

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMPAC DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD

FICTION MATTERS

No.17 February 2011

DUBLIN
UNESCO
City of Literature

Complete List of Eligible Titles

2011

SHORTLIST { 12TH
ANNOUNCEMENT { APRIL

WINNER { 15TH
ANNOUNCEMENT { JUNE



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Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

The Twin by Gerbrand Bakker, winner of the 2010 award

Jason Clarke Photography



Gerbrand Bakker, winner of the 2010 award, is presented with the trophy by The Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award, Cllr. Emer Costello, June 2010

DUBLIN
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City of Literature

Dublin – City of Literature!

The International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award is delighted to recognise Dublin City's designation in 2010 as a UNESCO City of Literature, part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Jason Clarke Photography



David Colmer (L) translator, and Gerbrand Bakker, author of *The Twin*, winners of the 2010 award

Jason Clarke Photography



Stuart Williams (R), Harvill Secker, publishers of *The Twin*, receives a Dublin Crystal bowl from Philip Maguire, Deputy Dublin City Manager


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Pat McMahon, Galway County Librarian, receives a scroll from Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian, in recognition of library participation world wide. They are pictured here with Gerbrand Bakker

Congratulations to Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam, The Association of Public Libraries The Hague, Gemeentebibliotheek Utrecht and Openbare Bibliotheek Eindhoven, The Netherlands - nominators of The Twin



"A well deserved, international prize for Gerbrand Bakker! When I read his book I was touched by the genuine Dutch atmosphere. The countryside comes alive and the story is fascinating" A regional novel of an exquisite high level.
- **Leontine van Vliet**, staff officer central library of Utrecht



"The Dutch Libraries had great expectations when they nominated this book for the International IMPAC DUBLIN Award and are very pleased that it has won the prize and well deserved international acclaim."
- **Hans van Velzen**, director of the Public Library of Amsterdam



In all his novels he has a dry sense of humor, which makes these novels. The stories are melancholic, easier to read. It is my wish that his other novels will also be translated into English, that many people will be able to read his beautiful oeuvre".
- **Piet Timmerman**, Librarian Bibliotheek Utrecht



"The Twin is a beautiful, poetical portrait of 'la Hollande profonde', the countryside of wind and water, of clouds and cows north of Amsterdam. At the same time is a universal novel, the story of a man who realises that he has not lived his life the way he had wished and planned."
- **Jef van Gool** of the Foundation Bibliotheek.nl

The **International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award** is presented annually for a novel written in English or translated into English.

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 2011 longlist is announced

Jason Clarke Photography



Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian, surveys the longlist, Dublin City Library & Archive, November 2010

Jason Clarke Photography



Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award, Gerry Breen, meets the 2011 judging panel (from left) John Boyne, Michael Hofmann, Susan Bassnett, Nancy Huston and Judge Eugene Sullivan, non-voting Chair. Tessa Hadley, the 5th member of the panel is not photographed. Dublin City Library & Archive, November 2010

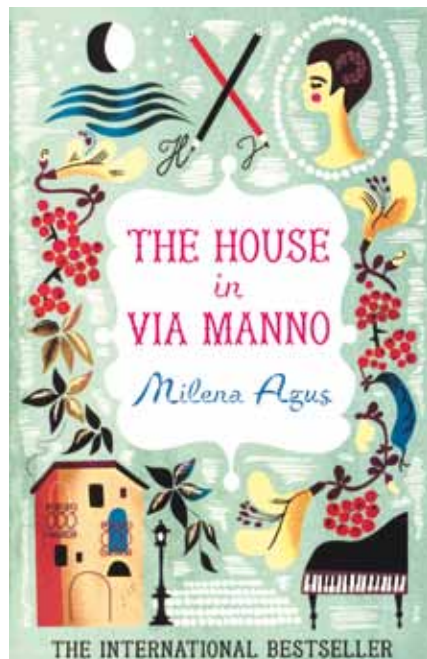
Jason Clarke Photography



Philip Maguire, Deputy Dublin City Manager, Lord Mayor, Gerry Breen, and Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian; welcome Peter Murphy, debut novelist and author of *John the Revelator*, nominated for the 2011 award. Dublin City Library & Archive, November 2010

The House in Via Manno

Milena Agus



Translated from the original
Italian by Brigid Maher

Nominated by:

Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturbus, Norway

In this magical, jewel-like novel, a young Sardinian woman explores the life of her Nonna — her romantic, beautiful, and somewhat crazy grandmother. Nonna is an unforgettable character whose life spans much of the twentieth century. A dreamer with fierce loyalties and unbridled passions, we follow her search for perfect love to an ending both surprising and profound. Along the way we meet the members of her large family, and the mysterious Veteran, the man of her dreams — each one drawn with warmth, humour and deep insight.

Milena Agus writes of family loves and secrets, of sexuality, of music, and of the harsh realities of war and migration in twentieth-century Europe in a powerful, compelling, and yet whimsical voice.

Milena Agus was born in Genoa to Sardinian parents and now lives in Cagliari. *The House in Via Manno*, her second novel, won three Italian literary awards, and has been a bestseller in Italy, France, and Germany. A film adaptation of the novel is in production.

As God Commands

By Niccolò Ammaniti

Translated from the original
Italian by Jonathan Hunt

Nominated by:

**Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale
Firenze, Florence, Italy**

From the internationally best-selling author of *I'm Not Scared* comes a dizzying and compulsively readable novel set in a moribund

town in industrial Italy, where a father and son contend with a hostile world and their own inner demons.

The economically depressed village of Varrano, where Cristiano Zena lives with his hard-drinking, out-of-work father, Rino, is a world away from the picturesque, light-drenched towns of travel-brochure Italy. When Rino and his rough-edged cronies come up with a plan to reverse all their fortunes, Cristiano wonders if maybe their lives are poised for deliverance after all. But the plan goes horribly awry...

Gritty and relentless, *As God Commands* moves at breakneck speed, blending brutal violence, dark humour, and surprising tenderness.

Niccolò Ammaniti was born in Rome in 1966. He is the author of two other novels, *I'll Steal You Away*, long listed for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, and *I'm Not Scared*, winner of the prestigious Italian Viareggio-Repaci Prize for Fiction.

The Danger Game

Kalinda Ashton

Nominated by:

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

"Sometimes the only way to manage the daily percolating drip of fear, the corrosive dread of debt and humiliation, is to embrace another sort of terror, to put oneself in danger."

Alice and Louise are sisters united by a distant tragedy – the house fire which killed their brother fourteen years ago. Alice teaches dirt-poor students at a state high school the government wants to close, while she pursues a tumultuous relationship with a married man. Louise, a habitual liar and recovering heroin addict, has been playing 'the danger game' since she was a child, and can't stop. But when Louise decides to unravel the truth about her twin brother's death, and seeks out the mother who abandoned them, everything changes.

Kalinda Ashton was born in Melbourne in 1978. She has been involved in student, union and community campaigns. She is an associate editor of *Overland* magazine, and a teacher of writing and editing. *The Danger Game* is her first novel.

The Year of the Flood

Margaret Atwood

Nominated by:

**Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA
Toronto Public Library, Canada**

Adam One, the kindly leader of God's Gardeners — a religion devoted to the melding of science and religion — has long predicted a natural disaster that will alter Earth as we know it. Now it has occurred, obliterating most human life. Two women have been spared: Ren, a young trapeze-dancer, locked inside a

high-end sex club; and one of God's Gardeners, Toby, who is barricaded inside a luxurious spa. Have others survived?

By turns dark, tender, violent, thoughtful, and witty, *The Year of the Flood* unfolds Toby's and Ren's stories during the years prior to their meeting again. The novel not only brilliantly reflects to us a world we recognize but poignantly reminds us of our enduring humanity.

Margaret Atwood was born in Ottawa in 1939. Her works include the novels; *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Cat's Eye* and *Alias Grace*; short stories, poetry, literary criticism, social history and books for children. Her writing is acclaimed internationally and published world wide.

Invisible

Paul Auster

Nominated by:

**Jafet Library- American University
of Beirut, Lebanon
Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse, France
Aarhus Kommunes Biblioteker, Denmark
Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli/Biblioteca
Nazionale "Vitt.Em.111" Napoli, Italy**

Sinuously constructed in four interlocking parts, Paul Auster's fifteenth novel opens in New York City in the spring of 1967, when twenty-year-old Adam Walker, an aspiring poet and student at Columbia University, meets the enigmatic Frenchman, Rudolf Born, and his silent and seductive girlfriend, Margot. Before long, Walker finds himself caught in a perverse triangle that leads to a sudden, shocking act of violence.

Three different narrators tell the story of *Invisible*, a novel that travels in time from 1967 to 2007. It is a book of youthful rage, unbridled sexual hunger, and a relentless quest for justice. With uncompromising insight, Auster takes us into the shadowy borderland between truth and memory, between authorship and identity, to produce a work of unforgettable power.

Paul Auster is the bestselling author of *Oracle Night*, *The Book of Illusions* and *Timbuktu*. *I Thought My Father Was God*, the NPR National Story Project anthology which he edited, was also a national bestseller. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

The Windup Girl

Paolo Bacigalupi

Nominated by:

Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

Anderson Lake is a company man, AgriGen's Calorie Man in Thailand. Under cover as a factory manager, Anderson combs Bangkok's street markets in search of foodstuffs thought to be extinct, there, he encounters Emiko...

Emiko is the Windup Girl, a strange and beautiful creature. One of the New People, Emiko is not human; instead, she

is an engineered being, crèche-grown and programmed to satisfy the decadent whims of a Kyoto businessman, but now abandoned to the streets of Bangkok.

What happens when calories become currency? What happens when bio-terrorism becomes a tool for corporate profits? Award-winning author Paolo Bacigalupi delivers one of the most highly acclaimed science fiction novels of the twenty-first century.

Paolo Bacigalupi's writing has appeared in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, and the environmental journal *High Country News*. His non-fiction essays have appeared in *Salon.com* and *High Country News*. He lives in Western Colorado with his wife and son.

