, USA, where her novels are set.

Now is the Time to Open Your Heart

Alice Walker

NOMINATED BY:

Jafet Library - American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Kate has always been a wanderer and now, as she begins to feel the first ravages of age, she wants to find a new sense of meaning. She leaves her lover Yolo and embarks on a journey - a journey that will force her to re-explore her past and her future, and her connection to the real world.

Written with Alice Walker's flawless and passionate prose, this is a beautiful meditation on wisdom and nature - the story of one woman's spiritual quest, her passage through time, and her collision with love.

Alice Walker is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-Winning novel *The Color Purple* as well as other bestselling works including *Meridian*, *By the Light of My Father's Smile* and *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*. Alice lives in northern California, USA.

The Logogryph

Thomas Wharton

NOMINATED BY:

Calgary Public Library, Canada
 Edmonton Public Library, Canada

In a small town in the mountains, a young boy is given a suitcase filled with battered old books. So begins a lifelong pursuit of the elusive creature known as the logogryph. Describing imaginary books and alternate realities, Wharton explores the mysterious alchemy called reading, and along the way summons a cast of characters that includes duelling margin scribblers, a dislodged protagonist, and an unforgettable family that becomes one man's mythology.

Thomas Wharton has published two previous award-winning novels, *Icefields* and *Salamander*. He lives in Edmonton, Canada with his wife and three children.

The Bastard Boy

James Wilson

NOMINATED BY:

Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Bergen, Norway

Ned Gudgeon wakes to find himself in a cell. He has no idea where he is or how he came to be there, but seeing pen and paper, he begins to write. What follows is Ned's remarkable story, the story of his quest for his missing

nephew, taking him from the corrupt and teeming slaving port of Bristol to the turmoil of the colonies on the brink of revolution. What is the truth behind the mystery of the bastard boy?

James Wilson has written plays, TV documentaries and a critically acclaimed history of Native Americans, *The Earth Shall Weep*. He is the author of one previous novel, *The Dark Clue*, and lives with his wife and family in Bristol, UK.

The Big Why

Michael Winter

NOMINATED BY:
Ottawa Public Library, Canada

The Big Why is a passionate and witty faux memoir of Rockwell Kent, the famous illustrator of *Moby Dick*. Kent vows to be faithful to his wife, to live close to the sea, and document, through paintings and woodcuts, a picturesque land and society. But he also desires everything, including the young woman who cares for their children.

Funny, surprising, and thoroughly honest about our desires and contradictions, *The Big Why* bares all: it is about how we all try to find our place in the world, to gain wisdom, but in the end must humbly accept the transcendent fallout of our actions.

Michael Winter is the author of one previous novel, *This All Happened*, and two short-story collections, *Creaking in Their Skins* and *One Last Good Look*. He divides his time between St. John's and Toronto in Canada.

Lighthousekeeping



Jeanette Winterson

NOMINATED BY:
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Ghent, Belgium

Motherless and anchorless, Silver is taken in by the timeless Mr. Pew, keeper of the Cape

Wrath lighthouse, who tells Silver ancient tales of longing and rootlessness, of ties that bind and of the slippages that occur throughout every life.

A story of mutability, of talking birds and stolen books, of Darwin and Stevenson and of the Jekyll and Hyde in all of us, *Lighthousekeeping* is a way in to the rooms of our own that we secretly inhabit and the lighthouses we strive towards.

Jeanette Winterson is the award-winning author of *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* as well as seven other novels, including *The Passion*, *Written on the Body* and *The PowerBook*, a collection of short stories, a book of essays, and, most recently, a children's picture book, *The King of Capri*. She lives in Oxfordshire and London, UK.

I am Charlotte Simmons

Tom Wolfe

NOMINATED BY:
Deichmanske Bibliotek, Oslo, Norway
Richmond Public Library, USA

Dupont University - the Olympian halls of learning housing the cream of America's youth, the roseate Gothic spires and manicured lawns suffused with tradition . . . Or so it appears to beautiful, brilliant Charlotte Simmons, a sheltered freshman from North Carolina. But Charlotte soon learns, to her mounting dismay, that for the upper crust co-eds of Dupont, sex, Cool, and kegs trump academic achievement every time.

With his signature eye for detail, Tom Wolfe draws on extensive observation of campuses across the country to immortalize college life in the '00s.

Tom Wolfe is the author of more than a dozen books, among them such contemporary classics as *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, *The Right Stuff*, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, and *A Man in Full*. He lives in New York City, USA.

