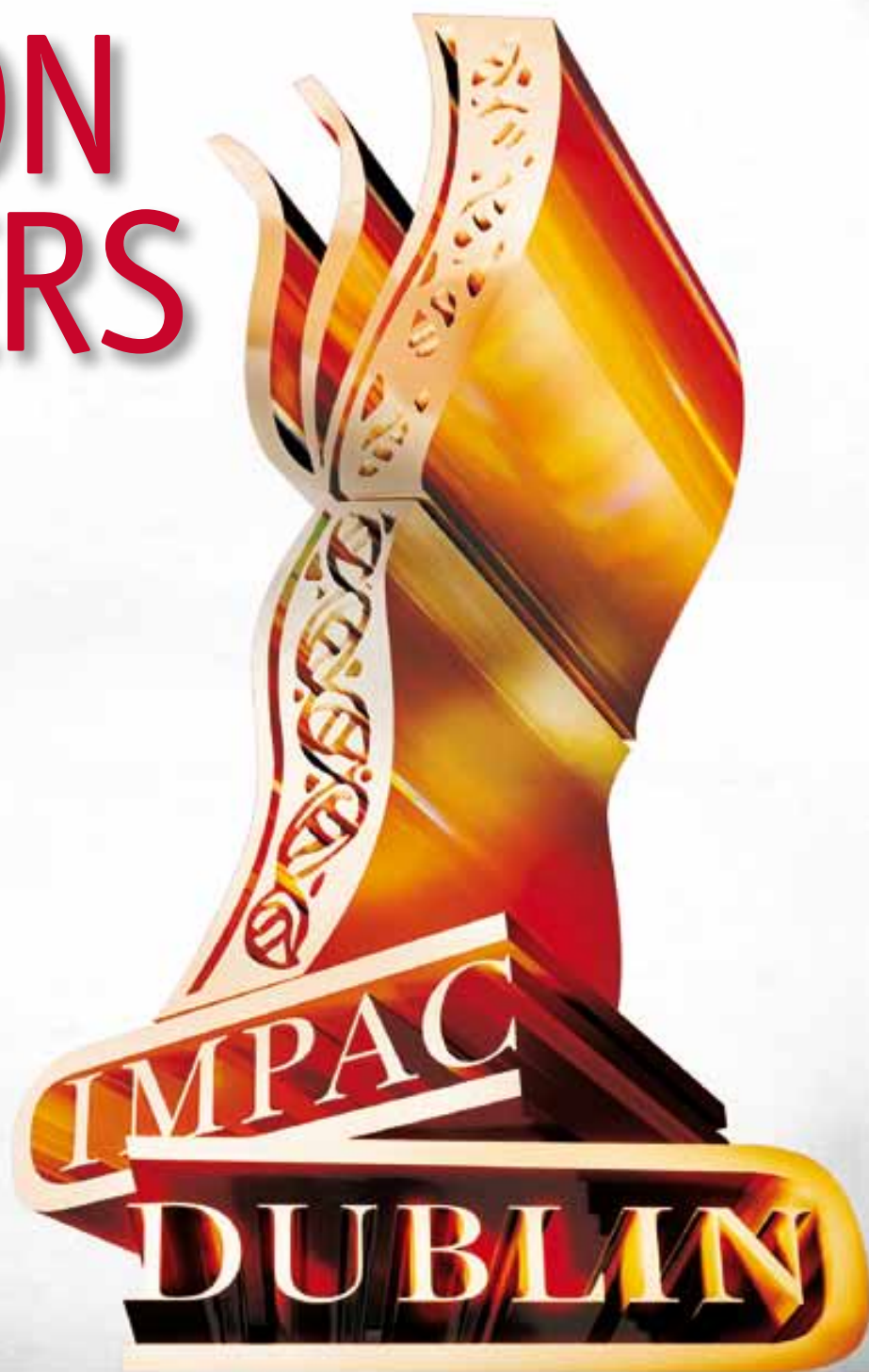


THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IMPAC DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD

# FICTION MATTERS

No.16 February 2010

Complete List of  
Eligible Titles 2010



*Celebrating 125 years of Public Library Service in Dublin*

## Winner of the 2009 Award



Jason Clarke photography.

The winner of the 2009 award, **Man Gone Down** by Michael Thomas. Pictured outside the Mansion House, Dawson Street, the residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, are Michael Thomas and his wife Michaele. June 2009.

*Congratulations to the National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown - nominators of Man Gone Down*



Jason Clarke photography.

(L-R) John Tierney, Dublin City Manager; Eibhlin Byrne, Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award; Michael Thomas, winner of the 2009 award and Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian, June 2009.



Jason Clarke photography.

(L-R) Dr. Ekaterina Genieva, Director of the Library of Foreign Literature, Moscow, receives a scroll from Deirdre Ellis-King, Dublin City Librarian, in recognition of the participation of nominating libraries worldwide, June 2009.

## Launch of the 2010 Award



Jason Clarke photography.

Author Anne Fine, judge of the 2010 award, explores the longlist with Cllr. Emer Costello, Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award, at the Dublin City Library & Archive, November 2009.



Jason Clarke photography.

The Judges of the 2010 award (L-R) Anne Fine, Anatoly Kudryavitsky, Abdourahman Waberi, Zoe Wicomb and Eve Patten, November 2009.

Nominations are submitted by library systems in major cities throughout the world. The award is an initiative of Dublin City Council, the municipal government of Dublin, in partnership with IMPAC, a leading management productivity enhancement company, with the objective of promoting excellence in world literature.



The International  
**IMPAC**  
Dublin  
Literary Award

## A Girl Made of Dust

Nathalie Abi-Ezzi

### Nominated by:

*Jafet Library – American University of Beirut, Lebanon*

Ten-year-old Ruba lives in a village outside Beirut. From her family home, she can see the buildings shimmering on the horizon and the sea stretched out. She can hear the rumble of the shelling – this is Lebanon in the 1980s and civil war is tearing the country apart. Ruba has her own worries. Her father hardly speaks and spends most of his days sitting in his armchair. Her mother looks so sad that Ruba thinks her heart might have withered in the heat like a fig. Her elder brother has started to spend his time with older boys – and some of them have guns. This is a first novel with tremendous heart, which captures both a country and a childhood in turmoil.

Nathalie Abi-Ezzi, was born in 1972 in Lebanon. She and her family moved to England in 1983. She is the author of *The Double in the Fiction of R.L. Stevenson, Wilkie Collins and Daphne du Maurier* (2003) and has co-edited various books for Usborne.

## The White Tiger

Aravind Adiga

### Nominated by:

*Birmingham Libraries, England  
Glasgow Libraries, Information & Learning, Scotland  
Limerick City Libraries, Ireland  
Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal  
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium  
Veria Central Public Library, Greece  
M.I. Rudomino State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia  
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA  
Edmonton Public Library, Canada*

Born in a remote Indian village, Balram is taken out of school and put to work in a teashop. As he smashes coals and wipes tables, he nurses a dream of escape. When a rich village landlord hires him as a chauffeur for his son, Balram's re-education begins. Behind the wheel of a Honda, Balram comes to New Delhi. There he finds himself among cockroaches and traffic-jams, slums and shopping malls, 21st-century technology and medieval superstition. Trapped between his instinct to be a loyal son and servant, and his desire to better himself, he discovers a new morality at the heart of the new India. Balram's journey from darkness to the light of success is a brilliantly irreverent, blackly comic, deeply endearing and altogether unforgettable tour de force.

Aravind Adiga was born in Madras and raised in Australia. A former correspondent in India for Time magazine, his articles have appeared in the Financial Times, the Independent, and the Sunday Times. He lives in Mumbai. *The White Tiger* is his first novel.

## Machine

Peter Adolphsen

Translated from the original Danish by Charlotte Barslund

### Nominated by:

*Aarhus Kommunes Biblioteker, Denmark  
Copenhagen Central Library, Denmark*

Two stories of metamorphosis entwine: the first chronicles the life of a drop of oil from its very beginning within a small prehistoric horse's heart to its combustion within a Ford car engine in Texas, the second follows the lives of the passengers within the vehicle.

Clarissa picks up a hitchhiker on the Interstate to San Antonio. She is a young, intelligent student willing to experiment with LSD. The hitchhiker is Jimmy Nash, who has been granted asylum in the United States from the Soviet Union and has successfully reshaped his identity.

From the very start the reader is seduced by the author's unusual vision of the world we live in. The elegant prose is lyrical and technically astounding and delivers a fascinating journey.

Peter Adolphsen was born in 1972 in Århus, Denmark and has written *Små historier* (1996), *Små historier 2* (2000), *Brummstein* (2003). *Machine* was published in Denmark in 2006. His books are translated into German, French, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian and Swedish.

## My Father's Wives

José Eduardo Agualusa

Translated from the original Portuguese by Daniel Hahn

### Nominated by:

*Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal  
Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Portugal*

Upon his death, the famous Angolan composer Faustino Manso left seven widows and eighteen children. His youngest daughter, Laurentina, a filmmaker, tries to reconstruct the late musician's turbulent life.

In *My Father's Wives*, reality and fiction run side by side, the former feeding into the latter. However, in the territories José Eduardo Agualusa crosses, fiction plays a part in reality too. The four characters in the novel which the author is writing as he travels across landscapes that border dreams, landscapes from which – here and there – the strangest characters emerge. *My Father's Wives* is a novel about women, music and magic. These pages herald the rebirth of Africa, a continent afflicted by terrible problems but blessed with a talent for music, by the ever-renewed strength of its women and the secret power of ancient gods.

José Eduardo Agualusa is one of the leading young literary voices from Angola, and from the Portuguese language today. His novels include *The Conspiracy, Creole* and *The Book of Chameleons* which won the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize 2007.

## Chicago

Alaa Al Aswany

Translated from the original Arabic by Farouk Abdel Wahab

### Nominated by:

*Cork City Libraries, Ireland*

Sex, money, and politics are the driving forces of society in this new novel from bestselling author Alaa Al Aswany.

A medley of Egyptian and American lives collides on the campus of the University of Illinois Medical Center in a post-9/11 Chicago, and crises of identity abound. Among the players are an atheistic anti-establishment American professor of the sixties generation, a veiled Ph.D. candidate, an Emigre who has fervently embraced his new American identity, but who cannot escape his Egyptian roots, an Egyptian State Security informant and a dissident student poet who comes to America with the sole aim of financing his literary aspirations. This tightly plotted page-turner is an unflinching examination of contemporary Egyptian lives.

Alaa Al Aswany is a dentist by profession, and for many years practised in the Yacoubian Building, which was to form the setting for his bestselling novel of the same name. He has written prolifically for Egyptian newspapers on politics, literature and social issues.

## The Storyteller or The Hakawati

Rabih Alameddine

### Nominated by:

*The State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia*

Osama al-Kharrat left Lebanon at sixteen to escape the civil war. He returns after some years, much changed, to find his father bedridden and his family, friends and enemies in attendance, reminiscing, gossiping, making peace, and above all telling stories. 'Hakawati' means 'storyteller', and Osama's grandfather was one of the best. From Uncle Jihad to the family doctor 'Tin Can', each member of Osama's circle is joined in a vigil that crosses continents, spans centuries, celebrates love, recounts war, and creates an epic picture of the region: one that is at once mythic, mischievous, and painfully real.

Rabih Alameddine was born in Jordan to Lebanese parents and has lived in Kuwait, Lebanon, England, and the United States. He is a novelist and short story writer, and is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. He lives in San Francisco and Beirut.

## The Story of a Widow

Musharraf Ali Farooqi

### Nominated by:

*Vancouver Public Library, Canada*

After the death of her husband Akbar Ahmad, Mona finds herself settling ambivalently into a new life. But the calm rhythm of her days –

gardening, cooking, time with her neighbours and family in Karachi – is upset by the appearance of Salamat Ali, the new tenant in her friend Mrs. Baig's house.

*The Story of a Widow* is a beautifully observant novel, one that pays careful attention to the delicate movements of the heart in romantic and family life. But it is equally concerned with the mores of a society in which traditional roles both support and constrain men and—particularly—women. Gently humorous and profoundly perceptive. A moving tale of a woman's discovery of her voice, and herself.

**Musharraf Ali Farooqi** is an author of children's and adult books and a translator. He was born in 1968 in Hyderabad, Pakistan, and now lives in Toronto, Canada.

## The Wasted Vigil

Nadeem Aslam

**Nominated by:**

*Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway*  
*Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland*  
*Toronto Public Library, Canada*  
*Richland County Public Library, Columbia, USA*

A Russian woman named Lara arrives at the house of Marcus Caldwell, an Englishman and widower living in an old perfume factory in the shadow of the Tora Bora Mountains. It is possible that Marcus's daughter, Zameen, may have known Lara's brother, a Soviet soldier who disappeared in the area many years previously. But like Marcus's wife, Zameen is dead; a victim of the age in which she was born.

In the days that follow, further people will arrive at the house. The stories and histories that unfold – interweaving and overlapping, and spanning nearly a quarter of a century – tell of the terrible afflictions that have plagued Afghanistan.

**Nadeem Aslam** is the author of the highly acclaimed *Season of the Rainbirds* (1993) and most recently *Maps for Lost Lovers* (2004). Born in Pakistan, he now lives in England.

## When Will There Be Good News?

Kate Atkinson

**Nominated by:**

*Toronto Public Library, Canada*  
*The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, USA*

Thirty years ago, six-year-old Joanna witnessed the brutal murders of her mother, brother and sister, before escaping into a field, and running for her life. Now, the man convicted of the crime is being released from prison..

Sixteen-year-old Reggie, works as a nanny for Joanna Hunter, but has no idea of the woman's horrific past. When Dr. Hunter goes missing, Reggie seems to be the only person who is worried, despite the decidedly shifty business

interests of Joanna's husband, Neil, and the unknown whereabouts of the newly freed murderer, Andrew Decker.

In an extraordinary virtuoso display, Kate Atkinson has produced one of the most engrossing, masterful, and piercingly insightful novels of this or any year. *When Will There Be Good News?* shows us what it means to survive the past and the present, and to have the strength to just keep on keeping on.

**Kate Atkinson** was born in York in 1951. Her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, went on to win the prestigious Whitbread Prize for Book of the Year in 1995.

## The Only Son

Stéphane Audeguy

Translated from the original French by John Cullen

**Nominated by:**

*Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau mentions his older brother François only two times in his classic *Confessions*. In *The Only Son*, Stéphane Audeguy resurrects Rousseau's forgotten brother in a picaresque tale that brings to life the secret world of eighteenth-century Paris.

Instructed at an early age in the philosophy of libertinage by a decadent aristocrat, François is ultimately disowned by his family and flees to Paris's underworld. There he finds work in a brothel that caters to politicians and clergy and begins his personal study of the varieties of sexual desire—to its most arcane proclivities. Bold, erotic, and historically fascinating, *The Only Son* is, in many ways, the anti-*Confessions*—François' own, decidedly different, portrait of human nature.

**Stéphane Audeguy** lives in Paris, where he teaches the history of cinema and arts. His first novel, *The Theory of Clouds*, has been translated into seventeen languages. *The Only Son* won the 2007 Prix des Deux Magots.

## Man in the Dark

Paul Auster

**Nominated by:**

*Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany*  
*Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium*  
*Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli/Biblioteca Nazionale "Vitt. Em. 111" Napoli, Italy*  
*Buchereien Wein, Vienna, Austria*

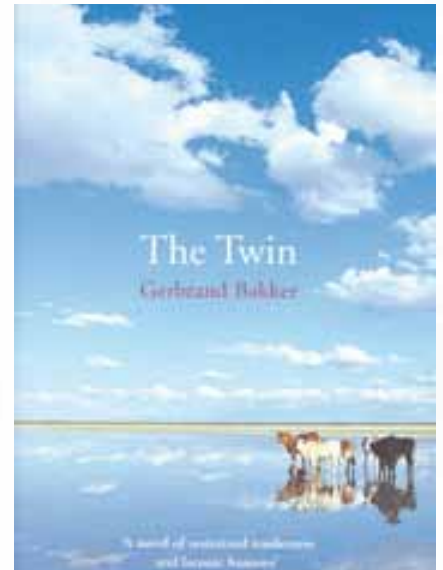
Seventy-two-year-old August Brill is recovering from a car accident. Plagued by insomnia, he tries to push back thoughts of things he would prefer to forget – his wife's recent death and the horrific murder of his granddaughter's boyfriend, Titus – by telling himself stories. He imagines a parallel world in which America is not at war with Iraq but with itself.

In this other America the twin towers did not fall, and the 2000 election results led to secession, as state after state pulled away from the union, and a bloody civil war ensued. Brill gradually opens up to his granddaughter, recounting the story of his marriage and confronting the grim reality of Titus's death.

**Paul Auster** was born in Newark, New Jersey in the United States in 1947. He is the author of twelve novels including *The New York Trilogy*, *The Book of Illusions*, and *The Brooklyn Follies*. He is married with two children and lives in Brooklyn.

## The Twin

Gerbrand Bakker



Translated from the original Dutch by David Colmer

**Nominated by:**

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

When his twin brother dies in a car accident, Helmer is obliged to return to the small family farm. He resigns himself to taking over his brother's role and spending the rest of his days 'with his head under a cow'.

After his old, worn-out father has been transferred upstairs, Helmer sets about furnishing the rest of the house according to his own minimal preferences. Then Riet appears, the woman once engaged to marry his twin.

Ostensibly a novel about the countryside, *The Twin* is, in the end, about the possibility or impossibility of taking life into one's own hands. It chronicles a way of life which has resisted modernity, is culturally apart, and yet riven with a kind of romantic longing.

**Gerbrand Bakker** worked as a subtitler for nature films before becoming a gardener. *The Twin* is his prize-winning debut novel and will shortly be made into a film.

## The Elegance of the Hedgehog

Muriel Barbery

Translated from the original  
French by Alison Anderson

**Nominated by:**

*Katona József County Library, Kecskemét, Hungary*  
*Veria Central Public Library, Greece*  
*Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse, France*  
*Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France*  
*Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland*  
*Seattle Public Library, USA*  
*Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília BDB, Brazil*  
*Edmonton Public Library, Canada*

We are in an elegant hotel in the centre of Paris. Renée, the building's concierge, is short, ugly and plump. She is cantankerous and addicted to television soaps. In short, she is everything society expects from a concierge. But Renée has a secret; she is a ferocious autodidact who furtively devours art, philosophy, music and Japanese culture.

Then there's Paloma, a super-smart twelve-year-old and the youngest daughter of the Josses, who live on the fifth floor. Talented, precocious, and startlingly lucid, she has come to terms with life's seeming futility and has decided to end her own on the day of her thirteenth birthday.

Paloma and Renée discover their kindred souls when a new tenant arrives. He befriends Paloma, and sees through Renée's timeworn disguise. A moving, witty and redemptive novel.

Muriel Barbery was born in Casablanca, raised in France, and lives in Japan with her husband Stéphane. *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* is her second novel and has been a best seller worldwide.

## Exit Lines

Joan Barfoot

**Nominated by:**

*Vancouver Public Library, Canada*

You might think life in a retirement home would be a trifle boring, but in the Idyll Inn of Joan Barfoot's latest marvellous novel, not everyone feels ready for the quiet life. But wait, maybe one resident does! Oh dear.

Seniors begin to settle into the latest retirement facility in their small city. Four of them become their own little group dedicated to small acts of pleasurable rebellion, not least the consumption of decent wines. In their pasts they've had a few connections, both faint and bold, with each other. Even kindly Ruth? Well, yes, and she hopes to make use of them soon, for a challenging act that needs undertaking in the dead of night.

Joan Barfoot is the award-winning author of nine previous novels, including, most recently, *Critical Injuries*, which was longlisted for the 2002 Man Booker Prize. She lives in London, Ontario.