Hamam Balkania

Vladislav Bajac

Translated from the original
Serbian by Randall A. Major

Nominated by:

City Library of Herceg-Novi, Montenegro
City Library of Belgrade, Serbia

To say that *Hamam Balkania* is a historical novel, is to reveal only one piece of a puzzle, the one which fits in the sky part of a large sea landscape. It is extremely important, that is true, but the way Vladislav Bajac performs his little literary alchemy trick by turning a grand, totalizing narrative into something personal, and thus giving it credibility, zest and liveliness is truly amazing. The Ottoman Empire and its subjects in South-eastern Europe, East and West, Sokollu Mehmed Pasha and Loca Mimar Sinan, destruction and creation are the crucial elements of the meticulously organized story.

Vladislav Bajac is a novelist, story-teller, poet and publisher, born in 1954 in Belgrade. He has also worked as a journalist and translator and has edited and translated many literary texts, including several anthologies and books. His poetry and prose has been translated into a dozen foreign languages.

The Anthologist

Nicholson Baker

Nominated by:

Oslo Public Libraries, Norway
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA

Paul Chowder is trying to write the introduction to a new anthology of rhyming verse, but he's having a hard time getting started. The result of his fitful struggles is *The Anthologist*, Nicholson Baker's brilliantly funny and exquisite love story about poetry.

Nicholson Baker was born in 1957. He is the author of seven novels, including *Vox* and *The Mezzanine*, and three previous works of nonfiction, including *Double Fold*, which won a National Book Critics Circle Award in 2001. He lives in Maine with his family.

The Little Giant of Aberdeen County

Tiffany Baker

Nominated by:

Multnomah County Library,
Portland, Ohio, USA

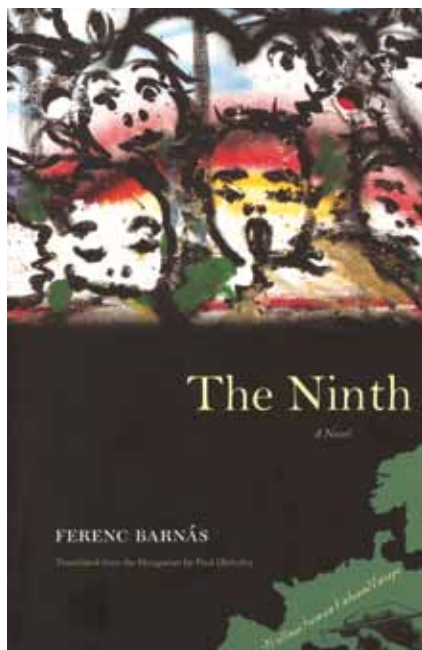
When Truly Plaipe's mother was pregnant, the town of Aberdeen joined together in betting how recordbreakingly huge the baby boy would ultimately be. The girl who proved to be Truly paid the price of her enormity; her father blamed her for her mother's death in childbirth, and was totally ill equipped to raise either this giant child or her polar opposite sister Serena Jane, the epitome of feminine perfection.

When Serena Jane flees town and a loveless marriage, it is Truly who must become the woman of the house and mother to her eight-year-old nephew Bobbie. It is only when Truly finds her calling – the ability to heal illness with herbs and naturopathic techniques – hidden within the folds of a family quilt, that she begins to regain control over her life and herself.

Tiffany Baker lives in Tiburon, California with her husband and three children. *The Little Giant of Aberdeen County* is her first novel.

The Ninth

Ferenc Barnás



Translated from the original
Hungarian by Paul Olchváry

Nominated by:

Katona József County Library,
Kecskemét, Hungary
Galway County Library, Ireland

Set in a sleepy village north of Budapest in 1968, this touching, unsettling novel paints a richly wrought portrait of life in Hungary under Communism through the story of one insightful nine-year-old boy. The narrator is

the ninth child in a family distinguished by its size, poverty, faith, and abundance of physical and psychological disabilities. Humiliated and abused by other boys, plagued by difficulties learning and speaking, and estranged from his family, the narrator attempts to express his yearning for things he cannot have and only sometimes understands. His sense of confusion is only exacerbated by the strict, secretive, Catholic household his parents keep in the face of the Communist government. The dual forces of guilt and desire propel him toward a fateful, beautifully rendered realization.

Ferenc Barnás (b.1959) is an acclaimed Hungarian novelist whose books include *The Parasite* and *Bagatell*. He is the recipient of two of Hungary's highest literary honors: the Sándor Márai Prize (2001) and the Tibor Déry Prize (2006).

Kings of the Water

Mark Behr

Nominated by:

Cape Town Central Library, South Africa

When Michiel Steyn returns to South Africa for his beloved mother's funeral, he has spent close to half his lifetime abroad. As Michiel submits himself to the rituals of mourning and remembrance in the small town where he became a man, all that has lain undisturbed for a decade and a half is brought to light. A father's implacable fury and a brother's violent death, the betrayal of love and the ugly memory of the dying days of apartheid all come between the prodigal and forgiveness. Michiel finds that he must confront not only his grief for his mother's passing but the painful truth of his own transgressions.

Born in Tanzania in 1963, **Mark Behr** later moved to South Africa with his family. His first novel *The Smell of Apples* won several awards and was shortlisted for several more.

Infinity in the Palm of her Hand

Gioconda Belli

Translated from the original Spanish
by Margaret Sayers Peden

Nominated by:

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

The internationally bestselling author and poet offers a wholly creative reimagining of the biblical story of Adam and Eve.

Prepare to enter a fascinating, primitive universe that goes back to the very beginning, to the story upon which Western civilization is based. Poetry and mystery go hand in hand in this transcendent novel about mankind, as never before imagined. Join Adam and Eve as they discover the world for themselves, feel their confusion and panic when they face punishment, and observe in awe as they experience the power to give life and,

eventually, the ability to take it away to survive. Gioconda Belli's beguiling and soulfully rewarding novel is a parable that captures our own time and our own uncertain future.

Gioconda Belli's poetry and fiction has been published all over the world. She is the author of the bestseller, *The Inhabited Woman* and the award-winning *The Country Under My Skin* and *The Scroll of Seduction*. She lives in Santa Monica, California, and Managua, Nicaragua.

Above All, Don't Look Back

Maïssa Bey

Translated from the original
French by Senja L. Djelouah

Nominated by:
Bibliothèque Municipale de Strasbourg, France

Above All, Don't Look Back follows the path of a young woman — Amina — as she makes her way through a city, a life, and a sense of self that have been ravaged by an earthquake. In this powerful novel, inspired by a devastating earthquake in northern Algeria in 2003, the acclaimed Algerian writer Maïssa Bey skilfully interweaves descriptions of the earthquake with descriptions of Amina's family, culture, and country and her place within them. She leaves the reader to wonder whether Amina is fleeing the earthquake or something much more complex.

Maïssa Bey is an award-winning novelist, writer of short stories, poet, and essayist. She lives in Algeria.

The Library of Shadows

Mikkel Birkegaard

Translated from the original
Danish by Tiina Nunnally

Nominated by:
Copenhagen Central Library, Denmark

Imagine that some people have the power to affect your thoughts and feelings when you read, or they read a book to you.

When Luca Campelli dies a sudden and violent death, his son Jon inherits his second-hand bookshop. When Luca's death is followed by an arson attempt on the shop, Jon is forced to explore his family's past. Unbeknown to Jon, the bookshop has for years been hiding a remarkable secret. It is the meeting place of a society of booklovers and readers, who have maintained a tradition of immense power passed down from the days of the great library of ancient Alexandria. Now someone is trying to destroy them, and Jon finds himself in a fight for his life and those of his new friends.

Mikkel Birkegaard lives in Copenhagen. *The Library of Shadows* is his first novel. It was first published in his native Denmark where it was a national best seller. The novel has now been published in 17 languages.

Rebecca, Born in the Maelstrom

Marie-Claire Blais

Translated from the original
French by Nigel Spencer

Nominated by:
Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada

With this astounding fourth novel in her ongoing series of contemporary masterpieces, Marie-Claire Blais invites us again to enter a complex circle of unforgettable characters. But this time, the tone is different: Blais' writing has acquired a new, buoyant, electrifying rhythm — a rhythm some critics have described as "the heartbeat of the world."

As we follow a central character named Rebecca, the voice in the novel becomes the voice of the world inventing itself, and the future playing itself out. As the GG jury wrote, "this breathtaking paroxysm of a novel turns any commonly held vision of the world upside down. Blais' transcendent prose illuminates her characters with an extraordinary light."

Marie-Claire Blais is the internationally award-winning author of more than twenty-five books and has been published in many other countries and languages. Winner of the Governor General's Award for fiction, among other prizes, she lives in Quebec and Florida.

Breaking Lorca

Giles Blunt

Nominated by:
Vancouver Public Library, Canada

Victor Pena, a bookish young soldier, is saved from a death sentence by his overbearing uncle, who puts him to work in a clandestine torture unit. Now Victor must consider his impending role in the fate of an unidentified young woman who is suspected of supporting the guerrillas. Before they learn so much as her name—Lorca—the squad relentlessly break her, body and soul. Victor is moved by Lorca's courage but is too terrified to help her, until a twist of fate gives him a chance at a very different life—if only he is brave enough to take it.

Giles Blunt grew up in North Bay, Ontario. Among other works, he is the author of the John Cardinal crime series, winning the British Crime Writers' Macallan Silver Dagger for *Forty Words for Sorrow*, the debut novel in that series. He lives in Toronto.

Ordinary Thunderstorms

William Boyd

Nominated by:
Bibliotheken der Stadt Mainz, Germany
Glasgow Libraries Information & Learning, Scotland
London's Public Libraries, England

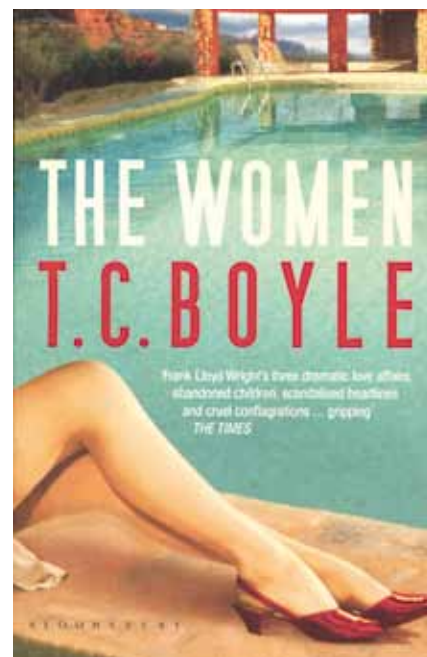
One May evening in London, as a result of a chance encounter and a split-second decision, the young climatologist Adam Kindred loses everything — home, job, reputation, passport, credit cards, money — never to get them back.