Adultery

Richard Wright

NOMINATED BY:
Edmonton Public Library, Canada
Winnipeg Public Library, Canada

Daniel Fielding, a quiet, middle-aged editor at a Toronto book-publishing house, has it all. An attractive wife, a charming daughter who excels at her private school, and a desirable house in a nice neighbourhood all add up to a successful life. But when Fielding and a pretty, very assertive young colleague travel together to the Frankfurt Book Fair, what begins as an indiscretion unexpectedly explodes into abduction and murder.

Adultery is a subtle, powerful story of a man's fall from grace and his search for forgiveness, even in the unlikelyst of places.

Richard B. Wright is the award-winning author of ten novels, including *Clara Callan*, *Sunset Manor*, *Tourists*, *The Weekend Man* and *The Age of Longing*. He lives in St. Catharines, Ontario, with his wife, Phyllis.

The Shadow of the Wind

Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Translated from the original Spanish by Lucia Graves

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Aarhus Kommunes Biblioteker, Aarhus, Denmark
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Belfast Education & Library Board, Northern Ireland
Consorci de Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain
Bibliotecas Municipales de Madrid, Spain
Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA
Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA

Hidden in the heart of the old city of Barcelona is the 'cemetery of lost books', a labyrinthine library of obscure and forgotten titles that have long gone out of print. To this library, a man brings his 10-year-old son Daniel one cold morning in 1945. Daniel is allowed to choose one book from the shelves and pulls out 'La Sombra Del Viento' by Julian Carax.

What begins as a case of literary curiosity turns into a race to find out the truth behind the life and death of Julian Carax and to save those he left behind. A page-turning exploration of obsession in literature and love, and the places that obsession can lead.

Carlos Ruiz Zafón has published four novels for young adults. *The Shadow Of The Wind* has become an international literary phenomenon in over 20 countries. Residing in Barcelona, Spain, he is currently at work on a new novel.

Participating Libraries - 180 LIBRARIES REPRESENTING 124 CITIES IN 43 COUNTRIES.

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- Barbados**
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- Belgium**
Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Ghent
Tweebronnen Openbare Bibliotheek, Leuven
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Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília BDB, Brasília
- Canada**
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Deichmanske Bibliotek, Oslo
Sølvberget KF - Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturhus, Stavanger
- Poland**
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- Uganda**
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Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, Cincinnati
Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland
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Jacksonville Public Library, Jacksonville
Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City
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Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis
New York Public Library, New York
Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia
Multnomah County Library, Portland
Richmond Public Library, Richmond
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San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco
San José Public Library, San José
Seattle Public Library, Seattle
Lincoln Library, Springfield
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee

Participating Libraries

180 LIBRARIES REPRESENTING 124 CITIES IN 43 COUNTRIES.

Once again we welcome libraries who are participating in this exciting international co-operative award for the first time:

- Calgary Public Library & Winnipeg Public Library, Canada
- Biblioteca Publica Piloto de Medellin, Colombia
- Municipal Library of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Mestská knižnica Bratislava, Slovakia
- Tanzania Library Services Board, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Jacksonville Public Library, Florida, USA

Congratulations to the four libraries who nominated the 2005 winner, *The Known World*



Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois
Nancy Huntley, Library Director (on left) with Jamie Wilcox, Head of Readers' Services.

"The many positive reviews ...caught our interest originally and the subject matter: pre Civil War free Blacks owning slaves was intriguing".



Multnomah County Library, Portland, Oregon
Alison Kastner, Librarian, who works in the downtown Central Library. Alison surveyed staff and readers to find the exceptional read of the year and came up with *The Known World*.



Minneapolis Public Library, Minnesota
(l to r) Christine A. Cundall and Joyce Cobb, Librarians, pictured outside the new Cesar Pelli designed library which is due to open in May 2006



Richmond Public Library, Virginia
(l to r) Harriet Henderson, Director, Beth Morelli, Collection Development Librarian and Shannon Humhpreys, Reference Librarian, discuss Edward P. Jones' visit to the Richmond Public Library



Ms. Liv Sæteren, City Librarian, Deichmanske Bibliotek Oslo, attended the Presentation Dinner in June 2005 in Dublin, courtesy of IMPAC.

She is seen here with Edward P. Jones and Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian.



The International
IMPAC
Dublin
Literary Award

2006

The International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, an initiative of Dublin City Council, is a partnership between Dublin City Council, the municipal government authority of Ireland's capital city and IMPAC, a company committed to productivity improvement, operating in over 50 countries world-wide.

Patron of the Award: The Lord Mayor of Dublin

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