## A Country Called Home

Kim Barnes

**Nominated by:**

*LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, USA*

It is 1960 when Thomas Deracotte and his pregnant wife, Helen, take off for a utopian adventure in the Idaho wilderness. They buy a farm sight unseen and find the buildings collapsed, the fields in ruins. A local boy agrees to manage the fields in exchange for room and board. Optimism and desire carry them through the early days.

But the sudden, frightening birth of Thomas and Helen's daughter, changes something deep inside their marriage. And then, in the aftermath of a tragic accident, suspicion, anger, and regret come to haunt this shattered family.

In this extraordinary novel, Kim Barnes reminds us of what it means to be young and in love, to what lengths people will go to escape loneliness, and the redemption found in family.

Kim Barnes is the author of the novel *Finding Caruso* and two memoirs. She teaches writing at the University of Idaho and lives with her husband, the poet Robert Wrigley, on Moscow Mountain.

## The Secret Scripture

Sebastian Barry



**Nominated by:**

*The Municipal Library of Prague, Czech Republic*  
*Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland*  
*Liverpool Libraries & Information Services, England*  
*Birmingham Libraries, England*  
*Boston Public Library, USA*  
*San Diego Public Library, USA*  
*Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA*  
*The Free State Provincial Library Service, Bloemfontein, South Africa*

Roseanne McNulty, perhaps nearing her one-hundredth birthday – no one is quite sure – faces an uncertain future, as the hospital where she's spent the best part of her adult life

prepares for closure. Over the weeks leading up to this upheaval, she talks often with her psychiatrist Dr Grene.

Told through their respective journals, the story that emerges – of Roseanne's family in 1930s Sligo – is at once shocking and deeply beautiful. Refracted through the haze of memory and retelling, Roseanne's story becomes an alternative, secret, history of Ireland. Exquisitely written, it is the story of a life blighted by terrible mistreatment and ignorance, and yet marked still by love and passion and hope.

Sebastian Barry was born in Dublin in 1955. An author and playwright, his work has won many awards and been seen around the world. He lives in Wicklow with his wife and three children.

## The Black Tower

Louis Bayard

**Nominated by:**

*Jacksonville Public Library, USA*

As founder and chief of a newly created plainclothes police force, Vidocq has used his mastery of disguise and surveillance to capture some of France's most notorious and elusive criminals. Now he is hot on the trail of a tantalizing mystery—the fate of the young dauphin Louis-Charles, son of Marie-Antoinette and King Louis XVI.

Officially, the Dauphin died a brutal death in Paris's dreaded Temple, but speculation has long persisted that the ten-year-old heir may have been smuggled out of his prison cell. In *The Black Tower*, Bayard deftly interweaves political intrigue, epic treachery, cover-ups, and conspiracies into a gripping portrait of family redemption—and brings to life an indelible portrait of the mighty and profane Eugène François Vidocq, history's first great detective.

Louis Bayard is the author of the national bestseller *The Pale Blue Eye* and *Mr. Timothy*, a New York Times Notable book. He lives in Washington, D.C.

## City of Thieves

David Benioff

**Nominated by:**

*Kansas City Public Library, USA*

During the Nazis' siege of Leningrad, Lev Benioff is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter's wedding cake. In a city cut off from all supplies and suffering unbelievable deprivation, Lev and Kolya embark on a hunt through the dire lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible.

Insightful and funny, thrilling and terrifying, *City of Thieves* is a gripping, cinematic World War II adventure and an intimate coming-of-age story.

**David Benioff** is a novelist and screen writer. He was born and raised in New York City and lives in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter.

## Beautiful Children

Charles Bock

**Nominated by:**

*Cleveland Public Library, USA*

One Saturday night in Las Vegas, twelve-year-old Newell Ewing goes out with a friend and doesn't come home. As the boy's distraught parents navigate the mystery of what's become of their son, the circumstances surrounding Newell's vanishing and other events on that same night reverberate through the lives of seemingly disconnected strangers. These "urban nomads," each with a past to hide and a pain to nurture, search for salvation as they barrel toward destruction, weaving their way through a neon underworld of sex, drugs, and the spinning wheels of chance.

**Charles Bock** was born in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has a MFA from Bennington College and has received fellowships from Yaddo, Ucross, and the Vermont Studio Centre. He lives in New York City.

## Blood Trail

C.J. Box

**Nominated by:**

*Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, USA*

It's elk season in the Rockies, but this year a different kind of hunter stalks a different kind of prey. Game wardens have found a hunter dead at a camp in the mountains—strung up, gutted and flayed as if he were the elk he'd been stalking. A spent cartridge and a poker chip lie next to his body. Ripples of horror spread through the community. Are the murders the work of a deranged anti-hunting activist or a lone psychopath with a personal vendetta? Joe Pickett, as always, is the governor's go-to man, and he's put on the case—tracking the hunter even as more bodies, and more poker chips turn up.

**C. J. Box** is the author of five Joe Pickett novels, and has won the Anthony, Macavity, Gumshoe, and Barry awards. A Wyoming native, Box serves on the board of directors for Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo.

## Through Black Spruce

Joseph Boyden

**Nominated by:**

*Ottawa Public Library, Canada  
Provincial Information & Library Resources Board, Gander, Canada  
Saint John Free Public Library, New Brunswick, Canada  
Halifax Public Libraries, Canada*

From internationally acclaimed author Joseph Boyden comes an astonishingly powerful novel of contemporary aboriginal life, full of the dangers and harsh beauty of both forest and city. When beautiful Suzanne Bird disappears, her sister Annie, a loner and hunter, is compelled to search for her, leaving behind their uncle Will, a man haunted by loss. While Annie travels from Toronto to New York, from modelling studios to A-list parties, Will encounters dire troubles at home. Both eventually come to painful discoveries about the inescapable ties of family. *Through Black Spruce* is an utterly unforgettable consideration of how we discover who we really are.

**Joseph Boyden** is a Canadian with Irish, Scottish, and Métis roots. His novel *Three Day Road* received a number of awards and was published in 10 languages. He divides his time between Northern Ontario and Louisiana, where he teaches writing at the University of New Orleans.

## The Angel Maker

Stefan Brijs

Translated from the original Dutch by Hester Velmans

**Nominated by:**

*Tweebronnen Openbare Bibliotheek, Leuven, Belgium  
Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium  
The Association of Public Libraries The Hague, The Netherlands  
Openbare Bibliotheek Eindhoven, The Netherlands  
Gemeentebibliotheek Utrecht, The Netherlands*

After many years Doctor Victor Hoppe returns to the small village he grew up in. His return generates a lot of interest – and suspicion – as he is accompanied by three triplets, all of whom share the same physical deformity as the doctor – a hare lip. These children are rarely seen in the village. But with time, and a series of apparently miraculous cures and tales of the wife he lost, the doctor begins to win the villagers over. He hires an ex schoolmistress, Charlotte, to look after the children, but the longer Charlotte works with the doctor, the more she begins to suspect that the children – and the doctor – aren't what they seem.

**Stefan Brijs** was born in 1970 in Flanders. He published his first novel, *Degeneration*, in 1997. His second novel *Arend* was highly acclaimed. *The Angel Maker* has been shortlisted for the Golden Owl and Libris prizes.

## People of the Book

Geraldine Brooks

**Nominated by:**

*Helsinki City Library, Finland  
San José Public Library, USA  
Lincoln City Libraries, USA  
San Francisco Public Library, USA  
The State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia.*

In 1996, Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, is offered the job of a lifetime: analysis and conservation of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, which has been rescued from Serb shelling during the Bosnian war. Priceless and beautiful, the book is one of the earliest Jewish volumes ever to be illuminated with images. When Hanna, a caustic loner with a passion for her work, discovers a series of tiny artifacts in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—she begins to unlock the book's mysteries. The reader is ushered into an exquisitely detailed and atmospheric past, tracing the book's journey from its salvation back to its creation.

**Geraldine Brooks** is the author of *Year of Wonders* and the nonfiction works *Nine Parts of Desire* and *Foreign Correspondence*. Previously, Brooks was a correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, stationed in Bosnia, Somalia, and the Middle East.

## Black Flies

Shannon Burke

**Nominated by:**

*The Free State Provincial Library Service, Bloemfontein, South Africa*

Novelist Shannon Burke earned stunning reviews for his debut book, *Safelight*, and now he returns with the same minimalist intensity in this arresting follow-up. *Black Flies* is the story of paramedic Ollie Cross and his first year on the job in mid-90s New York. It is a ground's eye view of life on the streets: the shoot-outs, the bad cops, unhinged medics, and hopeless patients, the dark humor in bizarre circumstances, and one medic's struggle to balance his desire to help against his own growing callousness. It is the story of lives that hang in the balance, and of a single job with a misdiagnosed newborn that sends Cross and his partner into a life-changing struggle between good and evil.

**Shannon Burke** is the author of *Safelight* and has worked as a paramedic in Harlem. He lives in Knoxville, Tennessee.

## The China Lover

Ian Buruma

**Nominated by:**

*Helsinki City Library, Finland*

When Sidney Vanoven is sent to occupied Japan, in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, it is his dream posting. By day, he works in the censor's office watching Japanese films; at night he immerses himself in the sensual pleasures of Tokyo.

His job leads him into the circle of the beautiful film star Shirley Yamaguchi, a passionate and indomitable woman, whose wartime secrets hint at deception and betrayal. As he becomes increasingly aware of her story, it seems to point at the dark heart of Japan itself.

**Ian Buruma** is currently Luce Professor at Bard College, New York. His previous books include *Voltaire's Coconuts*, *The Missionary* and the *Libertine*, *The Wages of Guilt*, *Inventing Japan*, *God's Dust* and *Bad Elements*, *Occidentalism* and *Murder in Amsterdam*.

## The Paper Moon

**Andrea Camilleri**

Translated from the original Italian by Stephen Sartarelli

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, Florence, Italy*

With their dark sophistication and dry humor, Andrea Camilleri's classic crime novels continue to win more and more fans in America. The latest instalment of the popular mystery series finds the moody Inspector Montalbano further beset by the existential questions that have been plaguing him of late. But he doesn't have much time to wax philosophical before the gruesome murder of a man—shot at point-blank range in the face with his pants down—commands his attention. Add two evasive, beautiful women as prime suspects, some dirty cocaine, mysterious computer codes, and a series of threatening letters, and things soon get very complicated at the police headquarters in Vigàta.

**Andrea Camilleri's** Montalbano mystery series, bestsellers in Italy and Germany, has been adapted for Italian television and translated into German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Japanese, Dutch, and Swedish. He lives in Rome.

## America, America

**Ethan Canin**

**Nominated by:**

*San Francisco Public Library, USA*

In the early 1970s, Corey Sifter, the son of working-class parents, becomes a yard boy on the grand estate of the powerful Metarey family. Soon, through the family's generosity, he is a student at a private boarding school and an aide to the great New York senator Henry Bonwiller, who is running for president. Before long, Corey finds himself involved with one of the Metarey daughters as well, and he begins to leave behind the world of his upbringing. As the Bonwiller campaign gains momentum, Corey finds himself caught up in a complex web of events in which loyalty, politics, sex, and gratitude conflict with morality, love, and the truth.

**Ethan Canin** is the author of six books, including the story collections *Emperor of the Air* and *The Palace Thief* and the novels *For*

*Kings and Planets* and *Carry Me Across the Water*. He divides his time between Iowa and northern Michigan.

## Valfierno: The Man who Stole the Mona Lisa

**Martín Caparrós**

Translated from the original Spanish by Jasper Reid

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Daniel Cosío Villegas of El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico*

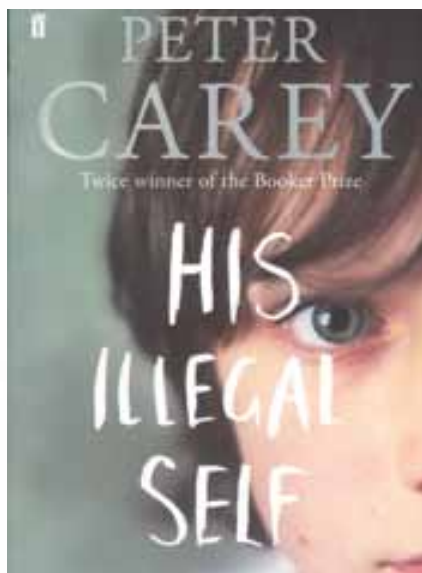
On August 22, 1911, the world was shocked by an audacious crime: Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre. Two years later, an Italian named Vincenzo Perugia was detained after attempting to sell the Mona Lisa to an antiques dealer in Florence — but the mystery of the theft itself was never satisfactorily resolved.

In his spellbinding novel *Valfierno*, Martín Caparrós tackles this enigma, presenting us with a fascinating criminal unable to go to his grave without divulging the details of his outrageous heist. Featuring an engaging cat-and-mouse drama and unforgettable characters, *Valfierno* is a brilliant fictionalization of the greatest theft of the twentieth century, as well as a compelling psychological portrait of a true mastermind.

**Martín Caparrós**, prolific novelist, essayist, and travel writer, won the 2004 Planeta Prize in Argentina for *Valfierno*, which has been published in over a dozen languages. He currently lives in his native Argentina.

## His Illegal Self

**Peter Carey**



**Nominated by:**

*Tweebonnen Openbare Bibliotheek, Leuven, Belgium*  
*The State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia*

*His Illegal Self* is the story of Che. Raised in isolated privilege by his New York grandmother, he is the precocious son of radical

student activists at Harvard in the late sixties. Yearning for his famous outlaw parents, denied all access to television and the news, he takes hope from his long-haired, teenage neighbour who predicts: 'They will come for you, man. They'll break you out of here.'

Soon Che too is an outlaw; fleeing down subways, abandoning seedy motels at night, he is pitched into a journey that leads him to a hippy commune in the jungle of tropical Queensland.

Never sentimental, *His Illegal Self* is an achingly beautiful story of the love between a young woman and a little boy.

**Peter Carey** received the Booker Prize for *Oscar and Lucinda* and again for *True History of the Kelly Gang*. Born in Australia he now lives in New York City.

## The Rehearsal

**Eleanor Catton**

**Nominated by:**

*Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand*

A high-school sex scandal jolts a group of teenage girls into a new awareness of their own potency and power. The sudden and total publicity seems to turn every act into a performance, and every platform into a stage. But when the local drama school decides to turn the scandal into a show, the real world and the world of the theatre are forced to meet, and soon the boundaries between private and public begin to dissolve . . .

*The Rehearsal* is an exhilarating and provocative novel about the unsimple mess of human desire. Startlingly original, it is at once a tender evocation of its young protagonists and a shrewd exposé of emotional compromise.

**Eleanor Catton** was born in 1985 in Canada and raised in Canterbury. In June 2009 *The Rehearsal* (Victoria University Press, NZ and Granta, UK) won the UK Society of Authors' Betty Trask Award and was named best first book of fiction in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards 2009.

## The Island of Eternal Love

**Daina Chaviano**

Translated from the original Spanish by Andrea G. Labinger

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Daniel Cosío Villegas of El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico*

Cecilia is alone in a city that haunts her. Life in Miami evokes memories of Cuba: a scent in the breeze like the sea at the Malecón; the beat of a clave recalls island evenings when couples danced to forgotten rhythms. Far from her family, her history, and her home, Cecilia seeks refuge in a bar in Little Havana, where a mysterious old woman's fascinating tale keeps her returning night after night.

From Daína Chaviano comes this multifaceted portrait of the Cuba of this century. *The Island of Eternal Love* is an ambitious, provocative, and magical novel that uncovers the secrets of a woman, a family, and an island—all in one spellbinding tale.

**Dána Chaviano** is the award-winning author of several novels published in Spanish. *The Island of Eternal Love* has been translated into twenty languages. A Havana native, Chaviano has lived in Miami since 1991.

## The Other Hand / Little Bee

Chris Cleave

**Nominated by:**

Cleveland Public Library, USA

Seattle Public Library, USA

Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand

The lives of an Englishwoman and an African girl collide one fateful day, and one of them has to make a terrible choice. Two years later, they meet again – the story starts there...

**Chris Cleave's** debut novel *Incendiary* was a prize-winner and international bestseller, published in 20 countries. Inspired by his early childhood in West Africa, *The Other Hand* is his second novel. He is married with two children, and lives in Kingston-upon-Thames.

## Cosmos Incorporated

Maurice G. Dantec

Translated from the original

French by Tina A. Kover

**Nominated by:**

Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse, France

The first major English translation of one of France's most admired writers, *Cosmos Incorporated* is a triumph of science fiction – a masterwork of cataclysm, mysticism, and suspense.

Though his memory has been wiped clean and his history fabricated in order to pass through UniWorld's check points, Sergei Diego Plotkin knows his name and he knows his mission: to murder a man in the city of Grand Junction, a Vegas-like outpost that is home to the private launching pad to the Ring.

Now Plotkin is about to meet his maker. As his identity and mission incrementally resurface in his conscious mind, and in the presence of an eerily beautiful woman, Plotkin will soon discover that he has come here not just to kill but to be born. . . .

**Maurice G. Dantec** was born in France. He is the author of *Red Siren*, which won France's Prix de l'Imaginaire. He is also the author of *Villa Vortex*, *Babylon Babies*, and the *Theatre of Operations*. He lives in Montreal

## The Gargoyle

Andrew Davidson

**Nominated by:**

Tampere City Library, Finland

An extraordinary debut novel of love that survives the fires of hell and transcends the boundaries of time

The narrator of *The Gargoyle* is a very contemporary cynic, physically beautiful and sexually adept, who dwells in the moral vacuum that is modern life. As the book opens, he is driving along a dark road when he is distracted by what seems to be a flight of arrows. He crashes into a ravine and suffers horrible burns over much of his body. As he recovers in a burn ward, undergoing the tortures of the damned, he awaits the day when he can leave the hospital and commit carefully planned suicide—for he is now a monster in appearance as well as in soul.

**Andrew Davidson** was born in Pinawa, Manitoba. *The Gargoyle*, the product of seven years' worth of research and composition, is his first book. Davidson lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

## God of Speed

Luke Davies

**Nominated by:**

The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

Film mogul, aviator, addict, inventor, visionary, recluse, serial womanizer, political meddler: Howard Hughes was one of the strangest and most significant figures of the twentieth century. His obsessive-compulsive disorder would end up crippling and isolating him; in the end he self-medicated his way into oblivion.

It's a summer night in 1973, and holed up in his hotel penthouse in London, Hughes can't sleep. Tomorrow he takes control of an airplane for the first time in more than fifteen years. As the reclusive, drug-addled billionaire waits for the dawn, the shape and preoccupations of the times emerge from his ruined psyche; a world of oil, flight, money, movies, drugs, sex, power, greed, fear, yearning – America.

Blackly funny, muscular and rhythmic, transcendent and debauched.

**Luke Davies** is the author of novels, *Isabelle the Navigator* and the cult bestseller *Candy*, and five books of poetry, including *Running With Light* and *Totem*.

## The 10pm Question

Kate De Goldi

**Nominated by:**

Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand

Frankie Parsons is twelve going on old man: an apparently sensible, talented Year 8 with a drumbeat of worrying questions steadily gaining volume in his head:

Most of the significant people in Frankie's world seem gloriously untroubled by worry. Only Ma takes seriously his catalogue of

persistent anxieties; only Ma listens patiently to his 10 p.m. queries. But of course, it is Ma who is the cause of the most worrying question of all, the one that Frankie can never bring himself to ask.

*The 10pm Question* is a novel which defies all age categories. A tender, beautifully told and endearing story. By the end, you'll wish you had a Frankie Parsons of your own.

**Kate De Goldi** grew up in Christchurch and now lives in Wellington. She has won numerous awards and accolades for her fiction. She is also well known as an astute and energetic book reviewer for radio and television.