With the police and a hit man in merciless pursuit, Adam has no choice but to go underground, joining the ranks of the disappeared, struggling to understand how his life has unravelled so spectacularly. His journey of discovery will take him along the Thames from Chelsea to the sink estates of the East End. On the way he encounters aristocrats, priests, prostitutes and a policewoman — but will he ever find himself again?

William Boyd is the author of ten novels, including *A Good Man in Africa*, *Brazzaville Beach*, *An Ice Cream War*, *Any Human Heart*, and *Restless*. He has received many awards for his writing.

The Women

T.C. Boyle



Nominated by:
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA
The University Library of Bern, Switzerland

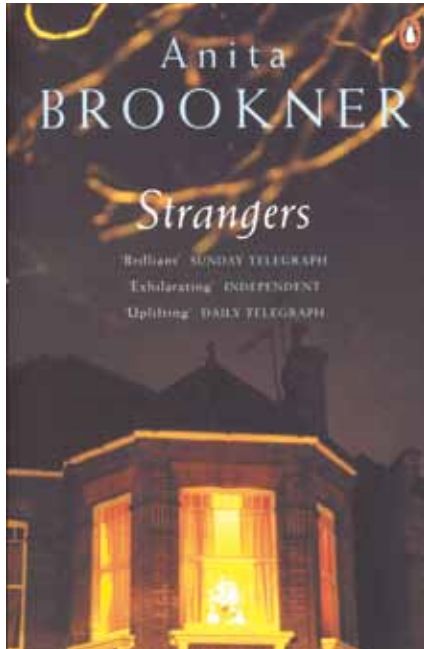
Welcome to the troubled, tempestuous world of Frank Lloyd Wright. Scandalous affairs rage behind closed doors, broken hearts are tossed aside, fires rip through the wings of the house and paparazzi lie in wait outside the front door for the latest tragedy in this never-ending saga. This is the home of the great architect of the twentieth century, a man of extremes in both his work and his private life: at once a force of nature and an avalanche of need and emotion that sweeps aside everything in its path.

Sharp, savage and subtle in equal measure, *The Women* plumbs the chaos, horrors and uncontrollable passions of a formidable American icon.

T.C. Boyle is the bestselling author of fourteen books of fiction which have been published to worldwide acclaim in many languages. His novel *Drop City*, published in paperback by Bloomsbury in March 2004, was shortlisted for the National Book Award. He lives in Santa Barbara, California.

Strangers

Anita Brookner



Nominated by:

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

He was haunted by a feeling of invisibility, as if he were a mere spectator of his own life.

Paul Sturgis is retired and lives alone in South Kensington. He walks alone and dines alone, taking pleasure in small exchanges with strangers. His only acquaintance is a widowed cousin whom he visits on Sundays. Unable to make sense of his solitary nature, and fearing death among strangers, he wonders whether at last he might be ready for companionship. But a chance meeting with an old girlfriend and an encounter in Venice with a recently divorced younger woman, compel Sturgis to decide how (and with whom) he will spend the rest of his days.

Anita Brookner was born in London in 1928. She has written numerous novels including *Lewis Percy*, *A Start in Life*, *Brief Lives*, *Hotel du Lac*, *A Closed Eye*, *Providence*, *Family and Friends*, *Look At Me*, *Fraud*, *A Family Romance*, *A Private View*, and *Undue Influence*.

The Lost Symbol

Dan Brown

Nominated by:

The National Library of Maldives, Male
Municipal Library of Thessaloniki, Greece

As the story opens, Harvard symbolologist Robert Langdon is summoned unexpectedly to deliver an evening lecture in the U.S. Capitol Building. Within minutes of his arrival, however, the night takes a bizarre turn. A disturbing object — artfully encoded with five symbols — is discovered in the Capitol Building. Langdon recognizes the object as an ancient invitation...

When Langdon's beloved mentor, Peter Solomon — a prominent Mason and philanthropist — is brutally kidnapped, Langdon realizes his only hope of saving Peter is to accept this mystical invitation and follow wherever it leads him. Langdon is instantly plunged into a clandestine world of Masonic secrets, hidden history, and never-before-seen locations — all of which seem to be dragging him toward a single, inconceivable truth.

Dan Brown's is the author of *Angels and Demons*, and *The Da Vinci Code*, which sold more than 80 million copies worldwide, making it one of the bestselling novels of all time. His novels are published in over 50 languages around the world.

No Place Strange

Diana Fitzgerald Bryden

Nominated by:

Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada

A novel about connections made and lost, *No Place Strange* follows four people affected by the actions of a beautiful Palestinian terrorist named Rafa Ahmed. Lydia is a young Jewish Canadian woman running from the truth about her father's involvement with Rafa, who may be implicated in his murder. Lydia escapes to Greece, where she meets Farid, a young Lebanese man who has left his home for Athens. Farid's mother Mariam is struggling to maintain a normal life in Beirut in the midst of civil war, while his cousin Mouna is a political activist dangerously obsessed with Rafa. Lydia and Farid fall in love, but any possibility for real happiness is jeopardized by Arab-Israeli hostilities, the capriciousness of fate, and a past they can't escape.

Diana Fitzgerald Bryden is the author of two books of poetry: *Learning Russian* nominated for the Pat Lowther Award, and *Clinic Day*. She moved to Toronto from England as a teenager, and still lives there. *No Place Strange* is her first novel.

The Children's Book

A.S. Byatt

Nominated by:

New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA
Oslo Public Libraries, Norway
Glasgow Libraries Information & Learning, Scotland
Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli, Naples, Italy
Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA

When children's book author Olive Wellwood's oldest son discovers a runaway named Philip sketching in the basement of a museum, she takes him into the storybook world of her family and friends. But the joyful bacchanals Olive hosts at her rambling country house — and the separate, private books she writes for each of her seven children — conceal more treachery and darkness than Philip has ever imagined.

The Wellwoods' personal struggles and hidden desires unravel against a breathtaking backdrop of the cliff-lined shores of England to Paris,

Munich, and the trenches of the Somme, as the Edwardian period dissolves into World War I and Europe's golden era comes to an end.

A.S. Byatt is internationally acclaimed as a novelist, short-story writer and critic. Her books include *Possession* and the quartet of *The Virgin in the Garden*, *Still Life*, *Babel Tower* and *A Whistling Woman*. She was appointed Dame of the British Empire in 1999.

Parrot and Olivier in America

Peter Carey

Nominated by:

The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

Olivier is a young aristocrat, born in France just after the Revolution. Parrot, the son of an itinerant English printer, has ended up in middle age as a servant.

When Olivier sets sail for the New World, Parrot is sent with him, as spy, protector, foe and foil. Through their adventures with women and money, incarceration and democracy, writing and painting, they make an unlikely pair. A dazzlingly inventive reimagining of Alexis de Tocqueville's famous journey, *Parrot and Olivier in America* brilliantly evokes the Old World colliding with the New. Above all, it is a wildly funny, tender portrait of two men who come to form an almost impossible friendship, and a completely improbable work of art.

Peter Carey was born in Victoria, and now lives in New York. He is the author of eleven novels, three volumes of short stories, and two books on travel. Amongst other prizes, Carey has won the Booker Prize twice, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize twice and the Miles Franklin Literary Award three times.

Poisonville

Massimo Carlotto / Marco Videtta

Translated from the original Italian by Antony Shugaar

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma, Rome, Italy

Poisonville is noir par excellence — there's murder, moral ambiguity, and a less than heroic main character. In this bestselling novel, however, the real killer is not an individual but an entire system.

The heavily industrialized northeast, Italy's richest region, is undergoing dramatic change. Once renowned for its economic might, the region is now known for trafficking every imaginable commodity, media personalities and politicians on the payrolls of oligarchs and mobsters, and its ongoing environmental catastrophe.

Welcome to Poisonville! Here, the young lawyer Francesco, heir to the region's second richest family, will have to decide between business as usual or a violent rupture with the ways of the past. The wrong choice could cost him his life.

Massimo Carlotto was born in Padua, Italy, and now lives in Sardinia.

In addition to the many titles in his extremely popular *Alligator* series, he is also the author of *The Fugitive*, *Death's Dark Abyss*, and most recently, *Northeast*.

Marco Videtta is a well-known screenwriter and the author of several successful Italian television series. *Poisonville* is his first novel.

The Death of Bunny Munro

Nick Cave

Nominated by:
Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

Set adrift by his wife's suicide and struggling to keep a grip on reality, Bunny Munro does the only thing he can think of: with his young son in tow, he hits the road. To his son, waiting patiently in the car while his father peddles beauty wares and quickies to lonely housewives, Bunny is a hero. But Bunny himself, haunted by what might be his wife's ghost, seems only dimly aware of his son's existence.

When his bizarre trip shades into a final reckoning, Bunny finally begins to recognize the love he feels for his son. At turns dark and humane, *The Death of Bunny Munro* is a tender portrait of the relationship between a boy and his father.

Nick Cave has been performing music for more than thirty years. His first novel, *And the Ass Saw the Angel*, was published in 1989. Born in Australia, Cave now lives near Brighton, England.

Await Your Reply

Dan Chaon

Nominated by:
Cleveland Public Library, USA
Milwaukee Public Library, USA

The lives of three strangers interconnect in unforeseen ways—and with unexpected consequences...

Longing to get on with his life, Miles Cheshire nevertheless can't stop searching for his troubled twin brother, Hayden, who has been missing for ten years.

A few days after graduating from high school, Lucy Lattimore sneaks away from the small town of Pompey, Ohio, with her charismatic former history teacher.

My whole life is a lie, thinks Ryan Schuyler, who has recently learned some shocking news. In response, he walks off the Northwestern University campus, hops on a bus, and breaks loose from his existence.

Await Your Reply is a literary masterwork with the momentum of a thriller, an unforgettable novel in which pasts are invented and reinvented and the future is both seductively uncharted and perilously unmoored.

Dan Chaon is the acclaimed author of *Among the Missing*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award, and *You Remind Me of Me*, which was named one of the best books of the year by The Washington Post. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

Remarkable Creatures

Tracy Chevalier

Nominated by:
Gateshead Libraries & Arts, England

From the moment she's struck by lightning as a baby, it is clear Mary Anning is marked for greatness. When she uncovers unknown dinosaur fossils in the cliffs near her home, she sets the scientific world alight, challenging ideas about the world's creation and stimulating debate over our origins. In an arena dominated by men, Mary is soon reduced to a serving role, facing prejudice from the academic community, vicious gossip from neighbours, and the heartbreak of forbidden love.