## The Palace of Illusions

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

**Nominated by:**

Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

*The Palace of Illusions* takes us back to a time that is half history, half myth, and wholly magical. Narrated by Panchaali, the wife of the legendary Pandavas brothers, the novel gives us a new interpretation of the world-famous Indian epic *The Mahabharat*.

The story traces the princess Panchaali's life, beginning with her birth in fire and following her spirited balancing act as a woman with five husbands who have been cheated out of their father's kingdom. Panchaali is swept into their quest to reclaim their birthright, remaining at their side through years of exile and a terrible civil war involving all the important kings of India.

**Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni** is the author of the bestselling novels *Queen of Dreams*, *Mistress of Spices*, *Sister of My Heart*, and *The Vine of Desire*. She lives in Houston, Texas, and teaches creative writing at the University of Houston.

## Codex 632: The Secret Identity of Christopher Columbus

José Rodrigues dos Santos

Translated from the original

Portuguese by Alison Entrekin

**Nominated by:**

Biblioteca Municipal Central

de Lisboa, Portugal

Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal

When Thomas Noronha, a professor of history and an expert cryptographer, is called upon to finish an unresolved investigation involving an aged scholar who is found mysteriously dead in his hotel room, his life takes several unexpected and dramatic turns. As Thomas slowly begins to unravel the cryptograms and enigmas that shroud the old professor's work, he finds a code that could possibly change the course of historical scholarship:

In his quest to decipher this mysterious code, Thomas travels around the world from Lisbon to Rio, New York, and Jerusalem. He immerses himself in the fascinating history of the

discovery of the Americas, and the one enigma that no historian has ever been able to solve: the true identity of Christopher Columbus.

**José Rodrigues dos Santos** is an internationally bestselling author and journalist. Born in Mozambique, dos Santos lives in Portugal, where he teaches journalism at Lisbon University and anchors a nightly news broadcast.

## The White King

György Dragomán

Translated from the original Hungarian by Paul Olchvary

**Nominated by:**

**Katona József County Library, Kecskemét, Hungary**

Eleven-year-old Djata makes sure he is always home on Sundays. It is the day the State Security came to take his father away, and he believes it will be a Sunday when his father is finally sent home again.

In the mean time, Djata lives out a life of adventure. He plays wargames in flaming wheat fields; hunts for gold in abandoned claymines; watches porn in a backroom at the cinema, and plays chess with an automaton. But lurking beneath his rebel boyhood, is the continued absence of his father. When he finally uncovers the real truth, he risks losing his childhood for ever.

An urgent, humorous and melancholy picture of a childhood behind the Iron Curtain.

**György Dragomán** was born in Transylvania in 1973 and moved to Hungary when he was fifteen. His first novel, *Genesis Undone*, was the winner of the Brody Prize for Best First Book in 2002. He lives in Budapest.

## Frida's Bed

Slavenka Drakulic

Translated from the original Croatian by Christina P. Zoric

**Nominated by:**

**Rijeka City Library, Croatia**

A beautifully imagined story of the last days of Frida Kahlo's life. A few days before Frida Kahlo's death in 1954, she wrote in her diary, "I hope the exit is joyful—and I hope never to return." Diagnosed with polio at the age of six and plagued by illness and injury throughout her life, Kahlo's chronic pain was a recurrent theme in her extraordinary art. In *Frida's Bed*, Slavenka Drakulic explores the inner life of one of the world's most influential female artists, skillfully weaving Frida's memories into descriptions of her paintings, producing a meditation on the nature of chronic pain and creativity.

**Slavenka Drakulic** was born in Croatia in 1949. The author of several works of nonfiction and novels, she has written for *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, and numerous publications around the world.

## The Voyage of the Short Serpent

Bernard du Boucheron

Translated from the original French by Hester Velmans

**Nominated by:**

**Denver Public Library, USA**

Years ago, a group left Europe to start a colony in Iceland, "the northernmost part of the world," as they called it—a frozen, desolate place where it is difficult to survive. They called the place New Thule. But as the years wear on, communication between New Thule and the people back home has become less and less frequent, until finally it stops altogether. A cardinal orders an evangelical mission in order to see what has become of the people, and to revive their faith.

*The Voyage of the Short Serpent* is a masterpiece about mutable human morality in inhuman conditions—a story about truth, obsession, and the myth of Utopia.

**Bernard du Boucheron** was born in 1928 in Paris. A major figure in French and international industry, du Boucheron won the Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie Française for *The Voyage of the Short Serpent*.

## In Zodiac Light

Robert Edric

**Nominated by:**

**Warsaw Public Library, Poland**

It is December 1922 and the aftershocks of the First World War continue to make themselves felt. Ex-soldier, poet and composer Ivor Gurney, suffering from increasingly frequent and deepening bouts of paranoid schizophrenia, is transferred to the City of London Mental Hospital, Dartford.

Neglected by the military and by his own family, and abandoned by all but a notable handful of his friends, Gurney begins a descent into the madness and oblivion which he believes has long been waiting to claim him.

Yet following his arrival at Dartford, there are still those who continue to believe in Gurney's capabilities..

**Robert Edric** was born in 1956. His novels include *Winter Garden*, *A New Ice Age*, *Lunar Eclipse*, *The Earth Made of Glass*, *Elysium*, *In Desolate Heaven*, *The Sword Cabinet*, *The Book of the Heathen* and *Peacetime*.

## Good to a Fault

Marina Endicott



**Nominated by:**

**Calgary Public Library, Canada**

Absorbed in her own failings, Clara Purdy crashes her life into a sharp left turn, taking the young family in the other car along with her. When bruises on the mother, Lorraine, prove to be late-stage cancer, Clara – against all habit and comfort – moves the three children and their terrible grandmother into her own house.

We know what is good, but we don't do it. In *Good to a Fault*, Clara decides to give it a try, and then has to cope with the consequences: exhaustion, fury, hilarity, and unexpected love. But she must question her own motives. Is she acting out of true goodness, or out of guilt?

**Marina Endicott** was born in British Columbia. Her first novel, *Open Arms*, was nominated for the Amazon/Books In Canada First Novel award in 2002. She's had three plays produced and her long poem, *The Policeman's Wife, some letters*, was shortlisted for the CBC Literary Awards in 2006.

## So Brave, Young and Handsome

Leif Enger

**Nominated by:**

**Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, USA**

In 1915 Minnesota, Monte Becket—"a man fading, a disappointment of persons"—has lost his sense of purpose. His only success long behind him, Monte lives a simple life with his loving wife and whipsmart son. But when he befriends outlaw Glendon Hale, a new world of opportunity and experience presents itself.

Glendon has spent years in obscurity, but the guilt he harbors for abandoning his wife, Blue, over two decades ago, has finally lured him from hiding. As the modern age marches swiftly forward, Glendon aims to travel back into his past—heading to California to seek Blue's forgiveness..

**Leif Enger** was raised in Osakis, Minnesota, and worked as a reporter and producer for Minnesota Public Radio for nearly twenty years. He lives on a farm in Minnesota with his wife and two sons.

## The Plague of Doves

Louise Erdrich

**Nominated by:**

*University Library of Bern, Switzerland*  
*Zentralbibliothek Zurich, Switzerland*  
*Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA*  
*Hartford Public Library, USA*  
*Houston Public Library, USA*

*The Plague of Doves* centers on a compelling mystery. The unsolved murder of a farm family haunts the small, white, off-reservation town of Pluto, North Dakota. The vengeance exacted for this crime and the subsequent distortions of truth transform the lives of Ojibwe living on the nearby reservation and shape the passions of both communities for the next generation. The descendants of Ojibwe and white intermarry, their lives intertwine; only the youngest generation, of mixed blood, remains unaware of the role the past continues to play in their lives.

Erdrich's narrators unravel the stories of different generations and families in this corner of North Dakota. Bound by love, torn by history, the two communities' collective stories finally come together in a wrenching truth revealed in the novel's final pages.

**Louise Erdrich** is the author of twelve novels as well as volumes of poetry, children's books, and a memoir of early motherhood. She lives in Minnesota with her daughters.

## Blonde Roots

Bernardine Evaristo

**Nominated by:**

*London's Public Libraries, England*

What if the history of the transatlantic slave trade had been reversed and Africans had enslaved Europeans? How would that have changed the ways that people justified their inhuman behavior? And how would it inform our cultural attitudes and the insidious racism that still lingers today?

We see this tragicomic world turned upside down through the eyes of Doris, an Englishwoman who is kidnapped one day while playing with her sisters. She is subsequently enslaved and taken to the New World, as well as to the imperial center of Great Ambossa. She movingly recounts experiences of tremendous hardship and dreams of the people she's left behind, all while journeying toward an escape into freedom.

**Bernardine Evaristo** was born in London to a Nigerian father and an English mother. Her first novel, *Lara*, won the EMMA (Ethnic Multicultural Media Awards) Best Book Award in 1999. A former Poet in Residence at the Museum of London, she won an Arts Council of Britain Writers' Award in 2000.

## The Lost Daughter

Elena Ferrante

Translated from the original Italian by Ann Goldstein

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, Florence, Italy*

Leda is a middle-aged divorcée devoted to her work as an English teacher and to her two children. When her daughters leave home to be with their father in Canada, Leda anticipates a period of loneliness and longing. Instead, she feels liberated, as if her life has become lighter, easier. She decides to take a holiday in Italy, but after a few days of calm and quiet, things begin to take a menacing turn. When a small, seemingly meaningless, event occurs, Leda is overwhelmed by memories of the difficult and unconventional choices she made as a mother and their consequences. The seemingly serene tale of a woman's pleasant rediscovery of herself soon becomes the story of a ferocious confrontation with an unsettled past.

**Elena Ferrante** was born in Naples. Though one of Italy's most important and acclaimed contemporary authors, she has successfully shunned public attention and kept her whereabouts and her true identity concealed.

## Strange Music

Laura Fish

**Nominated by:**

*Newcastle City Libraries, England*

Richly complex, *Strange Music* recreates the lives of three women — the poet Elizabeth Barrett in England, and in Jamaica on the Barrett estate, there is Kaydia, a maidservant and Sheba, an indentured labourer. All three women struggle to escape a tragic but ever-present past.

**Laura Fish** was born in London in 1964, of Caribbean parents. She holds the RCUK Academic Fellowship in Creative Writing at Newcastle University. Her first novel, *Flight of Black Swans*, was published in 1995.

## Wanting

Richard Flanagan

**Nominated by:**

*The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia*  
*The State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia*

It is 1839. A young Aboriginal girl, Mathinna, is running through the long wet grass to get help for her dying father, an Aboriginal chieftain. Twenty years later, the most famous novelist of the day, Charles Dickens, realises he is about to abandon his wife, risk his name and forever after be altered because of his inability any longer to control his intense passion.

Connecting the two events are the most celebrated explorer of the age, Sir John Franklin — then governor of Van Diemen's Land — and his wife, Lady Jane, who adopt Mathinna as an experiment.

Inspired by historical events, *Wanting* is a novel about art, love, and the way in which life is finally determined never by reason, but only ever by wanting.

**Richard Flanagan** was born in Tasmania in 1961. Regarded internationally as one of Australia's pre-eminent novelists, his novels include *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* and *Gould's Book of Fish*. He lives in Hobart with his family.

## The Shadow Year

Jeffrey Ford

**Nominated by:**

*Chicago Public Library, USA*

In New York's Long Island, in the unpredictable decade of the 1960s, a young boy laments the approaching close of summer. Some of his free time is spent in the basement of the family's modest home, where he and his brother, Jim, have created Botch Town, a cardboard replica of their community, complete with clay figurines representing friends and neighbors. And so the time passes — until the night a prowler is reported stalking the neighborhood.

Appointing themselves ad hoc investigators, the brothers set out to aid the police. But ensuing events add a shadowy cast to the boys' night games: disappearances, deaths, and spectral sightings capped off by the arrival of a sinister man in a long white car trawling the neighborhood after dark. Strangest of all is the inescapable fact that every one of these troubling occurrences seems to correspond directly to the changes little sister Mary has made to the miniature town in the basement.

**Jeffrey Ford's** acclaimed and award-winning novels include *The Physiognomy*, *The Portrait of Mrs. Charbuque*, and *The Girl in the Glass*. He is a professor of writing and early American literature at a college in New Jersey.

## There Are Ants in My Sugar

Annica Foxcroft

**Nominated by:**

*City of Johannesburg Library and Information Services, South Africa*

*There Are Ants in My Sugar* is the warm hearted, engaging and humorous account of Annica Foxcroft's exile to a pondokkie in the country, when unexpected financial hardship overtook her family during the 1960s.

Annica is a sassy young woman to whom the city chic of Johannesburg and the dire warnings of her decorator friend Harry still cling like French perfume, as she is dumped unceremoniously on a plot in the dark, landing on a pile of blackjacks. She has to adapt and

make a home for her baby daughter and aging husband amidst boreholes, long drops and Aga stoves.

**Annica Foxcroft** was born in colonial Durban, lived for a few years in the Transvaal countryside, and since then has lived and worked in the melting pot of Johannesburg.

## The Cellist of Sarajevo

Steven Galloway

**Nominated by:**

*Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium*  
*Tampere City Library, Finland*  
*Gateshead Library & Arts, England*  
*Toronto Public Library, Canada*  
*Halifax Public Library, Canada*  
*Winnipeg Public Library, Canada*  
*Ottawa Public Library, Canada*  
*Provincial Information & Library Resources Board, Gander, Canada*

One day a shell lands in a bread line and kills twenty-two people as the cellist watches from a window in his flat. He vows to sit in the hollow where the mortar fell and play Albinoni's Adagio once a day for each of the twenty-two victims. The Adagio had been re-created from a fragment after the only extant score was firebombed in the Dresden Music Library, but the fact that it had been rebuilt by a different composer into something new and worthwhile gives the cellist hope.

This brilliant novel with universal resonance tells the story of three people trying to survive in a city rife with the extreme fear of desperate times, and of the sorrowing cellist who plays undaunted in their midst.

**Steven Galloway** is the author of three novels: *Finnie Walsh*, *Ascension*, and *The Cellist of Sarajevo*. His work has been translated into over twenty languages. He lives with his wife and two daughters in New Westminster, BC.

## Blackout

Luiz Alfredo Garcia-Roza

Translated from the original Portuguese by Benjamin Moser

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília, Brazil*

With no witnesses and no weapon, it seems like the case of the one-legged homeless man found lying in a cul-de-sac on São João Hill, shot through the heart, will remain unsolved. But Chief Inspector Espinosa can't shake thoughts of the hapless victim—who would target a penniless man who posed no physical threat? Focusing his incisive mind and his usual unhurried inquiry on a group of wealthy guests who dined at a nearby mansion on the rainy night of the murder, Espinosa interrogates his way into the lives of his suspects, exposing lies, cover-ups—and another murder.

**Luiz Alfredo Garcia-Roza**, a distinguished academic, is a bestselling novelist who lives in Rio de Janeiro. The Espinosa mysteries have been translated into five languages. This is the sixth book in the series.

## The Spare Room

Helen Garner

**Nominated by:**

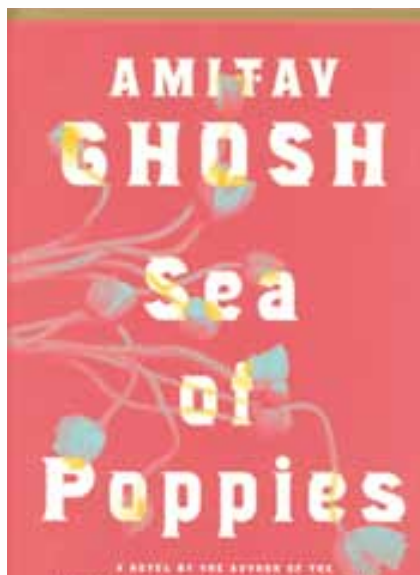
*The National Library of Australia, Canberra*  
*The State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia*  
*Tweebonnen Openbare Bibliotheek, Leuven, Belgium*

Helen has little idea what lies ahead when she offers her spare room to an old friend of fifteen years. Nicola has arrived in the city for treatment for cancer. Sceptical of the medical establishment, placing all her faith in an alternative health centre, Nicola is determined to find her own way to deal with her illness, regardless of the advice that Helen can offer. In the weeks that follow, Nicola's battle against her cancer will turn not only her own life upside down but also those of everyone around her.

Born in 1942, **Helen Garner** lives in Australia. She has written both fiction and non-fiction, and also journalism and her writing has been nominated for and won many awards. *The Spare Room* is her first novel for fifteen years.

## Sea of Poppies

Amitav Ghosh



**Nominated by:**

*India International Centre Library, New Delhi, India*  
*Cape Town Central Library, South Africa*  
*Boston Public Library, USA*

At the heart of this epic saga, set just before the Opium Wars, is an old slaving-ship, *The Ibis*. Its destiny is a tumultuous voyage across the Indian Ocean, its crew a motley array of sailors and stowaways, coolies and convicts. In a time of colonial upheaval, fate has thrown together a truly diverse cast of Indians and Westerners, from a bankrupt Raja to a widowed villager, from an evangelical English opium trader to a mulatto American freedman.

As their old family ties are washed away they, like their historical counterparts, come to view themselves as jahaj-bhais or ship-brothers. An unlikely dynasty is born, which will span

continents, races and generations. The vast sweep of this historical adventure spans the lush poppy fields of the Ganges, the rolling high seas, and the exotic backstreets of China.

**Amitav Ghosh** was born in Calcutta in 1956. His first novel, *The Circle of Reason*, was published in 1986. He divides his time between Calcutta, Goa and Brooklyn

## Learning to Fly

Shehani Gomes

**Nominated by:**

*Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka*

Do you remember when you first fell in love? Do you remember the unrestrained joys and plummeting sorrows of adolescence? Do you remember the confrontation that each new day brought? Enter Kala's life. This sensitive novel about first love and heartbreak is a complex, bitter-sweet coming of age story that looks at the modern urban Sri Lankan youth in a new and fresh way. Shehani Gomes navigates us through the perilous and uncharted waters of the young adult, in her exceptionally perceptive debut novel that takes an honest look at a young woman's challenges and triumphs in life.

**Shehani Gomes** is an investment analyst by profession and lives and works in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She writes poetry for leisure and believes chocolate is a perfect substitute for all regular meals. *Learning to Fly* is her first novel.

## The Story of a Marriage

Andrew Sean Greer

**Nominated by:**

*Waterford County Library, Ireland*  
*New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA*

It is 1953 and Pearlie, a dutiful housewife, finds herself living in the Sunset district of San Francisco, caring not only for her husband's fragile health but also for her son, who is afflicted with polio. Then, one Saturday morning, a stranger appears on her doorstep and everything changes. All the certainties by which Pearlie has lived are thrown into doubt as she struggles to understand the world around her, most especially her husband, Holland.

*The Story of a Marriage* portrays three people trapped by the confines of their era, and the desperate measures they are prepared to take to escape it.

**Andrew Sean Greer** is the author of *The Confessions of Max Tivoli*, the story collection *How It Was for Me*, and the novel *The Path of Minor Planets*. He lives in San Francisco, California.

## The Jewish Messiah

Arnon Grunberg

Translated from the original  
Dutch by Sam Garrett

**Nominated by:**

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

Arnon Grunberg is one of the most subtly outrageous provocateurs in world literature. *The Jewish Messiah*, which chronicles the evolution of one Xavier Radek from malcontent grandson of a former SS officer, to Jewish convert, to co-translator of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* into Yiddish, to Israeli politician and Israel's most unlikely prime minister, is his most outrageous work yet. Taking on the most well-guarded pieties and taboos of our age, *The Jewish Messiah* is both a great love story and a grotesque farce that forces a profound reckoning with the limits of human guilt, cruelty, and suffering. It is without question Arnon Grunberg's masterpiece.

Arnon Grunberg was born in Amsterdam. He wrote his first novel, *Blue Mondays*, a European bestseller, at age twenty-three, and his work has been translated into twenty-one languages. He lives in New York.