Luckily, Mary finds an unlikely champion in prickly, intelligent Elizabeth Philpot, a middle-class spinster who is also fossil-obsessed. Despite their differences in age and background, Mary and Elizabeth discover that, in struggling for recognition, friendship is their strongest weapon.

Tracy Chevalier grew up in Washington, DC. She moved to England in 1984. She is the author of *The Virgin Blue*, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, (which sold over two million copies worldwide), *Falling Angels*, and *The Lady and the Unicorn*.

Hyperdream

Hélène Cixous

Translated from the original French
by Beverley Bie Brahic

Nominated by:
Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France.

Hyperdream is a major new novel by celebrated French author Hélène Cixous. It is a literary tour de force, returning anew to challenge necessity itself, the most implacable of human certainties: you die in the end – and that's the end. For you, for me. But what if? What if death did not inevitably spell the end of life?

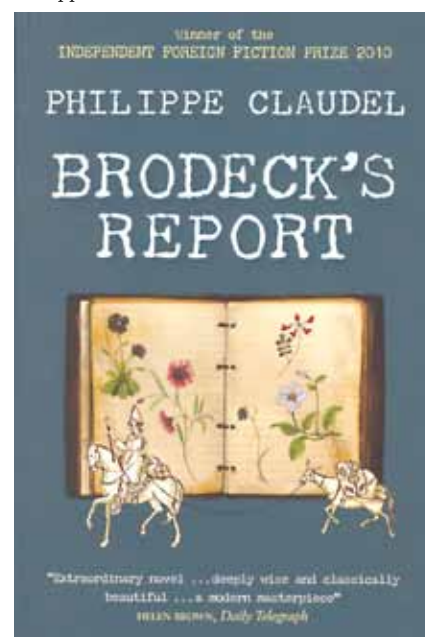
Hyperdream invests this fragile, tentative suspension of disbelief with the sheer force of its poetic audacity, inventing a sort of magic telephone: a wireless lifeline against all the odds to the dearly departed.

It is a book about time, age, love and the greatest loss. *Hyperdream* is a book of mourning, but also of morning, a tragedy-with-comedy and a universal family romance.

Hélène Cixous is one of the world's leading writers. She is the founder and former director of the Centre de Recherche en Études Féminines at the Université de Paris VII.

Brodeck's Report

Philippe Claudel



Translated from the original
French by John Cullen

Nominated by:
Tampere City Library, Finland

From his village in post-war France, Brodeck makes his solitary journeys into the mountains to collect data on the natural environment. Day by day he also reconstructs his own life, all but lost in the years he spent in a camp during the war. One day, a flamboyant stranger rides into the village, upsetting the fragile balance of everyday life. Soon he is named the Anderer, "the other", and tensions rise until, one night, the newcomer is murdered. Brodeck is instructed to write an account of the events leading to his death, but his report delivers much more than the bare facts: it becomes the story of a community coming to terms with the legacy of enemy occupation.

Philippe Claudel is a university lecturer, novelist and film director, born in 1962 in Dombasle-sur-Meurthe. He woke up one morning with the opening sentence of *Brodeck's Report* in his head: "My name is Brodeck and I am not responsible."

Red Bones

Ann Cleeves

Nominated by:
Newcastle City Libraries, England

When a young archaeologist discovers a set of human remains, the locals are intrigued. Is it an ancient find — or a more contemporary mystery? Then an elderly woman is fatally shot and Ann Cleeves's popular series detective Jimmy Perez is called in. As claustrophobic mists swirl around the island, Inspector Perez finds himself totally in the dark.

Ann Cleeves is reader-in-residence for the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival, and was twice shortlisted for the CWA Dagger Award before winning the first Duncan Lawrie Dagger Award for *Raven Black*. *Red Bones* is her third thriller set in the Shetland Island. She lives in Yorkshire, England.

Summertime

J.M. Coetzee

Nominated by:

The Free State Provincial Library Service, Bloemfontein, South Africa
The State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Completing the majestic trilogy of fictionalised memoir begun with *Boyhood* and *Youth*.

A young English biographer is working on a book about the late writer, John Coetzee. He plans to focus on the years from 1972 - 1977 when Coetzee, in his thirties, is sharing a run-down cottage in the suburbs of Cape Town with his widowed father. This, the biographer senses, is the period when he was finding his feet as a writer.

Never having met Coetzee, he embarks on a series of interviews with people who were important to him - a married woman with whom he had an affair, his favourite cousin Margot, a Brazilian dancer whose daughter had English lessons with him, former friends and colleagues.

J. M. Coetzee's work includes *Dusklands*, *In the Heart of the Country*, *Waiting for the Barbarians*, *Life and Times of Michael K*, *Foe*, *The Master of Petersburg*, and the memoir *Boyhood: Scenes from Provincial Life*. *Disgrace*, won the Booker Prize, making him one of only two authors to have won it twice.

Galore

Michael Crummey

Nominated by:

Newfoundland / Labrador Public Libraries, Canada
Ottawa Public Library, Canada
St. John's Public Library, Newfoundland, Canada

Sprawling and intimate, stark and fantastical, *Galore* is a novel about the power of stories to shape and sustain us.

An intricate family saga and love story spanning two centuries, *Galore* is a portrait of the improbable medieval world that was rural Newfoundland, a place almost too harrowing and extravagant to be real. Remote and isolated, exposed to savage extremes of climate and fate, the people of Paradise Deep persist in a realm where the line between the everyday and the otherworldly is impossible to distinguish.

Propelled by the disputes and alliances, grievances and trade-offs that bind the Sellers and Devine families through generations, *Galore* is alive with singular characters, and an uncommon insight into the complexities of human nature.

Michael Crummey was born in Buchans, a mining town in the interior of Newfoundland. He is the author of poems, short stories and novels.

Everything Matters!

Ron Currie Jr.

Nominated by:

Cleveland Public Library, USA

In infancy, Junior Thibodeaux is encoded with a prophecy: a comet will obliterate life on Earth in thirty-six years. Alone in this knowledge, he comes of age grappling with the question: Does anything I do matter? While the voice that has accompanied him since conception appraises his choices, Junior's loved ones emerge with parallel stories — his anxious mother; his brother, a cocaine addict turned pro-baseball phenomenon; his exalted father, whose own mortality summons Junior's best and worst instincts; and Amy, the love of Junior's life and a North Star to his journey through romance and heartbreak, drug-addled despair, and superheroic feats that could save humanity. Ron Currie, Jr., gets to the heart of character, and the voices who narrate this uniquely American tour de force leave an indelible, exhilarating impression.

Ron Currie Jr. is a native of Waterville, Maine, whose fiction has appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *The Sun*, *Other Voices* and *Night Train*. His stories have won prizes in The World's Best Short Story competition. His first novel was *God is Dead*.

Grand Junction

Maurice G. Dantec

Translated from the original
French by Tina A. Kover

Nominated by:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse, France

On October 4, 2057, most electronic devices on Earth are infected and destroyed by unknown viruses, and billions of people are killed as a result. Twelve years later, the survivors are sunk in a new Dark Age, a grim afterworld in which the only law is the law of the jungle. In the sprawling ruins of Grande Junction, a thriving urban community centered on an abandoned spaceport, civilization is hanging on by its fingernails.

But it is also here that a young boy discovers within himself the power to fight a malevolent entity determined to remake the world in its own bleak image. Now, as the viruses spread and enemies converge on Grande Junction, Link and his friends prepare to fight for the survival of the human race with rifles, radios, and rock 'n' roll.

Maurice G. Dantec was born in France in 1959. A former advertising executive and songwriter for a French punk-rock group, Dantec is a shameless lover of science fiction, crime novels, and metaphysics. He is the author of *Red Siren*, *The Roots of Evil*, *Villa Vortex* and *Cosmos Incorporated*.

Solo

Rana Dasgupta

Nominated by:

India International Centre Library, New Delhi, India

Wondering if he has any wisdom to leave to the world, one-hundred-year-old Ulrich embarks on an epic armchair journey through the twists and turns of his country's turbulent century – and through his own century of lost love and failed chemistry – and finds his way to an astonishing epiphany of redemption and enlightenment. Set in Bulgaria, a country that, like the author himself, has belonged sometimes to Asia and sometimes to Europe, *Solo* is a book about lost roots, broken traditions and wasted ambitions – and the depths of lyricism by which human beings overcome those things.

Solo has won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best Book: Europe and South Asia.

Rana Dasgupta was born in England in 1971 and grew up in Cambridge. Having lived in France, Malaysia and the US, he moved to Delhi in 2001.

His first bestselling book, *Tokyo Cancelled*, has been translated into six languages. He is currently working on a novel about science and daydreams.

Spooner

Pete Dexter

Nominated by:

Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA

Warren Spooner was born after a prolonged delivery in a makeshift delivery room in a doctor's office in Milledgeville, Georgia, on the first Saturday of December, 1956. His father died shortly afterward, long before Spooner had even a memory of his face, and was replaced eventually by a once-brilliant young naval officer, Calmer Ottosson, recently court-martialed out of service. This is the story of the lifelong tie between the two men, poles apart, of Spooner's troubled childhood, troubled adolescence, violent and troubled adulthood and Calmer Ottosson's inexhaustible patience, undertaking a life-long struggle to salvage his step-son, a man he will never understand.

Pete Dexter began his working life in a U.S. post office in New Orleans, Louisiana. In Philadelphia he became a newspaper columnist. He won the National Book Award in 1988 for *Paris Trout*.

Homer and Langley

E.L. Doctorow

Nominated by:

Veria Central Public Library, Greece

Homer and Langley Collyer are brothers—the one blind and deeply intuitive, the other damaged into madness, or perhaps greatness, by mustard gas in the Great War. They live as recluses in their once grand Fifth Avenue mansion, scavenging the city streets for things they think they can use, hoarding the daily newspapers as research for Langley's proposed dateless newspaper. Yet the epic events of the century play out in the lives of the two brothers—wars, political movements, technological advances—and even though they want nothing more than to shut out the world, history seems to pass through their cluttered house.

Brilliantly conceived, gorgeously written, this is a mesmerizing narrative, a free imaginative rendering of the lives of New York's fabled Collyer brothers.

E. L. Doctorow's novels include *The March*, *City of God*, *The Waterworks*, *Welcome to Hard Times*, *The Book of Daniel*, *Ragtime*, *Loon Lake*, *Lives of the Poets*, *World's Fair*, and *Billy Bathgate*. His work has been published in thirty-two languages. E. L. Doctorow lives in New York.

A Day and a Night and a Day

Glen Duncan

Nominated by:

Cleveland Public Library, USA

In a windowless cell, a man hangs from a pair of handcuffs. He is an American. His torturer will stop at nothing to extract the information he requires. He, too, is an American.

A Day and a Night and a Day is a Grand Inquisition for the twenty-first century, in which love, loyalty, reason, and truth are on trial, and morality hangs in the balance. It is the story of Augustus Rose, and his interrogator. Beyond the law and without hope of escape or reprieve, Augustus endures an emotional and physical assault that brings his whole life under brutal scrutiny: his race, religion, politics, and past, the people he has loved, and the few he is still desperate to protect. Alone and certain of death, Augustus raises the only shield he has: memory.

Glen Duncan is the author of seven novels: *Hope*, *Love Remains*, *I Lucifer*, *Weathercock*, *Death of an Ordinary Man*, *The Bloodstone Papers* and *A Day and a Night and a Day*. He lives in London.

Running

Jean Echenoz

Translated from the original

French by Linda Coverdale

Nominated by:

Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland

Set against the backdrop of the Soviet liberation and post-World War II communist rule of Czechoslovakia, *Running* follows the famed career of Czech runner Emil Zátopek: a factory worker who is forced to participate in a footrace and soon develops a curious passion for the physical limits he discovers as a long-distance runner.

Zátopek, who tenaciously invents his own brutal training regimen, goes on to become a national hero, winning an unparalleled three gold medals at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and breaking countless world records along the way. But just as his fame brings him upon the world stage, he must face the realities of an increasingly controlling regime.

Written in Echenoz's signature style — elegant yet playful — *Running* is both a beautifully imagined and executed portrait of a man and his art, and a powerful depiction of a country's propagandizing grasp on his fate.

Jean Echenoz is the author of five previous novels in English translation and is the winner of numerous literary prizes, among them the Prix Médicis and the European Literature Jeopardy Prize. He lives in Paris.

The Disappeared

Kim Echlin

Nominated by:

Ottawa Public Library, Canada

Anne Greves is a motherless Canadian girl and her lover, Serey, a gentle Cambodian rebel and exiled musician. One day he leaves their Montreal flat to seek out his family in the aftermath of Pol Pot's savage revolution. After a decade without word, Anne abandons everything to search for him in Phnom Penh, a city traumatized by the Khmer Rouge slaughter.

Against all odds, the lovers are reunited, and in a country where tranquil rice paddies harbour the bones of the massacred, these two self-exiled lovers struggle to recreate themselves in a world that rejects their hopes. But when Serey disappears again, Anne discovers that the journey she must embark upon may reveal a story she cannot bear.

Kim Echlin was born in Burlington, Ontario. Her first novel, *Elephant Winter*, won the TORGI Talking Book of the Year Award and was shortlisted for the 1997 Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award. She currently lives in Toronto with her husband and children.

The Wild Things

Dave Eggers

Nominated by:

Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium

Seven-year-old Max likes to make noise, get dirty, ride his bike without a helmet and howl like a wolf. In any other era, he would be considered a boy. In 2007, he is considered wilful and deranged. His home life is problematic. His parents are divorced; his father, immature and romantic, lives in the city. His mother has taken up with a younger man who steals quarters from the change bowl in the hall. Driven by a series of pressures internal and external, Max leaves home, jumps in a boat and sails across the ocean to a strange island where giant beasts reign — the Wild Things from Maurice Sendak's visionary classic.

Dave Eggers is editor of the McSweeney's series and the author of *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. His second novel, *What is the What* received critical acclaim and won several awards. Eggers also co-wrote the script for the Spike Jonze film, *Where the Wild Things Are*, released at the same time as the book.

The Family Tree

Ilsa Evans

Nominated by:

The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Everybody has a book in them, or so the saying goes. For Kate Painter — wife, mother, freelance editor and aspiring writer — it's just a matter of finding a spare five minutes. Kate's spur of the moment decision to move temporarily out of the family home takes everyone, not least her husband and teenage children, by complete surprise. Yet Kate's sure that in a room of her own, she'll finally be able to write the novel she's always wanted to.

But it doesn't happen so easily. Writer's block, dirty laundry and emergency babysitting duties all conspire against her. Amid the endless distractions, Kate is drawn into exploring the story of her family. And while it will never be the bestseller she had envisioned, it's the story Kate weaves for herself and her family that is the ultimate triumph.

Ilsa Evans lives in the Dandenongs, east of Melbourne. She shares her home with her three children, two dogs, several fish, a multitude of sea-monkeys and a psychotic cat. She is the author of *Spin Cycle*, *Drip Dry*, *Odd Socks*, *Each Way Bet* and *Broken*.

The Way Things Look to Me

Roopa Farooki

Nominated by:

The National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown

Yasmin is special. An autistic teenager with high-performing Asperger's, she has near magical abilities with regard to memory and mathematics but little understanding of how she has affected her older brother and sister. Lila has been competing for attention against her damaged, special little sister for almost as long as she can remember. She attributes almost every bad thing in her life to her sister's existence.

Asif; older and therefore, supposedly, wiser than his younger sisters is forced to take responsibility for Yasmin when their mother passes away. He can't help thinking, with agonies of guilt, how much easier life would be if she had never been born. A touching, humorous story of three siblings trying to reconcile with life, their dreams and each other...

Roopa Farooki was born in Lahore in Pakistan and brought up in London. *Bitter Sweets*, her first novel, was shortlisted for the Orange New Writers Award 2007 and her second novel *Corner Shop* was published in 2008.

Limestone

Fiona Farrell

Nominated by:

Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand

Clare Lacey is on a quest. In Ireland to attend an Art History conference, she sets out to find her father who walked out one day to buy a pack of cigarettes when she was a child, and disappeared. She is urged on her way by chance encounters: with a woman in a high tower, a blind man at a crossroads, a couple of rotund earthlings, a singer whose song she does not understand... Clues lie all around on a labyrinth of walls - but the final clue lies deep within.

With Irish roots and a nod to the Irish classic, *The Year of the Hiker* by John B. Keane, this is a contemporary novel about inheritance, belief, art, love... and limestone.

Fiona Farrell was born in Oamaru and educated in Otago and Toronto. To date she has published three books of poetry, two collections of short stories and five other novels. Her novel *The Skinny Louie Book* won the New Zealand Book Award for Fiction in 1992.

A Week in December

Sebastian Faulks

Nominated by:

*Regional Library of Karviná, Karviná-Mizerov, Czech Republic
Helsinki City Library, Finland
Waterford County Library, Ireland*

London, the week before Christmas, 2007. Over seven days we follow the lives of seven major characters: a hedge fund manager trying to bring off the biggest trade of his career; a professional footballer recently arrived from Poland; a young lawyer with little work and too much time to speculate; a student who has been led astray by Islamist theory; a hack book-reviewer; a schoolboy hooked on skunk and reality TV; and a Tube train driver whose Circle Line train joins these and countless other lives together in a daily loop.

Greed, the dehumanising effects of the electronic age and the fragmentation of society are some of the themes dealt with in this savagely humorous book. As the novel moves to its gripping climax, each character is forced to confront the true nature of the world they inhabit.

Sebastian Faulks is the author of *A Trick of Light*, *The Girl at the Lion D'Or*, *A Fool's Alphabet*, *The Fatal Englishman*, *Birdsong*, *Charlotte Gray*, *On Green Dolphin Street*, *Human Traces* and, most recently, *Engleby*.

Mother's Day

Laurence Fearnley

Nominated by:

Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand

Life is tough for 40-year-old solo mother Maggie, a home help caregiver. Her three children are all giving her a hard time, especially Bevan, who's in trouble with the police. But when she's assigned a musician in a wheelchair to care for, something new enters her life. Maggie's a singer, Tim a fine guitarist. They'll make music together, but tragedy is just around the corner. Then it's Mother's Day, and Maggie and her family gather...

This touching new novel from **Laurence Fearnley** contains many gems of warmth, affection, love and hope. It confirms her position as one of New Zealand's finest writers.

The Quickening Maze

Adam Foulds

Nominated by:

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

After a lifetime's struggle with alcohol, critical neglect and depression, in 1840 the nature poet John Clare is incarcerated. The asylum, in London's Epping Forest, is run on the reformist principles of occupational therapy. At the same

time, the young Alfred Tennyson, moves nearby and became entangled in the life of the asylum. This historically accurate, intensely lyrical novel, describes the asylum's closed world and Nature's paradise outside the walls: Clare's dream of home, of redemption, of escape.

Adam Foulds was born in 1974 and lives in south London. He is a graduate of the Creative Writing MA at the University of East Anglia and his poetry has appeared in a number of literary magazines. His first novel, *The Truth About These Strange Times*, was published in 2007.

The Blind Side of the Heart

Julia Franck

Translated from the original German by Anthea Bell

*Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany
Serres Central Public Library, Greece
Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturhus, Norway
Rijeka City Library, Iceland
Bibliotheken der Stadt Mainz, Germany
Leipziger Stadtische Bibliotheken, Germany
Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany*

Amid the chaos of civilians fleeing West in a provincial German railway station in 1945, Helene has brought her seven-year-old son. Having survived with him through the horrors of the war years, she abandons him on the station platform and never returns.

Many years earlier, Helene and her sister Martha's childhood in rural Germany is abruptly ended by the outbreak of the First World War. Her father comes home only to die. Their Jewish mother withdraws from the hostility of her surroundings into a state of mental confusion. Helene calls the condition blindness of the heart, and fears the growing coldness of her mother, who hardly seems to notice her daughters any more.

The Blind Side of the Heart tells of two World Wars, of hope, loneliness and love, and of a life lived in terrible times.

Julia Franck was born in Berlin in 1970. *The Blind Side of the Heart* won the German Book Prize, Germany's most prestigious literary award and is one of the most successful European novels of the last 10 years.