## The Prince

Manu Gunasena

**Nominated by:**

*Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka*

*The Prince* is a story set in ancient India. The story of a young man, a Prince of the realm, who finds the monotony of life meaningless. Who, in the prime of youth, ensconced in the lap of luxury and dwelling in endless pleasures, renounces all to go in search of a mystic treasure. Who embarks upon an unknown path, on an unknown journey, in an unknown quest to find an unknown treasure. This is the story of his amazing search for the ultimate treasure: the Stoic Stone, the story of how he discovered it and how the omens showed him the way.

Manu Gunasena is a Barrister-at-Law of the Inner Temple, England and Wales. He was the Editor of the national English Sunday newspaper the *The Weekend* and the daily English newspaper the *The Sun* and the Editorial of Independent Newspapers Ltd, Sri Lanka.

## Cockroach

Rawi Hage

**Nominated by:**

*Ottawa Public Library, Canada*

*Cockroach* takes place during one month of a bitterly cold winter in Montreal's restless immigrant community, where a self-described "thief" has just tried but failed to commit suicide. Rescued against his will, the narrator

is obliged to attend sessions with a well-intentioned but naïve therapist. This sets the story in motion, leading us back to the narrator's violent childhood in a war-torn country, forward into his current life in the smoky émigré cafés where everyone has a tale, and out into the frozen night-time streets of Montreal, where the thief survives on the edge, imagining himself to be a cockroach invading the lives of the privileged, but willfully blind, citizens who surround him.

Rawi Hage was born in Beirut, Lebanon. His debut novel, *De Niro's Game* was a finalist for numerous awards and the winner of the 2008 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. He immigrated to Canada and lives in Montreal.

## Blackstrap Hawco: said to be about a Newfoundland family

Kenneth J. Harvey

**Nominated by:**

*St. John's Public Libraries, Newfoundland, Canada*

Named in a moment of anger, *Blackstrap Hawco* is heir to an island dominion picked over by its adoptive nation. From the arrivals of the indentured Irish to the Victorian drawing rooms of the English merchants, from the perilous seal hunt to the raucous iron ore mines, from a notorious disaster at sea to the relocation of outpost communities, the family legend might be all his people have left to live for. But as *Blackstrap Hawco* testifies, a story this haunting, this powerful, might just be enough.

An epic masterwork about Newfoundland's working class, *Blackstrap Hawco* spans more than a century in gorgeous and widely varied prose.

Kenneth J. Harvey's books are published in the US, the UK, Russia, Germany, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, France and Japan. His works have been nominated for national and international prizes. He lives with his family in a Newfoundland outpost.

## Ashes of the Amazon

Milton Hatoum

Translated from the original  
Portuguese by John Gledson

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília, Brazil*  
*Zentralbibliothek Zurich, Switzerland*

Mundo is a rebel – the embittered offshoot of a rich family, whose artistic vocation clashes with his father's dynastic plans. *Ashes of the Amazon* charts his determined flight from the fraught centre of his family's wealth – the Vila Amazonia plantation – through Rio de Janeiro, and then to the effervescent worlds of 1970s Berlin and London.

In *Ashes of the Amazon*, Hatoum takes to heart Flaubert's injunction to write 'the moral history of his generation', with extraordinary results.

This is a beautiful, mature and involving novel from one of the most important South American writers of his time.

Milton Hatoum was born in Manaus, Amazonas, and studied architecture in São Paulo and comparative literature in Paris. He is Professor of Literature at the Federal University of Amazonas and a visiting Professor of Latin American Literature at the University of California. He lives in São Paulo.

## This Part of the World

Samuel Hazo

**Nominated by:**

*Jafet Library – American University of Beirut, Lebanon*

Premier Caseres rules his country with a ruthlessness that puts him in the elite category of Trujillo, Mugabe, and Kim Jong Il. A potent orator with a martinet style of leadership, Caseres's ability to instil fear and reverence in his people has secured his place in power. However, the dictator's human frailties run as deep as his stoicism. He is plagued with a heart condition that keeps him popping "pills like pistachios" and a son and heir to his leadership who has a taste for fast cars and little else. Finally, his devotion to Magdalena, his mistress, threatens to disrupt his unchallenged autocracy.

Hazo writes with a steely clarity and sharp satirical edge, bringing to life his tragic subject and illuminating the fate of a nation.

Samuel Hazo's latest works include *A Flight to Elsewhere* and *The Song of the Horse* (poetry), *The Power of Less: Poetry and Public Speech* (essays), and the novel *Stills*, published by Syracuse University Press.

## Settlement

Christoph Hein

Translated from the original  
German by Philip Boehm

**Nominated by:**

*Stadtbibliothek Leipzig, Germany*

Provincial Guldenberg is still reeling from World War II when a flood of German refugees arrives from the east, Bernhard Haber's family among them. Life is hard enough—Bernhard's father has lost an arm and his carpenter's income. But added to this injury comes an accumulation of insults, as the upright town turns hostile toward the newcomers. After a string of mysterious losses—from the killing of the boy's dog to the unexplained death of his father—Bernhard is set on extracting revenge.

Rich with psychological insight, Christoph Hein's acclaimed novel tells Bernhard's story across nearly fifty years, chronicling his remarkable rise from victimized outsider to Guldenberg's most prominent burgher.

Christoph Hein, novelist, playwright, and essayist, is one of Europe's most respected literary and political voices. He is the author

of the widely translated and internationally acclaimed novels *Willenbrock*, *The Distant Lover*, and *The Tango Player*.

## The Believers

Zoë Heller

**Nominated by:**

*The National Library of Estonia, Tallinn*

A comic, tragic, supremely entertaining novel about one family's struggles with the consolations of faith and the trials of doubt.

When New York radical lawyer, Joel Litvinoff falls gravely ill, his wife Audrey uncovers a secret that forces her to re-examine both her belief in him and her commitment to their forty-year marriage. Meanwhile, her ne'er-do-well adopted son, Lenny, is back on drugs again and her daughters, Karla and Rosa, are grappling with their own catastrophes and dilemmas. Rosa, a disillusioned revolutionary socialist, has found herself increasingly beguiled by the world of Orthodox Judaism; Karla, an unhappily married hospital social worker and union activist, falls into a tumultuous affair with a conservative shop-keeper...

**Zoë Heller** was born in London. She is the author of *Everything You Know*, and *Notes on a Scandal*, which was made into a feature film starring Cate Blanchett and Judi Dench. She lives in New York.

## The Lazarus Project

Aleksandar Hemon

**Nominated by:**

*Veria Central Public Library, Greece*

*Rijeka City Library, Croatia*

*Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli/Biblioteca*

*Nazionale "Vitt. Em. 111" Napoli, Italy*

*Cork City Libraries, Ireland*

*Carnegie Library of Pittsburg, USA*

*Free Library of Philadelphia, USA*

On 2 March 1908, nineteen-year-old Lazarus Averbuch, a Russian Jewish immigrant to Chicago, tried to deliver a letter to the home of the city's Chief of Police, George Shippy. Instead of taking the letter, Shippy shot Averbuch twice, killing him. Lazarus Averbuch, Shippy claimed, was an anarchist assassin and an agent of foreign operatives who wanted to bring the United States to its knees.

In the twenty-first century, Brik, a young Bosnian writer in Chicago, becomes obsessed with finding out the truth of what happened to Lazarus and sets off on a journey through a history of pogroms and poverty and a present of gangsters and prostitutes.

**Aleksandar Hemon** is the author of *The Question of Bruno*, and *Nowhere Man*. Born in Sarajevo, Hemon arrived in Chicago in 1992, began writing in English in 1995, and his work now appears regularly in the New Yorker, Esquire, Granta, Paris Review and Best American Short Stories.

## The Northern Clemency

Philip Hensher

**Nominated by:**

*Sheffield Libraries, Archives &*

*Information Services, England*

*Liverpool Libraries & Information*

*Services, England*

*Serres Central Public Library, Greece*

*Free Library of Philadelphia, USA*

*Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand*

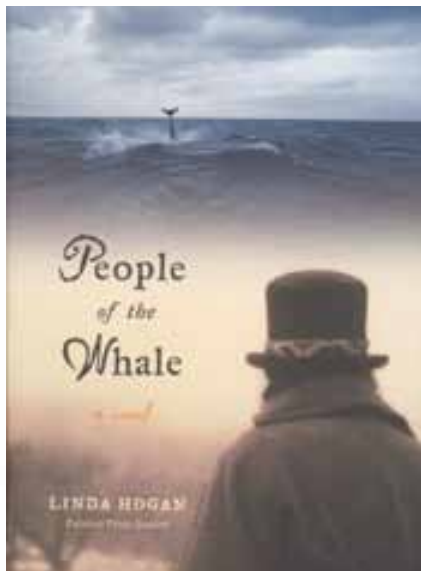
*The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide*

Beginning in 1974 and ending with the fading of Thatcher's government in 1996, *The Northern Clemency* is Philip Hensher's epic portrait of an entire era, a novel concerned with the lives of ordinary people and history on the move. Set in Sheffield, it charts the relationship between two families: Malcolm and Katherine Glover and their three children; and their neighbours, the Sellers family, newly arrived from London. England is changing: from a manufacturing – and industrial-based economy into a new world of shops, restaurants and service industries, a shift particularly marked in the North with the miners' strike of 1984, which has a dramatic impact on both families. *The Northern Clemency* shows Philip Hensher to be one of the great chroniclers of English life.

**Philip Hensher's** novels include *Kitchen Venom*, which won the Somerset Maugham Award, *Other Lulus* and *The Mulberry Empire*. *The Northern Clemency* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2008. He lives in South London.

## People of the Whale

Linda Hogan



**Nominated by:**

*Hawaii State Public Library*

*System, Honolulu, USA*

Raised in a remote seaside village, Thomas Witka just marries Ruth, his beloved since infancy. But an ill-fated decision to fight in Vietnam changes his life forever. Cut off from his Native American community, he fathers a child with another woman. When he returns home a hero, he finds his tribe in conflict over the decision to hunt a whale, both a symbol of

spirituality and rebirth and a means of survival. In the end, he reconciles his two existences, only to see tragedy befall the son he left behind.

**Linda Hogan** was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for her novel *Mean Spirit*. Her other honors include an American Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She lives in Tishomingo, Oklahoma.

## Show Me the Sky

Nicholas Hogg

**Nominated by:**

*Liverpool Libraries & Information*

*Services, England*

Time is running out for James Dent. On the trail of missing singer Billy K, his team has exhausted every lead. The investigation has cost Dent his marriage, his home and possibly his job. All he has left is his instinct, and a copy of *Show Me the Sky* – the book Billy was reading when he vanished. With only the clothes on his back, Dent himself disappears. He believes he can solve this case alone. He can have little idea where this journey will take him. From the love letter of a motorcyclist stranded in central Australia, to the back streets and brothels of Mombasa, Dent begins to wonder if he is trailing a man, a ghost or himself.

**Nicholas Hogg** was born in Leicester in 1974. In 2005 he won the New Writing Ventures prize for fiction. *Show Me The Sky* is his first novel.

## The Invention of Everything Else

Samantha Hunt

**Nominated by:**

*Rijeka City Library, Croatia*

Louisa is an imaginative and curious chambermaid who, while cleaning rooms at the New Yorker Hotel, stumbles across a man living permanently in room 3327, which he has transformed into a scientific laboratory. Brought together by a shared interest in the pigeons that nest in the hotel, Louisa discovers that the mysterious guest is Nikola Tesla, one of the most brilliant – and most neglected – inventors of the twentieth century.

*The Invention of Everything Else* charts the relationship of the girl and the genius during the last week of Tesla's life, when sinister forces are closing in on him. The novel movingly tells the life story of this extraordinary man and also recounts the heartbreak and redemption of one ordinary family.

**Samantha Hunt's** fiction has been published in the New Yorker and McSweeney's and she has written one previous novel. She currently teaches writing and bookmaking at the Pratt Institute.

## The Sorrows of an American

Siri Hustvedt

**Nominated by:**

*Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium*  
*Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain*  
*Oslo Public Libraries, Norway*

After their father's funeral, Erik and Inga Davidsen find a cryptic letter from an unknown woman among his papers, dating from his adolescence in rural Minnesota during the Depression. Returning to his psychiatric practice in New York, Erik sets about reading his father's memoir, hoping to discover the man he never fully understood.

At the same time, another woman enters Erik's lonely, divorced life – a beautiful Jamaican who moves into his garden flat with her small daughter. As Erik gets drawn into the cat-and-mouse tactics of someone who appears to be stalking her, he finds out that his sister Inga is also being threatened, by a journalist in possession of a wounding secret from her past.

**Siri Hustvedt** is the author of novels, *The Blindfold*, *The Enchantment of Lily Dahl* and *What I Loved*. She has also published poetry and essays. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, Paul Auster.

## Arctic Chill

Arnaldur Indriðason

Translated from the original Icelandic  
by Victoria Cribb & Bernard Scudder

**Nominated by:**

*Reykjavik City Library, Iceland*

On an icy January day the Reykjavik police are called to a block of flats where a body has been found in the garden: a young, dark-skinned boy, frozen to the ground in a pool of his own blood. The discovery of a stab wound in his stomach extinguishes any hope that this was a tragic accident.

Erlendur and his team embark on their investigation with little to go on but the news that the boy's Thai half-brother is missing. Is he implicated, or simply afraid for his own life? The investigation soon unearths tensions simmering beneath the surface of Iceland's outwardly liberal, multicultural society. Soon, facts are emerging from the snow-filled darkness that are more chilling even than the Arctic night.

**Arnaldur Indriðason** was born in 1961, the son of an Icelandic author. He won the Nordic Crime Novel Award for *Tainted Blood* and, in the following year, for its sequel, *Silence of the Grave*.

## Gems in the Cracks

Rowley Jeffrey

**Nominated by:**

*Grenada Library, St. George, Grenada*

Liz would give her life for her teenage son, who seems to keep plunging deeper into trouble. Through their struggles against poverty, racism,

social inertia, and the intrigues of the Mafia, the writer exposes the imperfections of our society. Tension rises as mysteries of senseless murders unfold, and the kid seems to stumble blindfolded among the cracks of our society.

Maggie Fitzgerald, a judge, sees a rough gem in this and other troubled youths, and implores us to look closer. But his perils seem insurmountable, and the rising tension is tempered by romance, as it climaxes in a heated murder trial, where it seems that both society and the law are also on trial.

Born in St. Patrick, Grenada, **Rowley Jeffrey** is a writer of short stories and poetry. He is currently writing his second novel, *Who Sinned?* An intriguing tale of faith served up in his usual recipe of romance, mystery, and murder.

## Beijing Coma

Ma Jian

Translated from the original  
Chinese by Flora Drew

**Nominated by:**

*Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna im Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego, Łódź, Poland*  
*Stockholm Public Library, Sweden*  
*Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand*  
*Milwaukee Public Library, USA*

Dai Wei is a medical student and a pro-democracy protestor in Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Caught by a soldier's bullet, he falls into a deep coma. When the hospital authorities discover he is an activist, his mother is forced to take him home. She allows pharmacists access to Dai Wei's body and sells his urine and his left kidney to fund special treatment from Master Yao, a member of the outlawed Falun Gong sect.

Dai Wei has been in a coma for almost a decade when a sparrow flies through the window and lands on his naked chest; it is a sign that Dai Wei must emerge from his dry cocoon. But China has also undergone a massive transformation in the time that he has been absent.

**Ma Jian** left Beijing for Hong Kong in 1987. After the hand-over of Hong Kong he moved to Germany and then London, where he now lives. He is the author of *Red Dust*, a travel book, and *The Noodle Maker*.

## Swimmers' Rope

Stephanie Johnson

**Nominated by:**

*Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand*

Friends since childhood, Norman and Lyn grow up as next-door neighbours in Herne Bay at the turn of the twentieth century. When Lyn is sent to manage a central North Island timber mill at the tender age of fourteen, Norman goes to visit him. There he is forced to confront a mysterious adult truth. Later, in their twenties, the two men commit an act so appalling that it ruptures their friendship for many years.

In 1972 the elderly Norman meets a young woman in a pub. Burdened by the memory he must at long last assuage, he presses Bronwyn into becoming his unwilling confessor.

**Stephanie Johnson** is the author of two collections of poetry, three collections of short stories and seven novels: Many of her novels have been published in Australia, America and the United Kingdom.

## The Outcast

Sadie Jones

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Metropolitană București, Romania*  
*Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany*  
*London's Public Libraries, England*

1957, and Lewis Aldridge is travelling back to his home in the South of England. He is straight out of jail and nineteen years old.

A decade earlier, his father's homecoming casts a different shape. The war is over and Gilbert has recently been demobbed. He reverts easily to suburban life – cocktails at six thirty, church on Sundays – but his wife and young son resist the stuffy routine. Lewis and his mother escape to the woods for picnics, just as they did in wartime days. Nobody is surprised that Gilbert's wife counters convention, but they are all shocked when, after one of their jaunts, Lewis comes back without her.

As menacing as it is beautiful, *The Outcast* is a devastating portrait of small-town hypocrisy from an astonishing new voice.

**Sadie Jones** lives in London. *The Outcast* is her first novel.

## Mudbound

Hillary Jordan

**Nominated by:**

*Denver Public Library, USA*

It is 1946, and city-bred Laura McAllan is trying to raise her children on her husband's Mississippi Delta farm—a place she finds foreign and frightening. Two young men return from the war to work the land. Jamie McAllan, Laura's brother-in-law, is everything her husband is not—charming, handsome, and haunted by his memories of combat. Ronsel Jackson, eldest son of the black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm, has come home with the shine of a war hero. But no matter his bravery in defense of his country, he is still considered less than a man in the Jim Crow South. It is the unlikely friendship of these brothers-in-arms that drives this powerful novel to its inexorable conclusion.

**Hillary Jordan** grew up in Texas and Oklahoma. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *StoryQuarterly* and the *Carolina Quarterly*. *Mudbound* is her first novel. She lives in Tivoli, New York.

## Waltenberg

Hédi Kaddour

Translated from the original  
French by David Coward

**Nominated by:**

*Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France*

The hotel Waldhaus in the Swiss mountain village of *Waltenberg* is central to the action of this epic novel, which takes place in Europe from the First World War to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

*Waltenberg* tells the story of the love between Hans Kappler, a German novelist, and Lena Hotspur, an American singer; of the friendship between Hans and Max Goffard, a French journalist. It is also a spy story. Michael Lilstein, a leader of the underground German communist party before World War II and an Auschwitz survivor, becomes responsible for the East German spy network. In 1956 in *Waltenberg*, Lilstein recruits as his mole a young Frenchman whose identity remains mysterious.

Born in 1945, **Hédi Kaddour** has a Doctorate in Modern Literature. He is the author of three collections of poetry and of several translations (from German, English and Arabic). *Waltenberg* is his first novel

## The Red Coat

Emmanuel Kariuki

**Nominated by:**

*Kenya National Library Service, Nairobi*

When Kahiu's house is burgled, little does he know that the incident would lead to a trail of events. With his friend, Opiyo, Kahiu would stop at nothing to see the burglars apprehended and brought to book. The ensuing pursuit exposes both young men to spine-chilling episodes, rib ticking encounters and heart-soothing incidents.

**Emmanuel Kariuki** was born in Muranga, Kenya, and earned a B.A. degree from the University of Nairobi in 1981. He has worked for Voice Kenya (now Kenya Broadcasting corporation), the East African Publishing house, and was a lecturer in Graphics design at the Buru Buru institute of Fine arts in Nairobi. He is the author of a number of books for young readers.

## Kieron Smith, Boy

James Kelman

**Nominated by:**

*Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway*  
*Glasgow Libraries, Information*  
*& Learning, Scotland*

Rejected by his brother and largely ignored by his parents, Kieron Smith finds comfort in the home of his much-loved grandparents. But when his family move to a new housing scheme on the outskirts of the city, a world away from the close community of the tenements, Kieron struggles to find a way to adapt to his new life.

In his brilliantly evoked post-war Glasgow, Kelman depicts the city during a period of profound social change, with flourishing sectarianism, yet high hopes for the future. In his central character, he creates a universal portrayal of the unique obsessions of childhood. Warm, funny, with searing insight and astonishing empathy, in Kieron Smith, James Kelman has created an unforgettable boy.

**James Kelman** was born in Glasgow in 1946. His books include *You Have to be Careful in the Land of the Free* and *How Late it Was, How Late*, which won the 1994 Booker Prize.

## A Time to Every Purpose Under Heaven

Karl Ove Knausgaard

Translated from the original  
Norwegian by James Anderson

**Nominated by:**

*Oslo Public Libraries, Norway*

It's the 1560s and Antinous Bellori, a boy of 11, is exploring the woods above his home in the north Italian mountains when night falls. Suddenly fearful, the boy wanders blindly, sensing danger at every turn, until he comes, unseen, upon a clearing in which there stand two glowing beings, one carrying a spear, the other a flaming torch...

This event is decisive in Bellori's life, just as encounters with angels have been for others throughout history. Beginning in the Garden of Eden and soaring right through to the present day, we revisit key moments when men have come face to face with these intermediaries of the divine. Alighting upon these dramatic scenes Knausgaard's imagination takes flight: the result is a dazzling display of storytelling at its majestic, spellbinding best.

**Karl Ove Knausgaard** was born in Norway in 1968 and made his debut with *Out of This World. A Time To Every Purpose Under Heaven* is his second novel. It is his first to be translated into English.

## Salvage

Jane F. Kotapish

**Nominated by:**

*Gateshead Libraries & Arts, England*

I named my dead sister Nancy and talked to her in the privacy of my closet for eleven years.

After being involved in a violent and traumatic incident on the New York City subway, the thirty-something narrator of *Salvage* flees her hectic Manhattan lifestyle and moves into a rambling house in rural Virginia. In the quiet of her own company, trying to put her life back together, she finds herself increasingly haunted by her painful and isolated childhood, the ghost of her never-born sister, and her still-difficult relationship with her mother. Can she prevent the past from overtaking her present?

**Jane F. Kotapish** is a modern dancer and freelance writer based in Brooklyn, where she lives with her husband and daughter. *Salvage* is her first novel.

## Blossoms of the Savannah

Henry R Ole Kulet

**Nominated by:**

*Kenya National Library Service, Nairobi*

*Blossoms of the Savannah* is a riveting account of two sisters, Taiyo and Resian, who are not only on the verge of womanhood, but are torn between their personal ambitions and the humiliating duty to the Nasila tradition.

Their relocation to their rural home heralds a cultural alienation born of their refusal to succumb to Female Genital Mutilation and early marriages.

In pursuit of the delicate and elusive social-economic and cultural balance in Nasila, Ole Kaelo, the girls' father is ensnared by a corrupt hell-bent extortionist, Oloisudori Lobnkiyaa. To extricate himself, Ole Kaelo sends his daughters into a flat-spin labyrinth from which they have to struggle to wriggle out. In this spell bound narrative, the author captures the reader's imagination as he traces the girls' excruciatingly painful steps to victory.

**Henry R Ole Kulet** born 1946, is a Kenyan novelist.

## World Made by Hand

James Howard Kunstler

**Nominated by:**

*LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, USA*

For the townspeople of Union Grove, New York, the future is nothing like they thought it would be. After the catastrophes converged—the end of oil, climate change, resource wars, and global pandemics—they are doing whatever they can to get by. Transportation is slow and dangerous, so food is grown locally at great expense of time and energy, and the outside world is largely unknown. With the cost of oil skyrocketing—and with it the price of food—Americans are increasingly aware of the possibility of the long emergency. Kunstler's extraordinary book is a novel full of love and loss, violence and power, sex and drugs, depression and desperation, and hope.

**James Howard Kunstler's** novel *The Long Emergency* sold over 100,000 copies and cemented Kunstler's place as an important voice in the debate on America's future. He lives in Saratoga Springs in upstate New York.

## Something to Tell You

Hanif Kureishi

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain*

*Something to Tell You* follows the fortunes of a successful psychoanalyst who, as the book opens, is reflecting on his coming-of-age in

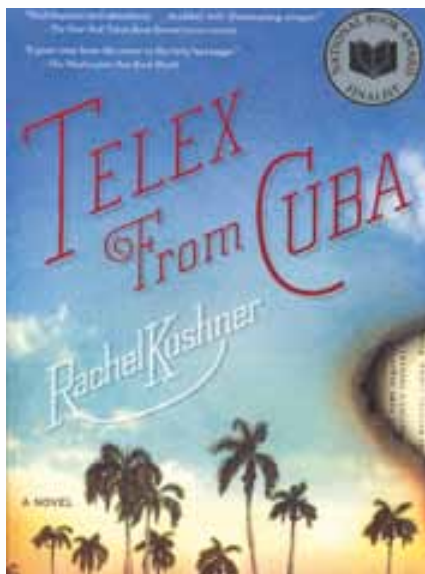
1970s suburbia, on his first love (a relationship that continues to haunt him), and on a brutal act of violence from which he can never escape.

The book brilliantly captures that decade's sense of sexual freedom, and the exhilaration of the drug culture – as well as the violent struggle between the forces of labour and capital. The events of those years provide a vivid backdrop to the drama that develops thirty years later as the characters face an encroaching middle age with the traumas of their youth still unresolved.

**Hanif Kureishi** is the author of novels (including *The Buddha of Suburbia*, *The Black Album* and *Intimacy*), story collections, plays and screenplays. Among his other publications are the collection of essays and the memoir *My Ear at his Heart*.

## Telex from Cuba

Rachel Kushner



**Nominated by:**

**Regional Library of Karviná, Karviná-Mizerov, Czech Republic**

Set in the American community in Cuba during the years leading up to Castro's revolution, Rachel Kushner's first novel tells the story of the Americans who were driven out in 1958.

Young Everly Lederer and K. C. Stites come of age in Oriente Province, where the Americans tend their own fiefdom – three hundred thousand acres of United Fruit Company sugarcane that surround their gated enclave. When Fidel and Raúl Castro lead a revolt from the mountains above the cane plantation, torching the sugar and kidnapping a boat full of "yanqui" revellers, K.C. and Everly begin to discover the brutality that keeps the colony humming.

**Rachel Kushner's** debut novel, *Telex from Cuba*, was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2008. Her fiction and essays have appeared in many publications including the New York Times. She lives with her husband and son in Los Angeles.

## Murisa

Feri Lainšček

Translated from the original Slovenian by Erica Johnson Debeljak

**Nominated by:**

**Knjižnica Otona Župancica, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

On the eve of the second World War, Engineer Julian Spransky returns to his native Marska Sobota, occupied by the Yugoslav Army since 1919. His hometown is as ever dominated by the powerful Mura river, which took the lives of his parents, one by one. He follows his father's previous career in the Mura Waterworks, and in a futile effort to control the river, builds a magnificent bridge.

But events are happening over which Julian has no control, the approaching German army and his love for Zenaída, the wild child daughter of the insane Ivan Kozlov.

**Feri Lainšček** (born in Dolenci, Slovenia in 1959) has received many awards and prizes for his literary work, which includes novels, screenplays and a collection of fairytales.

## Little Monsters

Charles Lambert

**Nominated by:**

**Stockholm Public Library, Sweden**

How do you recover from something like that? Carol never quite does. Sent to live with her aunt, who barely tolerates her presence, Carol is grief-stricken, and aware she's not wanted. Desperate for love, but unable to ask for it, she nonetheless finds it where she least expected. Her Uncle Joey is the only one to notice her when she's a teenager; years later, he's also the man with whom she builds a home and a life. But when Carol helps to rescue a young refugee from the sea, that life suddenly threatens to unravel.

*Little Monsters* is a novel of creation, redemption and obsession; it's also the story of what it's like to experience the unthinkable – and what happens next.

**Charles Lambert** was born in Lichfield, the United Kingdom, in 1953. Currently a university teacher, academic translator and freelance editor for international agencies, he now lives in Fondi, exactly halfway between Rome and Naples.

## Red Dog, Red Dog

Patrick Lane

**Nominated by:**

**Winnipeg Public Library, Canada**

An epic novel of unrequited dreams and forestalled lives, *Red Dog, Red Dog* is set in the mid-1950s, in a small town in the interior of B.C. The novel focuses on the Stark family, centring on brothers Eddy and Tom, who are bound together by family loyalty and inarticulate love.

There is Tom and Eddy's father, Elmer Stark, a violent man with a troubled past, and Lillian, who married as a girl to escape life on the farm with her widowed mother, and now retreats into her own isolation. Unrepentant, bitter, older brother Eddy speeds freely along, his desperate path fuelled by drugs and weapons, while Tom, a loner, attempts to conceal their secrets and protect what remains of the family.

**Patrick Lane** is the author of 21 books of poetry, and has received many awards for his writing. He lives near Victoria, British Columbia, with poet Lorna Crozier.

## The Lost Colours of the Chameleon

Mandla Langa

**Nominated by:**

**The Free State Provincial Library Service, Bloemfontein, South Africa**

*The Lost Colours of the Chameleon* is set on the fictitious island of Bangula in the Indian Ocean – an island populated by an indigenous community, mainly descendants of ancient Portuguese colonizers. The novel follows the story of the Colonel Gondo, a patriarch who is the father of the newly reformed nation of Bangula and his sons struggle for the succession following his death. This struggle for power is fuelled by the varying and personal motives of the three men, and reveals the fundamental divisions tearing apart the fragile nation. *The Lost Colours of the Chameleon* is a gripping and sophisticated satire of politics in the developing world.

**Mandla Langa** was born in Durban and grew up in KwaMashu Township. His published works include *Tenderness of Blood* (1987), *A Rainbow on a Paper Sky* (1989), *The Naked Song and Other Stories* (1997) and *The Memory of Stones* (2000).

## Lavinia

Ursula Le Guin

**Nominated by:**

**Chicago Public Library, USA**

In *The Aeneid*, Virgil's hero fights to claim the king's daughter, Lavinia, with whom he is destined to found an empire. Lavinia herself never speaks a word. Now, Ursula K. Le Guin gives Lavinia a voice in a novel that takes us to the half-wild world of ancient Italy, when Rome was a muddy village near seven hills.

Lavinia grows up knowing nothing but peace and freedom. Her mother wants her to marry handsome, ambitious Turnus. But omens and prophecies say she must marry a foreigner—that she will be the cause of a bitter war—and that her husband will not live long. When a fleet of Trojan ships sails up the Tiber, Lavinia decides to take her destiny into her own hands.

**Ursula K. Le Guin** is the author of numerous short stories, essays, volumes of poetry, books for children, and novels, for which she has received many awards. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

## The Given Day

Dennis Lehane

**Nominated by:**

*Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, USA*

Set in Boston at the end of the First World War, *The Given Day* tells the story of two families—one black, one white. Beat cop Danny Coughlin, the son of one of the city's most beloved and powerful police captains, joins a burgeoning union movement and the hunt for violent radicals. Luther Laurence, on the run after a deadly confrontation with a crime boss in Tulsa, works for the Coughlin family and tries desperately to find his way home to his pregnant wife.

Coursing through some of the pivotal events of the time—including the Spanish Influenza pandemic—and culminating in the Boston Police Strike of 1919, *The Given Day* explores the crippling violence and irrepressible exuberance of a country at war with itself.

**Dennis Lehane** was born and raised in Dorchester, Massachusetts. He has written eight novels, *A Drink Before the War*; *Darkness*; *Take My Hand*; *Sacred*; *Gone, Baby, Gone*; *Prayers for Rain*; *Mystic River*; *Shutter Island*; and *The Given Day*.

## The Voluptuous Delights of Peanut Butter and Jam

Lauren Liebenberg

**Nominated by:**

*City of Johannesburg Library & Information Services, South Africa*

Nyree and Cia live on a remote farm in the east of what was Rhodesia in the late 1970s. Beneath the dripping vines of the Vumba rainforest, and under the tutelage of their heretical grandfather, theirs is a seductive childhood laced with African paganism, mangled Catholicism and the lore of the Brothers Grimm. Their world extends as far as the big fence, erected to keep out the 'Terrs' whom their father is off fighting. The two girls know little beyond that until the arrival from the outside world of 'the bastard', their orphaned cousin Ronin, who is to poison their idyll forever.

**Lauren Liebenberg** was born in what was Rhodesia and spent her early childhood in the crucible of the civil war. She now lives in South Africa. She is married to an Englishman and has two young children.

## Deaf Sentence

David Lodge

**Nominated by:**

*Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn, Germany*  
*Stadtbibliothek Mainz, Germany*  
*M.I. Rudomino State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, Russia*  
*London's Public Libraries, England*  
*City of Johannesburg Library & Information Services, South Africa*

Funny and moving by turns, *Deaf Sentence* is a witty, original and absorbing account of one man's effort to come to terms with deafness, ageing and mortality, and the comedy and tragedy of human lives.

When the university merged his Department of English with Linguistics, Professor Desmond Bates took early retirement, but he is not enjoying it. He misses the routine of the academic year, his wife's late-flowering career goes from strength to strength, while the rejuvenation of her appearance makes him uneasily conscious of the age gap between them.

But these discontents are nothing compared to the affliction of hearing loss — a constant source of domestic friction and social embarrassment, leading Desmond into mistakes, misunderstandings and follies.

**David Lodge** is the author of ten previous novels, a trilogy of plays and a novella. He has also written stage plays, screenplays and numerous works of literary criticism. His books have been translated into twenty-five languages. He lives in Birmingham, UK.

## Molly Fox's Birthday

Deirdre Madden

**Nominated by:**

*Limerick City Library, Ireland*

Dublin. Midsummer. While absent in New York, the celebrated actor Molly Fox has loaned her house to a playwright friend, who is struggling to write a new work. Over the course of this, the longest day of the year, the playwright reflects upon her own life, Molly's, and that of their mutual friend Andrew, whom she has known since university.

Why does Molly never celebrate her own birthday, which falls upon this day? What does it mean to be a playwright or an actor? How have their relationships evolved over the course of many years?

*Molly Fox's Birthday* calls into question the ideas that we hold about who we are; and shows how the past informs the present in ways we might never have imagined.

**Deirdre Madden** is from Co. Antrim. Her novels include *The Birds of Innocent Wood*, *Nothing is Black*, *One by One in the Darkness* and *Authenticity*. She teaches at Trinity College, Dublin and is a member of the Irish Arts Academy, Aosdana.

## Human Love

Andrei Makine

Translated from the original

French by Geoffrey Strachan

**Nominated by:**

*Bibliothèque Municipale de Mullhouse, France*

Love for another person. Love for humanity as a whole. Are the two compatible or mutually exclusive?

Elias Almeida — a black revolutionary whose father was killed when Elias was still a child, and whose mother, to feed him, was forced to prostitute herself. Saved from death by a Catholic priest, Elias becomes a brilliant pupil, destined for greatness. But the memory of his parents turns him into an important cog in the worldwide revolutionary movement, sending him to Cuba and the Soviet Union to be trained for espionage and sabotage.

But what happens when a black revolutionary dedicated to bettering the world falls in love with a white woman, who wants only to live a peaceful, simple life?

**Andrei Makine** was born in Siberia, but sought asylum in France in 1987. With his fourth novel, *Le Testament Français*, he became the first author to win both of France's top literary prizes, the Prix Goncourt and Prix Médicis.

## The End of the Jews

Adam Mansbach

**Nominated by:**

*Regional Library of Karviná, Karviná-Mizerov, Czech Republic*

The ruthlessly engrossing and beautifully rendered story of the Brodskys, a family of artists who realize, too late, one elemental truth: Creation's necessary consequence is destruction.

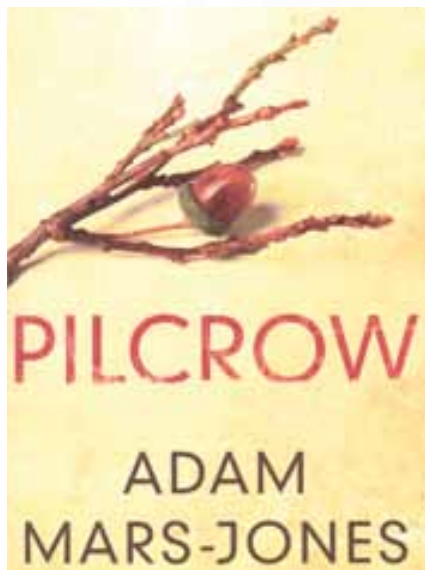
Each member of the mercurial clan in Adam Mansbach's bold new novel faces the impossible choice between the people they love and the art that sustains them. In the end, their stories converge and the survival of each requires the sacrifice of another.

*The End of the Jews* offers all the rewards of the traditional family epic, but Mansbach's irreverent wit and rich, kinetic prose shed new light on the genre.

**Adam Mansbach** is the author of the novels *Angry Black White Boy* and *Shackling Water*. He currently teaches at the San Francisco Art Institute.

## Pilcrow

Adam Mars-Jones



### Nominated by:

*Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway*

John Cromer is one of the most unusual heroes in all literature. If the minority is always right, John must be practically infallible. He experiences his 1950s childhood as a sort of ramshackle isolation tank, screening out sensation and adventure. Of course, as he points out, time passed slowly for everyone in the fifties, it wasn't just him, but it's hard to deny him the status of a special case.

From that point on, John's epic task becomes clear. He must climb out of the tank and make his way somehow on land. *Pilcrow* is an exploration of a rich but marginal life, an engrossing story with a vibrant supporting cast of ghouls, matrons and sexual adventurers.

Adam Mars-Jones's first book of stories, *Lantern Lecture*, was published in 1981 and won a Somerset Maugham Award. He has written two novels, *The Waters of Trust* and *Pilcrow*.

## The Lighted Rooms

Richard Mason

### Nominated by:

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

Joan McAllistair is about to embark on the 'Trip of a Lifetime' with her daughter Eloise; a journey back to her childhood South Africa and the family homestead.

For Eloise, the trip is partly a gift, partly a means of assuaging her guilt at moving her mother into a home. For Joan, the discovery of her grandmother's journal transports her to the troubled times of the Anglo-Boer war. Eloise, in the meantime, has gambled her business's entire fortune on a promise made by an old lover.

As their stories unravel, Joan takes increasing refuge in the landscape of her mind – in journeys to her own past. She also finds a friend in a lonely teenager who shares her fascination with history.

Richard Mason was born in South Africa in 1978 to activist parents who settled in England when he was ten. Brought up and educated here, he wrote his first novel, *The Drowning People*, whilst a nineteen-year-old at Oxford.

## We are now Beginning Our Descent

James Meek

### Nominated by:

*Glasgow Libraries, Information & Learning, Scotland*

At the dawn of the twenty-first century Adam Kellas finds himself hurled on a journey between continents and cultures. In his quest from the war-torn mountains of Afghanistan to the elegant dinner tables of north London and then the marshlands of the American South, only the memory of the beautiful, elusive Astrid offers the possibility of hope. With all the explosive drama of *The People's Act of Love*, this is a spellbinding tale of folly and the pursuit of love from one of today's most talented and visionary writers.

James Meek was born in London in 1962 and grew up in Dundee. *We Are Now Beginning Our Descent* is his fourth novel. His previous book, *The People's Act of Love* (2005), has been translated into more than twenty languages.