The Whole Day Through

Patrick Gale

Nominated by:

Gateshead Libraries & Arts, England

When forty-something Laura Lewis is obliged to abandon a life of stylish independence in Paris to care for her elderly mother in Winchester, it seems all romantic opportunities have gone up in smoke. Then she runs into Ben, the great love of her student days. She's cautious - and he's married - but they can't deny that feelings still exist between them. Are they brave enough to take the second chance at the

lasting happiness that fate has offered them? Or will they be defeated by the need to do what seems to be the right thing? *The Whole Day Through* is a bittersweet love story, shot through with an understanding of mortality, memory and the difficulty of being good.

Patrick Gale was born in 1962, on the Isle of Wight. He is the author of fourteen novels, including *Friendly Fire* and *Notes on an Exhibition*. He lives in Cornwall.

Alone in the Crowd

Luiz Alfredo Garcia- Roza

Translated from the original
Portuguese by Benjamin Moser

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal
Biblioteca Demonstrativa de
Brasília BDB, Brazil

An elderly lady approaches the front desk at the Twelfth Precinct in Copacabana and demands to speak with the chief. Tired after a long day, she leaves without further explanation, promising to return. Two hours later, Doña Laureta is dead, and witnesses' accounts vary as to whether she was pushed or fell in front of the bus that killed her. Veteran police chief inspector Espinosa quickly pinpoints a suspect in Hugo Breno, an unassuming bank teller whose solitary existence takes on a sinister cast as he shadows the inspector's movements across the city. Chilling and ultimately heart-stopping, *Alone in the Crowd* presents Espinosa as we have never seen him before, the man of detached expertise and calm self-assurance entangled in a mystery where reason alone will not suffice.

Luiz Alfredo Garcia-Roza is a bestselling novelist who lives in Rio de Janeiro.

The Man in the Wooden Hat

Jane Gardam

Nominated by:

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

The New York Times called Sir Edward Feathers one of the most memorable characters in modern literature. *Old Filth* was Eddie's story. *The Man in the Wooden Hat* is the history of his marriage told from the perspective of his wife, Betty, a character as vivid and enchanting as Filth himself.

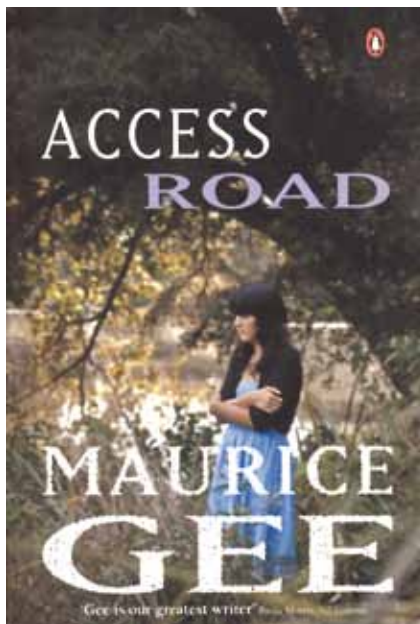
They met in Hong Kong after the war. Betty had spent the duration in a Japanese internment camp. Filth was already a successful barrister, handsome, fast becoming rich, in need of a wife but unaccustomed to romance. A perfect English couple of the late 1940s. As a portrait of a marriage, with all the bittersweet secrets

and surprising fulfillment of the 50-year union of two remarkable people, the novel is a triumph.

Jane Gardam lives with her husband and three children in England. She has written short stories and novels, including *God on the Rocks*, *The Queen of Tamborine* and *The Flight of the Maidens*. In 1999 Jane Gardam was awarded the Heywood Hill Literary Prize in recognition of a distinguished literary career.

Access Road

Maurice Gee



Nominated by:

Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand

The old family home in Access Road, where Lionel, Roly and Rowan grew up, is crumbling away - but after more than fifty years Lionel and Roly are back. Rowan, too, safe in 'upper crusty' Takapuna, is drawn more and more strongly 'out west'.

The past is dangerously alive. Clyde Buckely, violent as a boy, enigmatic, subterranean as an old man, returns to his childhood territory. What does he want? What crimes does he hide? And how is Lionel involved? Rowan must abandon safety if she is to find out.

Maurice Gee is one of New Zealand's best known writers, for both adults and children. He has won a number of literary awards, including the Wattie Award, The Deutz Medal for Fiction and the New Zealand Fiction Award. He has also won the New Zealand Children's Book of the Year Award. In 2003 he received the inaugural New Zealand Icon Award and in 2004 he received a Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement.

The Solitude of Prime Numbers

Paolo Giordano

Translated from the original
Italian by Shaun Whiteside

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma, Italy
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale
Firenze, Florence, Italy

A prime number is inherently a solitary thing: it can only be divided by itself, or by one; it never truly fits with another. Alice and Mattia also move on their own axes, alone with their personal tragedies. As a child Alice's overbearing father drove her first to a terrible skiing accident, and then to anorexia. When she meets Mattia she recognises a kindred spirit, and Mattia reveals to Alice his terrible secret: that as a boy he abandoned his mentally-disabled twin sister in a park to go to a party, and when he returned, she was nowhere to be found.

These two irreversible episodes mark Alice and Mattia's lives for ever, and as they grow into adulthood their destinies seem irrevocably intertwined.

A meditation on loneliness and love, *The Solitude of Prime Numbers* asks, can we ever truly be whole when we're in love with another?

Paolo Giordano was born in Turin in 1982. He is working on a doctorate in particle physics. *The Solitude of Prime Numbers*, his first novel, has sold over a million copies and has been translated into more than thirty languages.

Sunnyside

Glen David Gold

Nominated by:

Liverpool Libraries & Information
Services, England

From the author of *Carter Beats the Devil* comes a panoramic tale of power and stardom, ambition and dreams that reaches from California in 1916 to the battlefields of France and the icy wastes of northern Russia. At the heart of its enthralling cast of characters - which includes a thieving Girl Scout, Mary Pickford, a charismatic British general and even the dog Rin Tin Tin - lies the troubled genius that was Charlie Chaplin.

Here America debuts on the world stage in the Great War, Hollywood blossoms into a global phenomenon, and the cult of celebrity is born. Here, in a novel as darkly comic as it is thrilling, the modern age dawns.

Glen David Gold was born in Hollywood and raised in San Francisco. His first novel, *Carter Beats the Devil* was published in 2001, when it was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, and has been translated into 14 languages. He lives in San Francisco with his wife, Alice Sebold.

Half World

Hiromi Goto

Nominated by:

Edmonton Public Library and Grant MacEwan University Library, Edmonton, Canada

Melanie Tamaki is an outsider. Unpopular and impoverished, she is the only child of a loving but neglectful mother. She barely copes with surviving school and life. But everything changes on the day she returns home to find her mother is missing, lured back to Half World by a vile creature calling himself Mr. Glueskin. Soon Melanie embarks on an epic and darkly fantastical journey to Half World to save her mother. What she does not yet realize is that the state of the universe is at stake...

Award winning author, Hiromi Goto's novel is an adventurous, genre-bending fantasy of shape-shifting characters, tortured half lives, and redemption.

Japanese-born **Hiromi Goto** immigrated to Canada in 1969. She is the author of the award-winning *Chorus of Mushrooms*; a children's novel, *The Water of Possibility*; and, most recently, the short story collection *Hopeful Monsters*.

Come, Thou Tortoise

Jessica Grant

Nominated by:

Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries, Gander, Canada

Audrey (aka Oddly) Flowers is living quietly in Oregon with Winnifred, her tortoise, when she finds out her dear father has been knocked into a coma (or comma, as Audrey keeps calling it) back in Newfoundland. Despite her fear of flying, she goes to him, but not before she reluctantly dumps Winnifred with her unreliable friends, poor Winnifred. When Audrey disarms an air marshal en route to St. John's we begin to realize there's something, well, odd about her. And we soon know that Audrey's quest to uncover her father's mysterious past- and reunite with Winnifred- will be an adventure like no other. Full of wordplay and hijinks, *Come, Thou Tortoise* sparkles like a brand-new set of retina-burning Christmas lights

Jessica Grant's first collection of short stories, *Making Light of Tragedy*, includes a story that won both the Western Magazine Award for Fiction and the Journey Prize. She lives in St. John's.

The Weather Fifteen Years Ago

Wolf Haas

Translated from the original German by **Stephanie Gilardi and Thomas S. Hansen**

Nominated by:

Galway County Library, Ireland

The Weather Fifteen Years Ago is no conventional narrative. The reader must infer a sensational love story that the author hasn't actually written, but which his fictional persona describes to a contentious interviewer. This narrative grips the reader as they argue about the mysterious plot.

The prosaic romantic hero, Vittorio Kowalski possesses a strange talent: he can remember the weather for every day of the past fifteen years in a certain village in the Austrian Alps. When he is invited to display this uncanny ability on a TV game show, he uncovers memories of his unrequited love for an Austrian girl named Anni, the accident that led to her father's death, and his own near-fatal experience at the place of their secret childhood meetings. As the interview progresses, intricacies of the children's parents' stories unfold to reveal a startling erotic entanglement. On the very last day of the fictional transcription, we learn almost everything else.

Wolf Haas, author of the bestselling *Detective Brenner* mystery series, has won the Austrian Radio Play of the Year Award (1999 and 2000), the 2000 German Thriller Prize, and the 2004 Literature Prize of the City of Vienna. He lives in Vienna.

Valley of Grace

Marion Halligan

Nominated by:

The National Library of Australia, Canberra

Valley of Grace is an interwoven narrative of modern day Paris.

Fanny and Gerard fall in love in a way that surprises even them as their lives fill with good sex and loving companionship. But they long for a child to complete their happiness. Two of Fanny's lesbian friends feel similarly driven by the need to have a child. But how to make that possible?

Jean-Marie is an internationally regarded professor of philosophy whose adoring students are willing sexual partners fulfilling the tenets of his libertarianism. But perhaps philosophy can't bear the weight of human emotion.

When Gerard buys a beautiful old house in the suburbs, the disturbing contents of the attic binds the stories into an intriguing and darkly disturbing knot.

Marion Halligan is an award-winning novelist, essayist and short-story writer with many prizes to her name. Her previous works include *The Point*, *The Fog Garden*, *A Taste of Memory*, *The Apricot Colonel* and *Murder on the Apricot Coast*. She lives in Canberra.