## The Same Earth

Kei Miller

### Nominated by:

*Jamaica Library Service, Bridgetown*

When her mother dies Imelda Richardson returns to Jamaica from England, where she was sent following the hurricane of 1974. When Tessa Walcott's panties are stolen, she and Imelda set up a Neighbourhood Watch. But they haven't counted on Pastor Braithwaite who denounces them in Church. The church-goers turn on Imelda, and when the river suddenly floods her home it is seen as a punishment from God. A Pentecostal fervour sweeps through the village of Watersgate, fuelled by Evangelist Millie. In her last great crusade, Miss Millie organises 'fire to burn their sins away', equipping the villagers with kerosene as they set about burning everything. Now they are marching on the gay man's house and only Imelda can save him.

Kei Miller was born in Jamaica. He divides his time between Jamaica and the UK. He has published several collections of poetry and a book of short stories, *The Fear of Stones*, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writer's prize for Best First Book.

## After River

Donna Milner

### Nominated by:

*Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands*

Growing up in the 1960s on a diary farm in the mountains of British Columbia, Natalie Ward knew little of the outside world, but she had her family. A family so close and loving that Natalie believed they were the envy of the nearby town of Atwood, particularly her eldest brother Boyer, whom Natalie held especially close to her heart. But Natalie began to question her family's idyllic existence the summer she turned fifteen.

The arrival of a soft-spoken stranger, an American draft-dodger called River, would test the morals and beliefs of the family and the community to breaking point. The series of events following that summer day would leave the relationships shattered and the Ward family changed forever.

Donna Milner lives in British Columbia with her husband. *After River* is her first novel.

## Sashenka

Simon Montefiore

### Nominated by:

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

Winter, St Petersburg, 1916. Russia on the brink of revolution. Outside the Smolny Institute for Noble Young Ladies, an English governess is waiting for her young charge to be released from school. But so are the Tsar's secret police...

Beautiful and headstrong, Sashenka Zeitlin is just sixteen. As her mother parties with Rasputin and her dissolute friends, Sashenka slips into the frozen night to play her part in a dangerous game of conspiracy and seduction.

Sashenka's story lies hidden for half a century, until a young historian goes deep into Stalin's private archives and uncovers a heart-breaking tale of passion and betrayal, savage cruelty and unexpected heroism.

Simon Montefiore's ancestors escaped from the Tsarist Empire at the turn of the century, and sparked his lifelong interest in Russia. His history books, *Catherine the Great & Potemkin* and *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar* have been acclaimed bestsellers in over 30 languages.

## The Language of Others

Clare Morrall

### Nominated by:

*Tampere City Library, Finland*

The world is a puzzling, sometimes frightening place for Jessica Fontaine. As a child she only finds contentment in playing the piano and wandering alone in the dilapidated country house where she grows up.

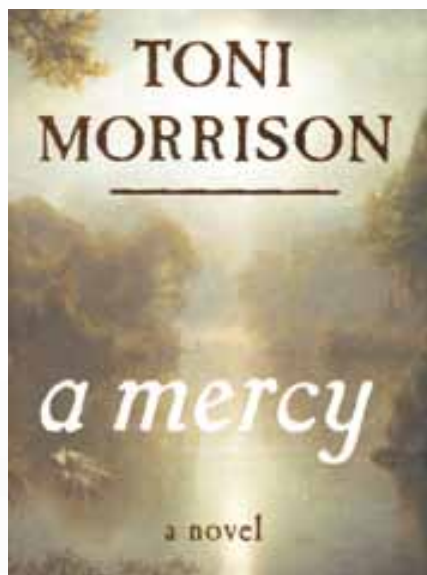
Twenty-five years later, divorced, with her son still living at home, Jessica remains preoccupied by the desire to create space around her. Then her volatile ex-husband reappears, the first of several surprises that transform Jessica's present and give her a startling new perspective on the past.

*The Language of Others* tells the story of a woman who spends much of her life feeling that she is out of step with the real world. Related with humour and compassion, it offers a fresh, illuminating insight into what it means to be normal.

**Clare Morrall's** first novel, *Astonishing Splashes of Colour*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Born in Exeter, she lives in Birmingham where she works as a music teacher, and has two grown-up children.

## A Mercy

Toni Morrison



### Nominated by:

*Jafet Library – American University of Beirut, Lebanon*  
*Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Portugal*  
*Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland*  
*National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown*  
*Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA*  
*Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA*  
*Richmond Public Library, USA*  
*Kansas City Public Library, USA*

In the 1680s the slave trade was still in its infancy. In the Americas, virulent religious and class divisions, prejudice and oppression were rife, providing the fertile soil in which slavery and race hatred were planted and took root.

Jacob is an Anglo-Dutch trader and adventurer, with a small holding in the harsh north. Despite his distaste for dealing in “flesh,” he takes a small slave girl in part payment for a bad debt. *A Mercy* reveals what lies beneath the surface of slavery. But at its heart it is the ambivalent, disturbing story of a mother who casts off her daughter in order to save her,

and of a daughter who may never exorcise that abandonment. Acts of mercy may have unforeseen consequences

**Toni Morrison** is the author of numerous works of fiction, non-fiction, and children's literature. She twice has received the Pulitzer Prize, as well as the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Nobel Prize for Literature. She lives in New York.

## The Forgotten Garden

Kate Morton

### Nominated by:

*The State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia*

A lost child . . .

On the eve of the First World War, a little girl is found abandoned on a ship to Australia.

A terrible secret . . . On the night of her twenty-first birthday, Nell Andrews learns a secret that will change her life forever. Decades later, she embarks upon a search for the truth that leads her to the windswept Cornish coast and the strange and beautiful Blackhurst Manor. On Nell's death, her granddaughter, Cassandra, comes into an unexpected inheritance. Cliff Cottage and its forgotten garden are notorious amongst the Cornish locals for the secrets they hold. It is here that Cassandra will finally uncover the truth about the family, and solve the century-old mystery of a little girl lost.

**Kate Morton** grew up in the mountains of southeast Queensland, Australia. She has degrees in Dramatic Art and English Literature. Kate lives with her husband and two young sons in Brisbane.

## Diablerie

Walter Mosley

### Nominated by:

*Chicago Public Library, USA*

Is there anyone who doesn't wonder now and again about how differently their life could have turned out? About a more interesting, more adventurous, more dangerous past they could have had?

Ben Dibbuk is married to the beautiful Mona, has a lovely daughter and a well-paid job – but nothing can prepare Ben for his chance meeting with Star, a mysterious woman, because Star claims to share a gruesome secret that Ben just can't remember.

Has Star spun a diabolical web of lies, or could it be that something terrible really did happen back in June 1979? Ben's grip on the truth begins to falter, and the line between what really happened and what might have done becomes harder and harder to negotiate . . .

**Walter Mosley** is the bestselling author of more than twenty-five critically acclaimed books, and his work has been translated into twenty-one languages. He lives in New York City.

## 1940

Jay Neugeboren

### Nominated by:

*Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA*

Set on the eve of America's entry into World War Two, 1940 is built around a fascinating historical figure, Dr. Eduard Bloch, an Austrian doctor who had been physician to Adolf Hitler and his family when Hitler was a boy. The historical Bloch was the only Jew for whom Hitler ever personally arranged departure from Europe, and he must now, living in the Bronx, face accusations over the special treatment he received from the Nazi dictator.

1940 focuses on Dr. Bloch's relationship with Elizabeth Rofman, a medical illustrator at Johns Hopkins Medical School, who has come to New York from Baltimore to visit her father, only to find that he has, mysteriously, disappeared.

**Jay Neugeboren** is the author of fourteen books, including two prize-winning novels (*The Stolen Jew*, *Before My Life Began*), two award-winning books of non-fiction, and three collections of award-winning stories. He lives in New York City.

## The Legend of Redenta Tiria

Salvatore Niffoi

Translated from the original Italian by Shaun Whiteside

### Nominated by:

*Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, Florence, Italy*

Very few of the inhabitants of the Sardinian town of Abacrastra survive to old age. By tradition they are cursed, fated to take their own lives with belts or ropes.

As town clerk Battista Graminzone has recorded Abacrastra's births, deaths and suicides for decades – now retired, he has sat down to tell these many stories of misfortune. But one day in late summer everything changes with the arrival of Redenta Tiria, a blind woman with bare feet and hair black and gleaming as raven's wings. Suddenly the fortunes of the townsfolk – and our narrator, who has been suffering from serious self-doubt and writers block – begin to change.

**Salvatore Niffoi** was born in the small town of Orani in Sardinia, where he still lives and works. *The Legend of Redenta Tiria*, the first of his novels to be published outside the island, won him great acclaim in Italy and has been translated into several languages.

## Sonata for Miriam

Linda Olsson

**Nominated by:**

**Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand**

A middle-aged man living on Auckland's Waiheke Island recalls vividly the sudden death of his daughter Miriam. Grief silenced Adam at the time, but now he decides to break the silence and explore the secrets of the past. The search becomes a tribute to his daughter, and takes Adam from New Zealand to Poland. There he finds the truth about his past, but now he must live with it. On an island off the rocky coast of Sweden he re-connects with the love of his life.

*Sonata for Miriam* is a heartbreaking tale of a man's search for his past, about the exposure of secrets that have been hidden for too long, but more than anything, it is a novel about love.

**Linda Olsson** was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1948. Her first novel *Let Me Sing You Gentle Songs* (2005) became an international success. She divides her time between Auckland, New Zealand and Sweden.

## Songs for the Missing

Stewart O'Nan

**Nominated by:**

**Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany**

It was the summer of her Chevette, of J.P. and letting her hair grow. It was also the summer when, without warning, popular high school student Kim Larsen disappeared from her small midwestern town. Her loving parents, her introverted sister, her friends and boyfriend must now do everything they can to find her. As desperate search parties give way to pleading television appearances, and private investigations yield to personal revelations, we see one town's intimate struggle to maintain hope and, finally, to live with the unknown.

Stewart O'Nan's new novel begins with the suspense and pacing of a thriller and soon deepens into an affecting family drama of loss.

**Stewart O'Nan** is the author of ten novels, including *Snow Angels* and *A Prayer for the Dying*, as well as works of nonfiction. He lives with his family in Avon, Connecticut.

## Netherland

Joseph O'Neill



**Nominated by:**

**Buchereien Wein, Austria**

**Cork City Libraries, Ireland**

**Waterford County Library, Ireland**

**Cape Town Central Library, South Africa**

**Richmond Public Library, USA**

**San José Public Library, USA**

**Hartford Public Library, USA**

In early 2006, Chuck Ramkissoon is found dead at the bottom of a New York canal.

In London, a Dutch banker hears the news, and remembers his unlikely friendship with Chuck and the off-kilter New York in which it flourished: the New York of 9/11, the powercut and the Iraq war. Those years were difficult for Hans – his English wife Rachel left with their son after the attack, as if that event revealed the cracks and silences in their marriage, and he spent two strange years in the Chelsea Hotel, passing stranger evenings with the eccentric residents. Lost in a country he'd regarded as his new home, Hans sought comfort in a most alien place – the thriving but almost invisible world of New York cricket...

**Joseph O'Neill** is an Irish barrister living in New York. He is the author of two previous novels, *This Is the Life* and *The Breezes*, as well as a memoir *Blood-Dark Track*. *Netherland* was longlisted for the 2008 Man Booker Prize.

## The Truth Commissioner

David Park

**Nominated by:**

**Limerick City Library, Ireland**

**Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada**

Henry Stanfield, the newly arrived Truth Commissioner in Northern Ireland, is troubled by his estrangement from his daughter, and struggling with the consequences of his infidelities. Francis Gilroy, veteran Republican and recently appointed government minister, risks losing what feels tantalisingly close to his grasp. In America, Danny and his partner plan for the arrival of their first child, happily

oblivious to what is about to pull him back to Belfast and rupture the life they have started together. Retired detective James Fenton, on his way to an orphanage in Romania with a van full of supplies, will soon be forced to confront what he has come to think of as his betrayal, years before, of a teenage boy.

**David Park** has written six books, most recently the hugely acclaimed *Swallowing the Sun*. In June 2008 he was awarded the American Ireland Fund Literary Award for his contribution to Irish literature. He lives in County Down, Northern Ireland.

## Novel about my Wife

Emily Perkins

**Nominated by:**

**Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand**

**Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand**

**Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand**

Tom Stone, skinnyish, fortyish, English, is madly in love with his wife Ann, an Australian in self-imposed exile in London. Pushing forty and expecting their first child, they buy their first, semi-derelect house in Hackney. They believe this is their settled future.

But Ann becomes convinced she's being shadowed by a local homeless man whose presence seems like a terrible omen. As her pregnancy progresses she spends hours cleaning and reorganising the house, and sits up all night talking with a new feverish passion. As their child grows, so too does Tom's sense of an impending, nameless threat. Dark, sensuous and utterly compelling, *Novel About My Wife* is a taut, chilling novel about the need for escape and the perils of forgetting.

**Emily Perkins** was born in 1970. She is the author of *Not Her Real Name*, a collection of short stories, and the novels *Leave Before You Go* and *The New Girl*. She lives in New Zealand.

## City of Refuge

Tom Piazza

**Nominated by:**

**Richland County Public Library,**

**Columbia, USA**

In the heat of late summer, two New Orleans families—one black and one white—confront a storm that will change the course of their lives.

But the long night of wind and rain is only the beginning—and when the leaves give way and the flood waters come, the fate of each family changes forever. Ranging from the lush neighborhoods of New Orleans to Texas, Missouri, Chicago, and beyond, *City of Refuge* is a modern masterpiece—a panoramic novel of family and community, trial and resilience, told with passion, wisdom, and a deep understanding of American life in our time.

**Tom Piazza** is the author of the post-Katrina classic *Why New Orleans Matters*, the novel *My Cold War*, and the short-story collection *Blues And Trouble*. He lives in New Orleans.

## Lush Life

Richard Price

### Nominated by:

Milwaukee Public Library, USA  
Boston Public Library, USA

*Lush Life* is a tale of two Lower East Sides: one a high-priced bohemia, the other a home to hardship, its residents pushed to the edges of their time-honored turf. When a cocky young hipster is shot to death by a street kid from the “other” lower east side, the crime ripples through every stratum of the city in this brilliant and kaleidoscopic portrait of the “new” New York.

**Richard Price** is the author of seven novels, including *Clockers* and *Freedomland*. He has received an Academy Award in literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and shared a 2007 Edgar® Award as a cowriter of HBO’s mini-series *The Wire*.

## God’s Own Country

Ross Raisin

### Nominated by:

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

Recently expelled from school, Sam Marsdyke spends his days working the sheep on his father’s farm and his nights up on the bleak Yorkshire moors, watching the steady invasion of daft ramblers and well-heeled ‘towns’, who are feverishly buying up the houses left empty by bankrupt farmers.

Then, one day, the fifteen year-old daughter of one of the smart new families catches his eye. Attracted by his gruff, sardonic wit and bruising turn of phrase, she strikes up an unlikely, touching friendship with him – one that will unhinge Sam’s obsessive imagination and eventually lead to his macabre undoing.

**Ross Raisin** was born in Yorkshire in 1979. His debut novel, *God’s Own Country*, was published to great critical acclaim in 2008 and Ross was shortlisted for 8 separate awards, winning the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award 2009.

## The Garland of Fate

Ruana Rajepakse

### Nominated by:

Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

The time is circa 520BC. The setting is ancient India from Benares to Takshila. Economic circumstances cause the two daughters of a small-time farmer to be assigned two very different roles: the elder being given in marriage to an ambitious, social climbing merchant, while the younger girl is sold as an apprentice to a wealthy city courtesan, whose role she eventually inherits. Meanwhile a young man from a good family falls in with a gang of bandits, is captured, and paraded through the streets of the city prior to execution. The younger of the two sisters decides to save him...

and thereby sets in motion a chain of events that dramatically impacts on the lives of all the characters.

**Ruana Rajepakse** is a lawyer by profession and the author of two professional books.

Her previous forays into creative writing were focused on the stage. *The Garland of Fate* is her first novel.

## Serena

Ron Rash

### Nominated by:

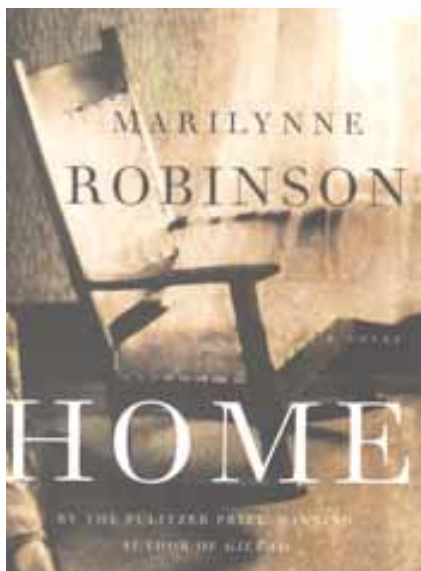
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, USA  
Jacksonville Public Library, USA

The year is 1929, and newlyweds George and Serena Pemberton travel from Boston to the North Carolina mountains where they plan to create a timber empire. Although George has already lived in the camp long enough to father an illegitimate child, Serena is new to the mountains—but she soon shows herself to be the equal of any man. When Serena learns that she will never bear a child, she sets out to murder the son George fathered without her. Mother and child begin a struggle for their lives, and when Serena suspects George is protecting his illegitimate family, the Pembertons’ intense, passionate marriage starts to unravel as the story moves toward its shocking reckoning.

**Ron Rash** is the author of three prize-winning novels: *One Foot in Eden*, *Saints at the River*, and *The World Made Straight*; three collections of poems; and two collections of stories.

## Home

Marilynne Robinson



### Nominated by:

Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada  
Lincoln City Libraries, USA  
Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA  
Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA

A brilliantly imagined retelling of the prodigal son parable, set at the same moment and in the same Iowa town as *Gilead*, Marilynne

Robinson’s Pulitzer winning novel. The Reverend Boughton’s hell-raising son, Jack, has come home after twenty years away. Artful and devious in his youth, now an alcoholic carrying two decades worth of secrets, he is perpetually at odds with his traditionalist father, though he remains his most beloved child. As Jack tries to make peace with his father, he begins to forge an intense bond with his sister Glory, herself returning home with a broken heart and turbulent past. *Home* is a luminous and healing book about families, family secrets, and faith.

**Marilynne Robinson** is the author of the novels *Gilead*, *Housekeeping*, and two books of nonfiction, *Mother Country* and *The Death of Adam*. She teaches at the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

## Cost

Roxana Robinson

### Nominated by:

Richmond Public Library, USA

When Julia Lambert settles into her idyllic Maine house for the summer, she plans to spend the time tending her fragile relationship with her father, a retired but demanding neurosurgeon, and her gentle mother, who is descending, unnoticed, into Alzheimers. But a shattering revelation intrudes: her youngest son Jack, far from being a charming maverick, has spiralled into heroin addiction.

In attempt to save him, Julia calls on all the members of her loose-knit family: her elderly parents; remarried ex-husband; detached sister; and combative eldest son. As heroin sweeps through each of their lives, with its impersonal and devastating energy, it drags the family into a world in which deceit, crime and fear are part of daily life.

**Roxana Robinson** is the author of three novels and three short-story collections. Four of her works have been named Notable Books of the Year by The New York Times. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harpers Magazine* and *Vogue*.

## Hotel Crystal

Olivier Rolin

Translated from the original French by Jane Kuntz

### Nominated by:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France

At some Parisian lost-and-found, a mysterious manuscript scribbled onto stray bits of hotel stationary and postcards and stuffed into an abandoned briefcase, comes into the hands of an “editor,” who claims to faithfully transcribe and assemble the random texts. On the face of it, these consist of fastidious descriptions of a series of hotel rooms in cities around the globe, but their world-weary writer, a certain “Olivier Rolin,” is also involved in a number of highly improbable international networks, populated by unsavory thugs and Mata Haris in distress.

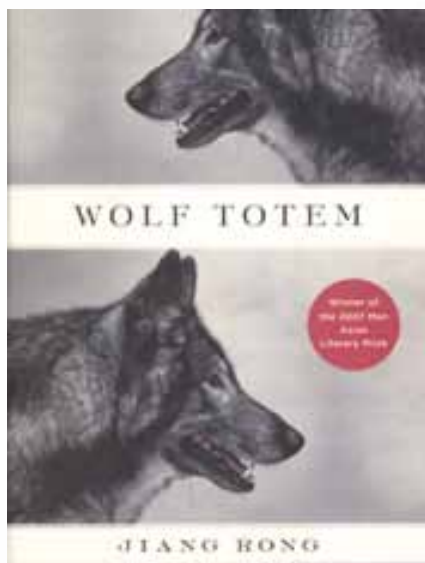
Author Olivier Rolin has dipped into his extensive travel notebooks to create this highly inventive novel that spoofs, the decaying international espionage scene, the literary author publicity tour, and official French culture.

**Olivier Rolin** was born in Boulogne-Billancourt, France in 1947. He won the Prix Femina for his novel *Port-Sudan*, while his *Tigre en Papier* was nominated for the 2003 Goncourt Prize.

## Wolf Totem

Jiang Rong

Translated from the original Chinese by Howard Goldblatt



**Nominated by:**  
*Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland*

Published under a pen name, *Wolf Totem* was a phenomenon in China, breaking all sales records there and earning the distinction of being the second most read book after Mao's little red book. *Wolf Totem* is set in 1960s China, on the eve of the Cultural Revolution.

Searching for spirituality, Beijing intellectual Chen Zhen travels to the pristine grasslands of Inner Mongolia to live among the nomadic Mongols—a proud, brave, and ancient race of people who coexist in perfect harmony with their unspeakably beautiful but cruel natural surroundings.

Part period epic, part fable for modern days, it is a stinging social commentary on the dangers of China's over accelerated economic growth as well as a fascinating immersion into the heart of Chinese culture.

**Jiang Rong** was born in Jiangsu in 1946. His education cut short by events in China, the twenty-one-year-old Jiang volunteered to work in Inner Mongolia's East Ujimqin Banner in 1967. *Wolf Totem* is a fictional account of life in the 1970s that draws on Jiang's personal experience.

## The Armies

Evelio Rosero

Translated from the original Spanish by Anne McLean

**Nominated by:**  
*Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, Bogota, Colombia*

In the town of San Jose in the remote mountains of Colombia, Ismael, a retired teacher, spends his mornings gathering oranges in the sunshine and spying on his neighbour as she sunbathes naked in her garden. It is a languid existence, pierced only by his wife's scolding; which induces in him the furtive guild of an ageing voyeur.

Ismael returns from an early morning walk one day and cannot find his wife. The old man is fearful, for soon more people begin to go missing, and gradually bursts of gunfire can be heard in the distance. Sensing war drawing near, most of the villagers make their escape but Ismael decides to stay, becoming an unwilling witness to the senseless violence steadily sweeping through his country.

**Evelio Rosero** is the author of seven novels and two collections of short stories, as well as books for children and young adults. *The Armies* won the Tusquets International Novel Prize in Guadalajara, Mexico.

## Indignation

Philip Roth

**Nominated by:**  
*Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium*  
*Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany*  
*Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn, Germany*  
*Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany*  
*Bibliotegues de Barcelona, Spain*  
*Cleveland Public Library, USA*

It is 1951 in America. A studious, law-abiding, intense youngster from Newark, New Jersey, is beginning his sophomore year on the pastoral, conservative campus of Ohio's Winesburg College. And why is he not at the local college in Newark where he originally enrolled? Because his father seems to have gone mad – mad with fear and apprehension of the dangers of adult life, the dangers he sees in every corner for his beloved boy.

His father's fear arises from love and pride, but it produces too much anger in Marcus for him to endure living with his parents any longer. He leaves them and, far from Newark, in the Midwestern College, has to find his way amid the customs and constrictions of another American world.

**Philip Roth** has written 29 books and received numerous awards for his work including America's four major literary awards in succession: the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN/Faulkner Award, the National Book Award, and the Pulitzer Prize in fiction.

## An Atlas of Impossible Longing

Anuradha Roy

**Nominated by:**  
*India International Centre Library, New Delhi*

On the outskirts of a small town in Bengal, a family live in solitude. Here, swathed in silence, a widower struggles with the feeling for an unmarried cousin while his motherless daughter Bakul runs wild with Mukunda, an orphan of unknown caste adopted by the family. Confined at the top of the house, the matriarch goes slowly mad, while her husband tends his glorious garden.

As Mukunda and Bakul grow, their intense closeness matures into something else and Mukunda is banished to Calcutta. Although he prospers in the turbulent years after Partition, he knows that he must return.

This is a love story, as intricate as it is enchanting, about two people who find each other when abandoned by everyone else.

**Anuradha Roy** has been a journalist and is now an editor at Permanent Black, an independent academic press. She has won the Outlook-Picador Non-Fiction Prize and her writing has appeared in various anthologies.

## The Enchantress of Florence

Salman Rushdie

**Nominated by:**  
*Kansas City Public Library, USA*

A tall, yellow-haired, young European traveller calling himself "Mogor dell'Amore," the Mughal of Love, arrives at the court of the Emperor Akbar, lord of the great Mughal empire, with a tale to tell that begins to obsess the imperial capital, a tale about a mysterious woman, a great beauty believed to possess powers of enchantment and sorcery, and her impossible journey to the far-off city of Florence.

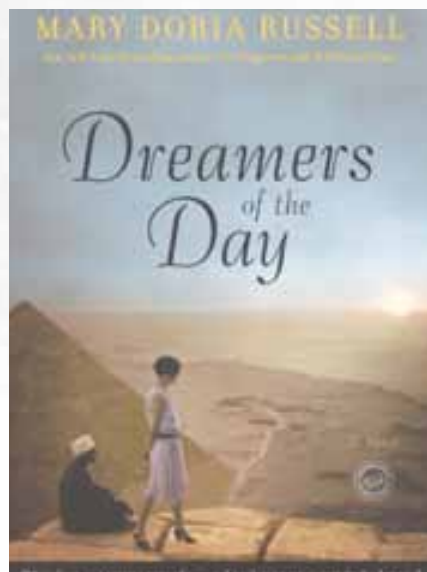
*The Enchantress of Florence* is the story of a woman attempting to command her own destiny in a man's world. It is the story of two cities, unknown to each other, at the height of their powers—the hedonistic Mughal capital, and the equally sensual city of Florence during the High Renaissance

Vivid, gripping, irreverent, bawdy, profoundly moving, and completely absorbing.

**Salman Rushdie** is the author of nine previous novels: including *Midnight's Children*, which was awarded the Booker Prize in 1981 and, in 1993, was judged to be the "Booker of Bookers," the best novel to have won that prize in its first twenty-five years.

## Dreamers of the Day

Mary Doria Russell



**Nominated by:**  
Seattle Public Library, USA

Agnes Shanklin, a forty-year-old schoolteacher from Ohio, has come into a modest inheritance that allows her to take the trip of a lifetime to Egypt and the Holy Land. Arriving at the Semiramis Hotel just as the 1921 Cairo Peace Conference convenes, she is freed for the first time from her mother's withering influence and finds herself being wooed by a handsome, mysterious German. At the same time, Agnes – with her plainspoken American opinions – is drawn into the company of Winston Churchill, T. E. Lawrence, and Lady Gertrude Bell, who will, in the space of a few days, redraw the world map to create the modern Middle East. As they change history, Agnes too will find her own life transformed forever.

**Mary Doria Russell** is the author of *The Sparrow*, *Children of God* and *A Thread of Grace*. Her novels have won nine national and international literary awards, including the Arthur C. Clarke Award and the American Library Association Readers Choice Award.

## Death With Interruptions

José Saramago

Translated from the original Portuguese by Margaret Jull Costa

**Nominated by:**  
Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA

On the first day of the new year, no one dies. This of course causes consternation among politicians, religious leaders, morticians, and doctors. Among the general public there is celebration—flags are hung out on balconies, people dance in the streets. They have achieved the great goal of humanity: eternal life. Then reality hits home—families are left to care for the permanently dying, life-insurance policies become meaningless, and funeral parlors are reduced to arranging burials for pets.

Death sits in her chilly apartment, where she lives alone with scythe and filing cabinets, and contemplates her experiment: What if no one ever died again? What if she, death with a small d, became human and were to fall in love?

**José Saramago** is one of the most acclaimed writers in the world today. He is the author of numerous novels, including *All the Names*, *Blindness*, and *The Cave*. In 1998 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

## New Lives: The Youth of Enrico Turmer in Letters and Prose

Ingo Schulze

Translated from the original German by John E. Woods

**Nominated by:**  
Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany  
Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn, Germany  
Helsinki City Library, Finland  
Katona József County Library, Kecskemét, Hungary

East Germany, January 1990. Enrico Türmer, man of the theatre, secret novelist, turns his back on art and signs on to work at a newly started newspaper. Freed from the compulsion to describe the world, he plunges into everyday life. Under the guidance of his Mephisto, the ever-present Clemens von Barrista, the former aesthete suddenly develops worldly ambitions even he didn't know he had.

This upheaval in our hero's life, mirrored in the vaster upheaval gripping Germany itself after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the birth pangs of a reunified nation, is captured in the letters Enrico writes to the three people he loves most: his sister, Vera; his childhood friend Johann; and Nicoletta, the unattainable woman of his dreams.

**Ingo Schulze** was born in Dresden in 1962. His first book, *33 Moments of Happiness*, won two German literary awards, the prestigious Alfred Döblin Prize and the Ernst Willner Prize for Literature. He lives in Berlin.

## Falling

Anne Simpson

**Nominated by:**  
Halifax Public Libraries, Canada

On a late summer day along the shores of Nova Scotia, a young woman makes a mistake that will claim her life, while at the other end of the beach her brother, Damian, is unaware that she is drowning.

A year after the accident, Damian and his mother, Ingrid, travel to Niagara Falls to scatter Lisa's ashes and to visit Ingrid's estranged brother. But old wounds and new misunderstandings soon collide.

In startling, luminous language, Anne Simpson captures both the natural beauty and tawdry eccentricity of Niagara Falls, while evoking the elemental bonds that tie us to the ones we love.

By turns uncompromising and heartbreakingly tender, *Falling* is a riveting story of ordinary people poised on the knife-edge of grief and hope.

**Anne Simpson** is the author of three books of poetry, *Light Falls Through You*, *Loop* and *Quick*. Her first novel, *Canterbury Beach*, was shortlisted for the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award.

## Chef

Jaspreet Singh

**Nominated by:**  
Calgary Public Library, Canada

*Chef* is a hypnotic novel that tells the story of the India-Pakistan conflict from the point of view of an apprentice chef who is posted to the base of the Siachen Glacier, the coldest battlefield in the world at 20,000 feet.

It is 2006, and President Bush has travelled to India to sign the controversial nuclear deal. Kirpal, a Sikh former military chef with a newly diagnosed brain tumour, is on his way from Delhi to Kashmir, returning after a fourteen year absence to cook his last official meal at the General's residence. During the long train and bus journey, Kirpal looks back over his days of culinary apprenticeship, as well as at the painfully tangled history of India and Pakistan.

**Jaspreet Singh's** debut fiction collection, *Seventeen Tomatoes*, won the 2004 McAuslan First Book Prize and has been translated into Spanish and Punjabi. *Chef*, his first novel, won the Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction, and was a finalist for several other awards. He lives in Canada.

## American Wife

Curtis Sittenfeld

**Nominated by:**  
The National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown

A kind, bookish, only child born in the 1940s, Alice Lindgren has no idea that she will one day end up in the White House, married to the president. More than a decade later, when the charismatic son of a powerful Republican family sweeps her off her feet, she is surprised to find herself admitted into a world of privilege. And when her husband unexpectedly becomes governor and then president, she discovers that she is married to a man she both loves and fundamentally disagrees with, that her private beliefs increasingly run against her public persona. As her husband's presidency enters its second term, Alice must confront contradictions years in the making and face questions nearly impossible to answer.

**Curtis Sittenfeld** is the author of *The Man of My Dreams* and *Prep*, which was chosen by The New York Times as one of the Ten Best Books of 2005. Her books have been translated into twenty-five languages.

## Rainforest Tears: A Borneo Story

Paul Leslie Smith

### Nominated by:

*The National Library of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur*

Borneo, 1937: Geoffrey Portas arrives to work in the oilfields of Sarawak. Life in this sultry sanctuary of colonial languor exceeds all expectations.

Then, life is torn asunder as Japanese bombs rain down across the Pacific. Asian attitudes change as the avaricious, compassionless minority sense the loosening of their colonial shackles. Conscripted into Britain's Special Operations Executive, Portas sets about fighting a merciless enemy.

Set in the heart of Borneo's magnificent millennial rainforest, a rolling adventure unfolds from Churchill's War Cabinet Rooms to Japan's Imperial Palace as brutality rains down on a guileless people whose hopes for freedom come to focus on a man who fights to save them, his oilfields and the woman he loves.

**Paul Leslie Smith** is a British expatriate engineer who has spent the last seventeen years working in Malaysia, the first four of which were in Miri, Sarawak's oil town.

## Child 44

Tom Rob Smith

### Nominated by:

*The Municipal Library of Prague, Czech Republic  
Stadtbibliothek Leipzig, Germany*

In Stalin's Soviet Union, crime does not exist. The mere suspicion of disloyalty to the State can send an innocent person to his execution.

Officer Leo Demidov, an idealistic war hero, believes he's building a perfect society. But after witnessing the interrogation of an innocent man, his loyalty begins to waver, and when ordered to investigate his own wife, Raisa, Leo is forced to choose where his heart truly lies.

Then the impossible happens. A murderer is on the loose, killing at will, and every belief Leo has ever held is shattered. Denounced by his enemies and exiled from home, with only Raisa by his side, he must risk everything to find a criminal that the State won't admit even exists.

**Tom Rob Smith** was born in 1979 to a Swedish mother and an English father and was brought up in London where he still lives. Tom has worked as a screenwriter for the past five years. *Child 44* is his first novel.

## How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone

Saša Stanišić

Translated from the original German by Anthea Bell

### Nominated by:

*Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany  
Stadtbibliothek Mainz, Germany  
Richland County Public Library, Columbia, USA*

Aleksandar knows the first chapter of Marx's *Das Kapital* by heart but spends most of his time playing football in the Bosnian town of Visegrad.

When his grandfather, a master storyteller, dies of the fastest heart attack in the world, Aleksandar promises to carry on the tradition. However when the shadow of war spreads to Visegrad, the world as he knows it stops.

Suddenly it is not important how heavy a spider's life weighs or why Marko's horse is related to Superman. Suddenly it is important to have the right name and to pretend that the little Muslim girl Asija is his sister. Then Aleksandar's parents decide to flee to Germany and he must leave his new friend behind.

**Saša Stanišić** was born 1978 in Visegrad in Bosnia-Herzegovina and lives in Germany. He has published short stories, audio plays and essays. *How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone* is his first novel and is being translated in to 24 languages.

## The Art of Racing in the Rain

Garth Stein

### Nominated by:

*University Library of Bern, Switzerland*

Enzo knows he is different from other dogs: a philosopher with a nearly human soul, he has educated himself by watching television extensively, and by listening very closely to the words of his master, Denny Swift, an up-and-coming race car driver.

On the eve of his death, Enzo takes stock of his life, recalling all that he and his family have been through. Having learned what it takes to be a compassionate and successful person, the wise canine can barely wait until his next lifetime, when he is sure he will return as a man.

A heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope.

**Garth Stein** is the author of *How Evan Broke His Head* and *Other Secrets* and *Raven Stole the Moon*. Published in 23 languages so far, *The Art of Racing in the Rain* has received a 2008 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Book Award.

## The Great Karoo

Fred Stenson

### Nominated by:

*Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada  
Edmonton Public Library, Canada  
Calgary Public Library, Canada*

*The Great Karoo* begins in 1899, as the British are trying to wrestle control of the riches of South Africa from the Boers, who have turned out to be more resilient than expected. The British have sent a call to arms to their colonies — and a great number of men from the Canadian prairies answer the call and join the Canadian Mounted Rifles: a unit in which they can use their own beloved horses. Frank Adams, a cowboy from Pincher Creek, joins the Rifles, along with other young men from the ranches and towns nearby — a mix of cowboys and mounted policeman, who, for whatever reason, feel a desire to fight for the Empire in this far-off war.

*The Great Karoo* is **Fred Stenson's** eighth book of fiction and fifteenth book overall. He has also written scripts for over 140 produced films and videos. He was raised on a farm in the Alberta foothills and lives in Cochrane, Alberta.

## Anthem

Neal Stephenson

### Nominated by:

*University Library of Bern, Switzerland*

Fraa Erasmus is a young avout living in the Concent of Saunt Edhar, a sanctuary for mathematicians, scientists, and philosophers, protected from the corrupting influences of the outside "saecular" world by ancient stone, honored traditions, and complex rituals. Now, in celebration of the week-long, once-in-a-decade rite of Apert, the fraas and suurs prepare to venture beyond the concent's gates—at the same time opening them wide to welcome the curious "extras" in. During his first Apert as a fraa, Erasmus eagerly anticipates reconnecting with the landmarks and family he hasn't seen since he was "collected." But before the week is out, both the existence he abandoned and the one he embraced will stand poised on the brink of cataclysmic change.

**Neal Stephenson** is the author of the three-volume historical epic *The Baroque Cycle* (*Quicksilver*, *The Confusion*, and *The System of the World*) and the novels *Cryptonomicon*, *The Diamond Age*, *Snow Crash* and *Zodiac*. He lives in Seattle, Washington.

## Reading by Lightning

Joan Thomas

### Nominated by:

*Saint John Free Public Library, New Brunswick, Canada  
Winnipeg Public Library, Canada*

Lily Piper and her family live in an ephemeral world, due to collapse any moment when the Lord comes to pluck his faithful from the drought-ravaged Prairie. Lily tries to be ready,

but she is restless, not the daughter she feels her mother wants. As she tries to invent herself, she conjures, too, an imagined past for her beloved father in an effort to understand him.

In her teens, Lily is sent to England to care for her grandmother. She falls in love with her adopted cousin, learns to experience life in all its ambiguity, and waits for the Second World War to start – until the news she has been dreading arrives, and she is called home to face a future she thought she had escaped.

**Joan Thomas** has been a regular book reviewer for the *Globe and Mail* for more than a decade. Her essays, stories, and articles have been published in numerous journals and magazines. She lives in Winnipeg.

## The Good Thief

Hannah Tinti

**Nominated by:**

*Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands*  
*Houston Public Library, USA*

Twelve year-old Ren is missing his left hand. How it was lost is a mystery that Ren has been trying to solve for his entire life, as well as who his parents are, and why he was abandoned as an infant at Saint Anthony's Orphanage.

But then a young man named Benjamin Nab appears, claiming to be Ren's long-lost brother, and his convincing tale of how Ren lost his hand and his parents, persuades the monks at the orphanage to release the boy. But is Benjamin really who he says he is? Ren is introduced to a vibrant world of hardscrabble adventure filled with outrageous scam artists, grave robbers, and petty thieves. If he stays, Ren becomes one of them. If he goes, he's lost once again.

**Hannah Tinti's** work has appeared in magazines and anthologies, including *The Best American Mystery Stories 2003*. Her short-story collection, *Animal Crackers*, has been sold in fifteen countries, and was a runner-up for the PEN/Hemingway Award.