Tinkers

Paul Harding

Nominated by:

New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA

An old man lies dying. Confined to bed in his living room, he sees the walls around him begin to collapse, the ceiling plaster fall off in great chunks. Soon, clouds from the sky above plummet down on top of him, followed by the stars, till the black night covers him like a shroud. He is hallucinating, in death throes from cancer and kidney failure.

A methodical repairer of clocks, he is now finally released from the usual constraints of time and memory to rejoin his father, an epileptic, itinerant peddler, whom he had lost 7 decades before.

Tinkers is about the legacy of consciousness and the porousness of identity from one generation to the next. Heartbreaking and life affirming, it is an elegiac meditation on love, loss, and the fierce beauty of nature.

Paul Harding has an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He has taught writing at Harvard and The University of Iowa. He lives near Boston with his wife and two sons. This is his first novel.

The Double Crown; Secret writing of a Female Pharaoh

Marié Heese

Nominated by:

Tshwane Library & Information Service, Pretoria, South Africa

This gripping novel is the fascinating and true story of Hatshepsut, the female pharaoh who ruled over Egypt for two decades around 1500 BC.

A vibrant and poignant portrayal of an ambitious and courageous woman and the betrayals she faces, both as a woman and a ruler.

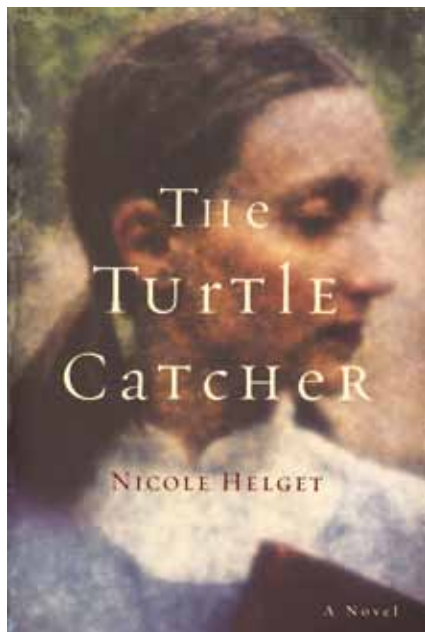
Dan Lazar, Heese's US agent, rightly calls her "a literary stylist with commercial chops".

Winner of the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book in the Africa Region.

Marié Heese was born in Cape Town on September 27, 1942. She is best known for her first book, *Die uurwerk kantel*, which was published in 1976. She is the daughter of the well-known author Audrey Blignault who died in 2008. Marié is married to Chris Heese.

The Turtle Catcher

Nicole Helget



Nominated by:
Hartford Public Library, USA

In a rural Minnesota town of German immigrants in the tumultuous days of World War I, *The Turtle Catcher* brings together two misfits from warring clans. Liesel, the one girl in the upstanding family of Richter boys, harbors a secret about her body that thwarts all hope for a normal life. Her closest friend is Lester, the "slow" boy in the raffish Sutter family, a gentle, kind soul who spends his days trapping turtles in the lake. Yearning for human touch in the wake of her parents' deaths, Liesel turns to her only friend-leading her brother, just returned from the war, to an act that will haunt not only both families but the entire town.

Helget's moving and heartfelt novel is a story of loyalty and betrayal.

Born in 1976, **Nicole Helget** grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota, a childhood and place she drew on in the writing of her memoir, *The Summer of Ordinary Ways*. Based on the novel's first chapter, NPR's Scott Simon awarded *The Turtle Catcher* the Tamarack Prize from Minnesota Monthly.

Juliet, Naked

Nick Hornby

Nominated by:
National Library of Estonia, Tallinn

Annie loves Duncan — or thinks she does. Duncan loves Annie, but then, all of a sudden, he doesn't. Duncan really loves Tucker Crowe, a reclusive Dylanish singer-songwriter who stopped making music ten years ago. Annie stops loving Duncan, and starts getting her own life.

In doing so, she initiates an e-mail correspondence with Tucker, and a connection is forged between two lonely people who are looking for more out of what they've got.

What happens when a washed-up musician looks for another chance? And miles away, a restless, childless woman looks for a change? *Juliet, Naked* is a powerfully engrossing, humbly humorous novel about music, love, loneliness, and the struggle to live up to one's promise.

Nick Hornby is the author of the novels *How to Be Good*, *High Fidelity*, *About a Boy*, and *A Long Way Down*, as well as the memoir *Fever Pitch*. He lives in North London.

Blame

Michelle Huneven

Nominated by:
Hartford Public Library, USA

Patsy MacLemoore, a twenty-eight-year-old history professor with a brand-new Ph.D. and a wild streak, wakes up in jail — yet again — after another epic alcoholic blackout. This time, though, a mother and daughter are dead, run over in Patsy's driveway. Patsy will spend the next decades of her life atoning for this unpardonable act. She goes to prison, sobers up, marries a much older man she meets in AA, and makes ongoing amends to her victims' family. Then, another piece of news turns up, casting her crime, and her life, in a different and unexpected light. Brilliant, morally complex, and often funny, *Blame* is a breathtaking story of contrition and what it takes to rebuild a life from the bottom up.

Michelle Huneven is the author of two previous novels, *Round Rock* and *Jamesland*. She has received a General Electric Foundation Award for Younger Writers and a Whiting Writers' Award for fiction. She lives in Altadena, California.

The Moon in the Water

Ameena Hussein

Nominated by:
Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

Khadeeja Rasheed has the perfect life in far away Geneva. A loving family, a fulfilling career and an adoring boyfriend. When her father is accidentally killed in a bomb blast she returns home to Sri Lanka. There she discovers a secret that threatens to destroy family bonds and reveal complicated threads of love, loyalty and betrayal. *The Moon in the Water* brings a young woman's search for recognition and family vividly to life. In this story of deep desires, identity and passion, Ameena Hussein draws a dramatic portrait of loss, bewildering love and forgiveness.

Ameena Hussein was born in Sri Lanka, lived part of her early adult life in America and Switzerland and now lives and works in Colombo, Sri Lanka. She has previously published two award winning collections of short stories.

This is How

M.J. Hyland

Nominated by:
The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

When his fiancée breaks off their engagement, Patrick Oxtoby leaves home and moves into a boarding house in a remote seaside town. But in spite of his hopes and determination to build a better life, nothing goes to plan and Patrick is soon driven to take a desperate and chilling course of action.

This Is How is a mesmerising and meticulously drawn portrait of a man whose unease in the world leads to his tragic undoing. With breathtaking wisdom and an astute insight into the human mind, award-winning M.J. Hyland's new book is a masterpiece that inspires horror and sympathy in equal measure.

M. J. Hyland was born in London to Irish parents in 1968 and spent her early childhood in Dublin. Her first novel, *How the Light Gets In* (2003) was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, among other awards.

Last Night in Twisted River

John Irving

Nominated by:
Warsaw Public Library, Poland.
Stedelijke Openbare, Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium
Tweebronnen Openbare Bibliotheek, Leuven, Belgium

1954, in the cookhouse of a logging and sawmill settlement in northern New Hampshire, an anxious twelve-year-old boy mistakes the local constable's girlfriend for a bear. Both the twelve-year-old and his father become fugitives, forced to run from Coos County — to Boston, to southern Vermont, to Toronto — pursued by the implacable constable. Their lone protector is a fiercely libertarian logger, once a river driver, who befriends them.

In a story spanning five decades, *Last Night in Twisted River* — John Irving's twelfth novel — depicts the recent half-century in the United States as 'a living replica of Coos County, where lethal hatreds were generally permitted to run their course'.

John Irving has been nominated for a National Book Award three times, winning it in 1980 for *The World According to Garp*. *Last Night in Twisted River*, published by Bloomsbury in October 2009, is Irving's twelfth novel.

Leaving Tangier

Tahar Ben Jelloun

Translated from the original
French by Linda Coverdale

Nominated by:

*Jafet Library–American University
of Beirut, Lebanon*
Bibliothèque Municipale de Nice, France
Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France

Tangier, in the early 1990s: young Moroccans gather regularly in a seafront café to gaze at the lights on the Spanish coast glimmering in the distance. Facing a future with few prospects in a country they feel has failed them, their disillusionment is matched only by their desire to reach this paradise.

Azel, the protagonist, is intent upon leaving. At the brink of despair he meets Miguel, a wealthy Spanish gallery-owner, who promises to take him to Barcelona if Azel will become his lover. Seeing no other solution, and although he has a girlfriend to whom he is promised, Azel agrees to Miguel's proposition and thus begins a different kind of hell for the young Moroccan.

Tahar Ben Jelloun was born in Fez, Morocco in 1944. He is the winner of the Prix Maghreb, Prix Goncourt (the first north African to win France's top literary prize) and the International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award. He lives in Paris and Tangier.

The Color of Lightning

Paulette Jiles

Nominated by:

Winnipeg Public Library, Canada

In 1863, the War Between the States creeps slowly yet inevitably toward its bloody conclusion. Searching for a life and future, former Kentucky slave Britt Johnson is venturing west into unknown territory with his wife, Mary, and their three children. Settling on the Texas plains, the Johnson family hopes to build on their dreams — dreams that are abruptly shattered by a brutal Indian raid upon the settlement.

Samuel Hammond follows a different road west. A Quaker whose fortune is destroyed by a capricious act of an inscrutable God, he has resigned himself to the role the Deity has chosen for him.

A soaring work of the imagination based on oral histories of the post-Civil War years in North Texas, *The Color of Lightning* is at once an intimate look into the hearts and hopes of tragically flawed human beings and a courageous reexamination of a dark American history.

Paulette Jiles is a poet and memoirist. She is the author of *Cousins*, a memoir, and the bestselling novels *Enemy Women* and *Stormy Weather*. She lives in San Antonio, Texas.

The Age of Orphans

Laleh Khadivi

Nominated by:

Helsinki City Library, Finland

A nine-year-old Kurdish boy plays in his village in the Persian mountains, gazing over the land of his fathers and forefathers. But when messengers from the hills bring whispers of war and rumours that the Shah's army is on the march, he must stand alongside his villagers and fight for their land. Years later, he can only faintly recall the brutal murder of his father and cousins. Orphaned on the battlefield, conscripted and given a new name, Reza is married and has risen up the ranks to become Captain. But there are stirrings within his heart. He will soon be sent west to Kermanshah, to rule as the Shah's servant in the land of his birth.