## A Fraction of the Whole

Steve Toltz

**Nominated by:**

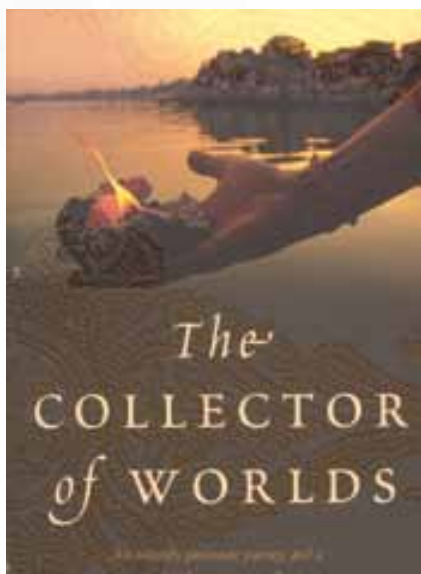
*The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide*  
*Free Library of Philadelphia, USA*

Martin Dean spent his entire life analyzing absolutely everything – from the benefits of suicide to the virtues of strip clubs and passing on his self-taught knowledge to his son, Jasper. But now that his father's dead, Jasper can fully reflect on the man who raised him in intellectual captivity. As he recollects the events that led to his father's demise, Jasper recounts a boyhood of outrageous schemes and shocking discoveries – about his criminal uncle, his mysteriously absent mother, and Martin's constant battle to leave his mark on the world. From the Australian bush to the cafes of Paris; from the highs of first love to the lows of failed ambition, this is an unforgettable, rollicking and deeply moving family story.

**Steve Toltz** was born in Sydney. He has lived in Sydney, Montreal, Vancouver, Barcelona and Paris, working primarily as a screenwriter and freelance writer. *A Fraction of the Whole* is his first book.

## The Collector of Worlds

Iliya Troyanov



Translated from the original German by William Hobson

**Nominated by:**

*Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany*  
*Stadtbibliothek Mainz, Germany*

*The Collector of Worlds* is a meditation on the extraordinary life of infamous explorer Sir Richard Burton. The first westerner to make the hajj to Mecca, he also discovered the source of the Nile with Speke. His translation of the *Arabian Nights* is one of the great moments in the encounter between Islam and the West, that scandalised his contemporaries with its salty eroticism.

Troyanov's novel does full justice to this great, controversial mediator between cultures. The book imagines his encounter with India as a young officer, and brings to life his trials and travels through the eyes of his Indian servant, the Sharif of Mecca and the former slave who guided Burton to the Nile.

**Iliya Troyanov** was born in Bulgaria. His family fled to West Germany to escape persecution. He is the author of *Mumbai to Mecca*, an account of his own pilgrimage to Islam's holiest site. His work has won major German prizes.

## The Slap

Christos Tsiolkas

**Nominated by:**

*The State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia*  
*The National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia*  
*The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia*  
*Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand*

At a suburban barbecue, a man slaps a child who is not his own.

This event has a shocking ricochet effect on a group of people, mostly friends, who are directly or indirectly influenced by the event.

*The Slap* is told from the points of view of eight people who were present at the barbecue. The slap and its consequences force them all to question their own families and the way they live, their expectations, beliefs and desires.

What unfolds is a powerful, haunting novel about love, sex and marriage, parenting and children, and the fury and intensity – all the passions and conflicting beliefs – that family can arouse.

**Christos Tsiolkas** is the author of the novels: *Loaded*, *The Jesus Man* and *Dead Europe*. He was awarded the Commonwealth Writer's Prize for the Best Book for South East Asia and the Pacific region for *The Slap*. He lives in Melbourne.

## A Blessed Child

Linn Ullmann

Translated from the original Norwegian by Sarah Death

**Nominated by:**

*Oslo Public Libraries, Norway*  
*Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturbus, Stavanger*

Isak Lovenstad is a pioneering obstetrician – and a charismatic womanizer. Every summer he gathers his three daughters by different wives to the windswept Baltic island of Hammarsö. Here Erika, Molly and Laura know what it is to be a family. Though alliances form and dissolve, none is comparable to Erika's bond with Ragnar, a rebellious misfit. But when they turn fourteen, and their relationship threatens to relegate Erika to Ragnar's outcast state, she turns away suddenly – a common teenage betrayal that nonetheless precipitates an incident of such senseless cruelty as to alter forever each sister's life. Twenty-five years later, returning to Hammarsö – the three women confront, finally, the spectre of that awful summer whose mark each has since carried.

**Linn Ullmann** is a graduate of New York University, where she studied English literature. A prominent literary critic, she also writes a column for Norway's leading morning newspaper. She lives in Oslo with her husband and their children.

## A Tuesday Like Today

Cecilia Urbina

Translated from the original Spanish by Clare E. Sullivan

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Daniel Cosío Villegas of El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico*

During an almost accidental vacation in the Cambodian jungle, two sisters, Camila and Márgara, meet another wanderer, David Masters-Iturbe. They discover that they all have something in common – their Mexican heritage. The three proceed to tell stories in order to alleviate the boredom of long nights in their jungle hotel. Employing a twist of magical realism and a dash of cowboy-movie bravado, they end up constructing an imagined past for the sisters' ancestors that may be more than a metaphor for their own reality. With the horrors of Pol Pot's legacy outside their windows and a suave young man full of his own mysteries at the piano, Camila and Márgara must determine whether they are in the hands of random chance or destiny.

**Cecilia Urbina** was born in Mexico City. She studied English and French literature at the Sorbonne and Cambridge University. She has published six novels as well as a book of essays on contemporary writers. She is married, and has three children.

## The Reunion

Simone van der Vlugt

Translated from the original Dutch by Michele Hutchinson

**Nominated by:**

*Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

When I read back through my diaries, I come across completely unknown events, as if another person was living them in my place. And yet a recollection can suddenly knife its way through my brain, a spark that lights up the grey matter of my memory for an instant.

When Isabel disappeared, Sabine was fifteen, isolated at school and tormented by her former friend. She remembers nothing from that hot May day. Nine years later, unbidden memories are returning to Sabine. What if she saw something the day of Isabel's disappearance? What if she could put a name to the shadowy figure in her dreams? And what if her knowledge was dangerous?

**Simone van der Vlugt** was born in 1966. She is a major bestseller of psychological thrillers in her native Holland where *The Reunion* has sold over 200,000 copies. She lives with her husband and two children in Alkmaar.

## This Night's Foul Work

Fred Vargas

Translated from the original French by Sian Reynolds

**Nominated by:**

*Buchereien Wein, Vienna, Austria*

On the outskirts of Paris, two men have been found with their throats cut. It is assumed that this is a drug-related incident, but Adamsberg is convinced that there is more to it. He calls in a favour from the pathologist Ariane Lagarde, someone he had come up against years before.

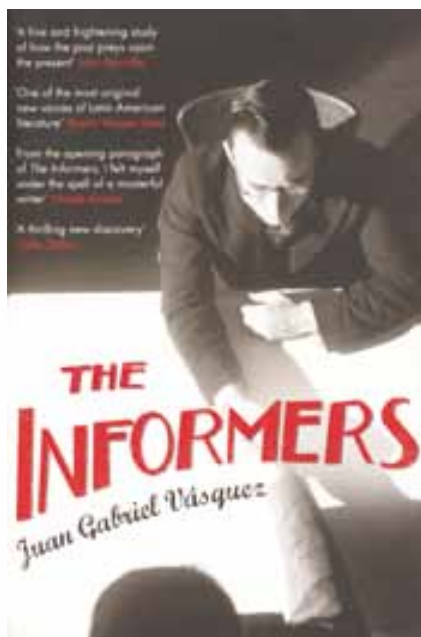
The trail leads Adamsberg to a cemetery, where a grave has been disturbed. Could this be the work of the elderly nurse – a serial killer caught by Adamsberg two years ago and recently escaped from prison?

Meanwhile a new lieutenant has been assigned to the team. There is something disquieting about him, not least when it emerges that he is from a neighbouring village known for its feuds with Adamsberg's childhood home.

**Fred Vargas** was born in Paris in 1957. As well as being a best-selling author in France, she is by training an historian and archaeologist.

## The Informers

Juan Gabriel Vásquez



Translated from the original Spanish by Anne Mc Lean

**Nominated by:**

*Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango, Bogota, Colombia*

When Gabriel Santoro publishes his first book, a biography of a Jewish family friend who fled Germany for Colombia shortly before World War Two, it never occurs to him that his father will write a devastating review in a national newspaper. Why does he attack him so viciously? Do the pages of his book unwittingly hide some dangerous secret? As Gabriel sets out to discover what lies behind his father's anger, he finds himself undertaking an

examination of the guilt and complicity at the heart of Colombian society, as one treacherous act perpetrated in those dark days returns with a vengeance half a century later.

**Juan Gabriel Vásquez** was born in Bogotá in 1973. His stories have appeared in anthologies in Germany, France, Spain, and Colombia. He was recently nominated as one of the Bogota 39, South America's most promising writers of the new generation.

## Beyond Suspicion

Tanguy Viel

Translated from the original French by Linda Coverdale

**Nominated by:**

*Bibliothèque Municipale de Nice, France*

A master of style and suspense, Viel explores moral dilemmas in poetic language rarely found in a crime novel. Called "a marvel of grace and precision" by the French press, *Beyond Suspicion* is a story of marriage, murder, and double-crosses.

Set in the south of France where the stakes are high and no one is beyond suspicion, this Hitchcockian tale presents siblings and lovers in constantly shifting configurations. The grace and precision of Viel's language are eloquently captured by prizewinning translator Linda Coverdale's lyrical prose.

Born in 1973, **Tanguy Viel** lives in Nantes. He is the author of *Black Note*, *Cinema*, and *The Absolute Perfection of Crime* (The New Press).

## Fanon

John Edgar Wideman

**Nominated by:**

*Hartford Public Library, USA*

A philosopher, psychiatrist, and political activist, Frantz Fanon was a fierce, acute critic of racism and oppression. Born of African descent in Martinique in 1925, Fanon fought in defense of France during World War II but later against France in Algeria's war for independence. His last book, *The Wretched of the Earth*, published in 1961, inspired leaders of diverse liberation movements: Steve Biko in South Africa, Che Guevara in Latin America, the Black Panthers in the States.

Wideman's novel is disguised as the project of a contemporary African American novelist, Thomas, who undertakes writing a life of Fanon. The result is an electrifying mix of perspectives, traveling from Manhattan to Paris to Algeria to Pittsburgh, part whodunit, part screenplay, part love story.

**John Edgar Wideman** was born in Washington, D.C. He is the first writer to win the PEN/Faulkner Award twice, in 1984 for *Sent for You Yesterday* and in 1990 for *Philadelphia Fire*.

## Breath

Tim Winton

### Nominated by:

*The State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia*

*The State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia*

*The National Library of Australia, Canberra*

*Dunedin Public Library, New Zealand*

*Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany*

*San Diego Public Library, USA*

More than once since then I've wondered whether the life-threatening high jinks that Loonie and I and Sando and Eva got up to in the years of my adolescence were anything more than a rebellion against the monotony of drawing breath.

*Breath* is a story about the wildness of youth – the lust for excitement and terror, the determination to be extraordinary, the wounds that heal and those that don't – and about learning to live with its passing.

In his first novel for seven years, Tim Winton has achieved a new level of mastery. *Breath* confirms him as one of the world's finest storytellers, a writer of novels that are at the same time simple and profound, relentlessly gripping and deeply moving.

**Tim Winton** has published twenty books for adults and children, and his work has been translated into twenty-five languages. He lives in Western Australia.

## Piano Angel

Esther Woolfson

### Nominated by:

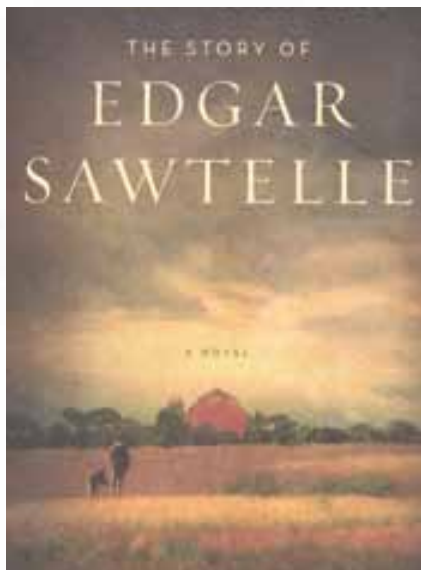
*Aberdeen Library & Information Services, Scotland*

Following the recurrence of a brain tumour, Mark Blum chooses to return to his native Glasgow to die, leaving behind in New York his architectural practice, bewildered friends and family. The processes of illness oblige Mark to re-assess his life and to re-establish contact with his brother Daniel. A legacy of bitterness and jealousy in the brothers' relationship stems from their friendship as teenagers with a young Hungarian refugee, Anci Goldman. Anci, now a widow, reads of Mark's death in a newspaper, and finds her feelings of loss inseparable from her own past and history. As Daniel comes to terms with the aftermath, practical and political, of Mark's death. Anci, encouraged by her sons, decides to contact him again after forty years of silence...

**Esther Woolfson** was born in Glasgow. Her short stories have been broadcast by the BBC and published in many collections. A non-fiction account of living with birds, *Corvus*, was published by Granta in August 2008.

## The Story of Edgar Sawtelle

David Wroblewski



### Nominated by:

*Denver Public Library, USA*

*Lincoln Library, Springfield, USA*

*Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA*

*Laramie County Library*

*System, Cheyenne, USA*

*San Diego Public Library, USA*

*San José Public Library, USA*

Born mute, Edgar Sawtelle leads an idyllic life with his parents on their farm in northern Wisconsin. For generations, the Sawtelles have raised and trained a fictional breed of dog whose companionship is epitomized by Almondine, Edgar's lifelong friend and ally. When Edgar's father dies suddenly, his uncle Claude insinuates himself into the life of the farm—and into Edgar's mother's affections.

Grief-stricken, Edgar tries to prove Claude played a role in his father's death, but his plan backfires—spectacularly. Forced to flee into the vast wilderness lying beyond the farm, Edgar comes of age in the wild, fighting for his survival and that of the dogs who follow him. But his need to face his father's murderer and his devotion to the Sawtelle dogs turn Edgar ever homeward.

**David Wroblewski** grew up in rural Wisconsin. He earned his master's degree from the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers and now lives in Colorado with his partner, the writer Kimberly McClintock, and their dog, Lola. *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* is his first novel.

## Sea of Many Returns

Arnold Zable

### Nominated by:

*The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia*

Xanthe is drawn to Ithaca, the birthplace of her father Manoli and her maternal grandfather Mentor. She is translating Mentor's manuscript, his story of leaving Ithaca and his life in Australia. Slowly she begins to understand her father's dark moods.

The lure of the sea. The promise of fortune. The island of Homer's *Odyssey* has beguiled readers for millennia. Master storyteller Arnold Zable takes us to modern-day Ithaca, to its mountains, its villages and its harbours, and into the houses of its people. *Sea of Many Returns* is a profound meditation on displacement, nostalgia and exile—a story that affirms the enduring resonance of the *Odyssey* for voyagers of all times.

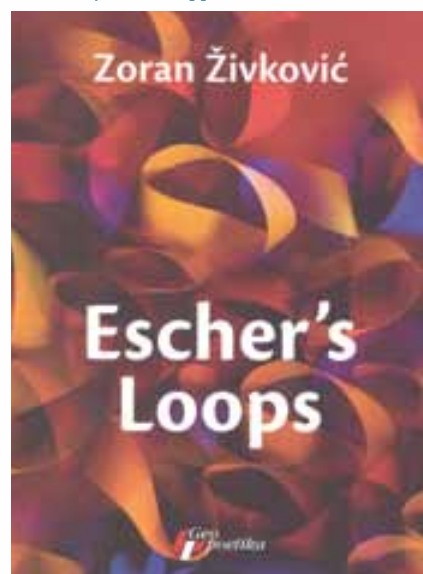
**Arnold Zable** is a widely published writer, storyteller and educator. His books include *Wanderers and Dreamer*, the award-winning *Jewels and Ashes*, *Café Scheherazade* and *The Fig Tree*. He lives in Melbourne with his wife and son.

## Escher's Loops

Zoran Živković

Translated from the original

Serbian by Alice Copple-Tošić



### Nominated by:

*Municipal Public Library Milutin Bojic, Belgrade, Serbia*

Once again Živković demonstrates the sheer power of storytelling in this complex cycle of interlocking narratives. Like one of Escher's drawings, the narrative threads lead one through a dizzying labyrinth of recurring themes, images and characters, all of whom are linked with elegant mathematical precision: God and suicide, food and poison, monks, athletes, soldiers and soccer players all take their places in the circle-dance. Absurdity, surreality and humour abound; death is the ultimate destiny, yet always the next story offers infinite ways of escape.

**Zoran Živković** was born in Belgrade, former Yugoslavia, in 1948. He is the author of seventeen works of fiction. He lives in Belgrade, Serbia, with his wife Mia, their twin sons Uroš and Andreja, and their four cats.

**Anne Fine** has written eight highly acclaimed novels for adults and is also one of Britain's most prestigious writers for children, having twice won both the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book Award. Among her other prizes are the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, two Smarties awards, and many other regional and foreign prizes. In 2003 Anne became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. As Children's Laureate she set up [www.myhomelibrary.org](http://www.myhomelibrary.org), offering free downloadable modern bookplates, and published three anthologies of classic and modern poetry for different age groups, called *A Shame to Miss 1, 2 & 3*. In 2003 she was awarded an OBE for her contribution to literature. Her work has been translated into thirty five languages. She has two daughters, and lives in County Durham. Her website is [www.annefine.co.uk](http://www.annefine.co.uk).



**Anatoly (Anthony) Kudryavitsky** was born in 1954 in Moscow of a Polish father and half-Irish mother. He lives in Co. Dublin and writes in both English and Russian. His novel titled *The Case-Book of Inspector Mylls* has been published by Zakharov Books (Moscow, Russia) in 2008. He has also published a novella, a number of short stories, seven books of his Russian poems and two collections of his English poems, as well as an anthology of contemporary Russian poetry in English translation. His poems and short stories have been translated into eleven languages. He was the recipient of a number of literary awards.

Photo by Peter Paul Liphinger



**Eve Patten** is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin, where she specialises in Irish writing and in the nineteenth and twentieth-century novel. She has published widely on contemporary British and Irish fiction and is a contributing author to the Cambridge Companion to the Irish Novel (2006). She regularly reviews new fiction for the Irish Times and is an essayist for the British Council's Contemporary Writers series ([www.contemporarywriters.com](http://www.contemporarywriters.com)). Her recent books include *That Island Never Found* (2007) and *Literatures of War* (2008), and she is author of a forthcoming study of the novelist Olivia Manning. She was awarded Fellowship of Trinity College in 2005, and lives in Dublin with her husband and two children.



**Abdourahman Waberi** is a major writer from the African nation of Djibouti. An essayist, novelist, teacher, poet and short story writer, Waberi is partially based in France and has been named one of the 50 Writers of the Future by the French literary mag *Lire*. Most of his works were originally published in French. His latest novel in English, *In the United States of Africa* [trans David and Nicole Ball, Nebraska Press], is a bold and fantastic vision of an Africa never before presented in literature. *Passage Des Larmes*, published in August 09 in Paris, is both a thriller devoted to his beloved country endangered by Islamist Fundamentalists and a subtle homage to German Jewish philosopher Walter Benjamin. Waberi is currently teaching African literature at Claremont Mc Kenna College, California.



**Zoë Wicomb** is a South African writer. Her critical work focuses on South African writing and culture. Her fiction includes *You Can't Get Lost in Cape Town*, *David's Story*, *Playing in the Light*, short stories in various collections, and her latest novel, *The One that Got Away*. She is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.



**Hon. Eugene R. Sullivan**, 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. The second novel of his political thriller trilogy, *The Report to the Judiciary*, was published in 2008. Judge Sullivan is currently a senior partner in Freech Group International, a global consultant group of former judges based in Washington DC: Wilmington, Delaware; London and Rome.



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## Books in Translation



ISSN 1393-8908

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

Fiction Matters, the newsletter of the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, is an occasional publication issued at least once a year.

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