Laleh Khadivi was born in Esfahan, Iran in 1977. In the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution her family fled, finally settling in Canada and the United States. She moved to New York where she began to direct documentary films for A&E, HBO and Showtime.

Sifu: An Unusual Teacher in the Turbulence of the Malayan War

Khoo Kheng-Hor

Nominated by:

National Library of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Death was an old companion for him.

He grew up in uncertain and violent times, even with the return of the British after the Japanese Occupation, a peaceful life was still non-existent in post-war Malaya, he was forced to join his family in suffering an uprooting from his home to a barbed-wire New Village as a government's strategy to contain a Communist insurgency.

Having watched his father's cold-blooded murder as ordered by an over-zealous British army officer, he knew he had to survive in order to seek vengeance. Young as he was, he also knew he couldn't do it all on his own but had to learn from those who were able to teach him.

Khoo Kheng-Hor is probably Malaysia's most prolific author. His published novels are *Taikor* (nominated for the 2006 International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award), *Mamsan* and *Nanyang*.

Magpie Hall

Rachael King

Nominated by:

Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand

"There were two rumours surrounding my great-great-grandfather Henry Summers: one, that his cabinet of curiosities drove him mad; and, two, that he murdered his first wife."

Rosemary Summers is an amateur taxidermist and a passionate collector of tattoos. To her, both activities honour the deceased and keep their memory alive. After the death of her beloved grandfather, and while struggling to finish her thesis on gothic Victorian novels, she returns alone to Magpie Hall to claim her inheritance: Grandpa's own taxidermy collection, started more than 100 years ago by their ancestor Henry Summers. As she sorts through Henry's legacy, the ghosts of her family's past begin to make their presence known.

Rachael King has worked in various media, and as a researcher for television. In 2008 she was the Ursula Bethell writer-in-residence at Canterbury University. Her first novel *The Sound of Butterflies*, was a bestseller and in 2007 won the Montana NZSA Hubert Church Best First Book Award for Fiction.

The Lacuna

Barbara Kingsolver

Nominated by:

Warsaw Public Library, Poland
*Glasgow Libraries Information
& Learning, Scotland*
*Pikes Peak Library District,
Colorado Springs, USA*
*LeRoy Collins Leon County Public
Library, Tallahassee, USA*
Denver Public Library, USA
*National Library Service of
Barbados, Bridgetown*
Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand

Born in the US, reared in a series of provisional households in Mexico, Harrison Shepherd is mostly a liability to his social-climbing flapper mother, Salomé. His fortunes never steady as Salomé finds her rich men-friends always on the losing side of the Mexican Revolution. Sometimes she gives her son cigarettes instead of supper.

He aims for invisibility, observing his world and recording everything with a peculiar selfless irony in his notebooks. Making himself useful in the household of the famed muralist Diego Rivera, his wife Frida Kahlo, and exiled Bolshevik leader Lev Trotsky, young Shepherd inadvertently casts his lot with art and revolution, and the howling gossip and reportage that dictate public opinion.

Crossing two decades, from the vibrant revolutionary murals of Mexico City to the halls of a Congress bent on eradicating the colour red, *The Lacuna* is as deep and rich as the New World itself.

Barbara Kingsolver was born in 1955 and grew up in eastern Kentucky. Her books include poetry, non-fiction and award-winning fiction. In 1999 she was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for *The Poisonwood Bible* (recently voted Britain's favourite reading group book) and she won the same prize in 2010 with *The Lacuna*. She lives with her husband and daughter in southern Arizona and in the mountains of southern Appalachia.

Twenties Girl

Sophie Kinsella

Nominated by:

Jafet Library– American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Lara Lington has always had an overactive imagination, but suddenly that imagination seems to be in overdrive. When the spirit of Lara's great-aunt Sadie — a feisty, demanding girl with firm ideas about fashion, love, and the right way to dance — mysteriously appears, she has one request: Lara must find a missing necklace that had been in Sadie's possession for more than seventy-five years, because Sadie cannot rest without it.

Lara and Sadie make a hilarious sparring duo, and at first it seems as though they have nothing in common. But as the mission to find Sadie's necklace leads to intrigue and a new romance for Lara, these very different "twenties" girls learn some surprising truths from and about each other.

Sophie Kinsella is the author of the bestselling *Shopaholic* series as well as *The Undomestic Goddess*, *Can You Keep a Secret?* and *Remember Me?* She lives in England.

Farewell: A Mansion in Occupied Istanbul

Ayşe Kulin

Translated from the original Turkish by Kenneth J. Dakan

Nominated by:

The National Library of Turkey, Ankara

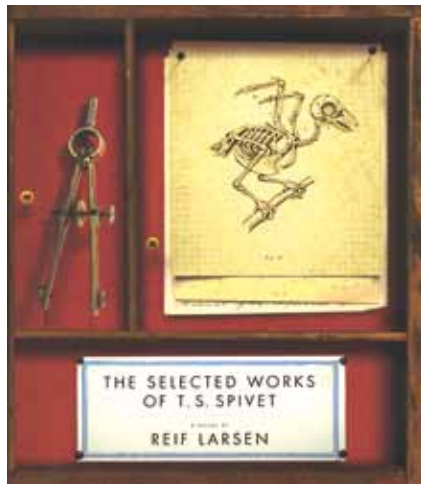
Set in Istanbul during the last days of the Empire Ayşe Kulin's novel accounts the collapse of the Ottomans. It is a story of human suffering and tragedy...

By choosing to tell her story of an era through the eyes of a particular family living in a particular mansion in a city besieged, Ayşe Kulin follows in the tradition of the great historical novel.

Ayşe Kulin worked many years as editor and writer for newspapers and magazines and also in the cinema industry. Her first story book won two prestigious literary awards (Haldun Taner & Sait Faik) and her first novel became a best seller. Her works have been translated into many languages.

The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet

Reif Larsen



Nominated by:

Denver Public Library, USA

A brilliant, boundary-leaping debut novel tracing twelve-year-old genius map maker T.S. Spivet's attempts to understand the ways of the world.

When twelve-year-old genius cartographer T.S. Spivet receives an unexpected phone call from the Smithsonian announcing he has won the prestigious Baird Award, life as normal—if you consider mapping family dinner table conversation normal—is interrupted and a wild cross-country adventure begins.

T.S.'s trip begins at the Copper Top Ranch and the last known place he stands is Washington, D.C., but his journey's movement is far harder to track: How do you map the delicate lessons learned about family and self? How do you depict how it feels to first venture out on your own? Is there a definitive way to communicate the ebbs and tides of heartbreak, loss, loneliness, love? These are the questions that strike at the core of this very special debut.

Reif Larsen is 28, studied at Brown University, and has taught at Columbia University, where he is finishing his M.F.A. in fiction. He is also a filmmaker and has made documentaries in the U.S., the U.K., and sub-Saharan Africa.

The Game of Opposites

Norman Lebrecht

Nominated by:

Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada

In an unnamed country at the end of a world war, Paul Miller escapes from a labor camp. He is taken in by a young woman named Alice, and by the time she has nursed him back to health, the war has ended. Learning to love the woman who saved him, Paul decides to stay where he is. He marries Alice, has a family, helps to rebuild the village, and, eventually, becomes its mayor.

But Paul is haunted by his life before the war, and by the fact that the people who are now his friends ignored for years the labor camp in their midst. When the camp's commander returns to the village, Paul is at last faced with the moral dilemma that will force him to choose between vengeance and forgiveness.

Norman Lebrecht has written several best-selling works of nonfiction, including *The Maestro Myth* and *Who Killed Classical Music?* He is also the award-winning author of the novel *The Song of Names*. He writes regularly for Bloomberg.com and The Wall Street Journal. He lives in London.

A Minute's Silence

Siegfried Lenz

Translated from the original German by Anthea Bell

Nominated by:

Leipziger Stadtische Bibliotheken, Germany

The delicately paced structure of Lenz's novella begins with the memorial ceremony for a popular young English teacher, Stella Petersen, seamlessly alternating between this scene and eighteen-year-old Christian's memory of a summer love affair with his tutor. They keep their mutual attraction concealed at school and as the season goes on the lovers continue to meet discreetly.

Tragedy strikes when Stella goes on holiday with friends, sailing around the Danish islands. As the yacht returns to Hirtshafen at the end of the trip, a storm breaks. Before Christian's eyes his beloved is flung overboard and fatally wounded.

Lenz has wrought a well-aimed response to Auden's famous request: "Tell me the truth about love".

Siegfried Lenz' fiction, plays and reportage have turned him into one of Germany's leading voices of conscience, dramatising issues of authority, memory and resistance in ambitious realistic novels, including *The German Lesson* (1968) and later fables such as *The Lighthouse*.

Chronic City

Jonathan Lethem

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Metropolitană București, Bucharest, Romania

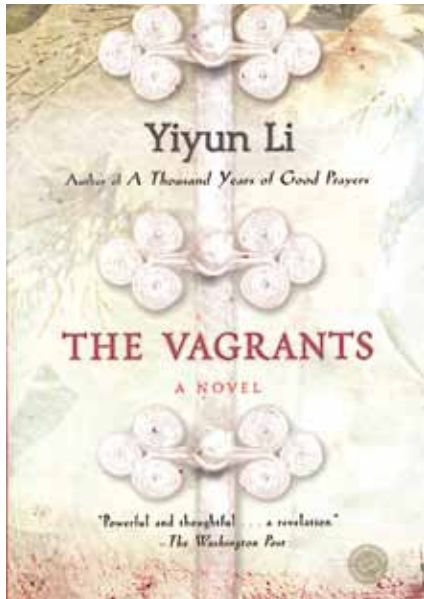
Chase Insteadman, a handsome, inoffensive fixture on Manhattan's social scene, lives off residuals earned as a child star on a much loved sitcom. Chase owes his current social cachet to an ongoing tragedy much covered in the tabloids: trapped on the International Space Station by a layer of low-orbit mines, Chase's teenage sweetheart and fiancée Janice Trumbull sends him rapturous and heartbreaking love letters. Like Janice, Chase is adrift, she in earth's stratosphere, he in a vague routine punctuated by Upper Eastside dinner parties.

Into Chase's cloistered city enters Perkus Tooth, a wall-eyed free-range pop critic, whose countercultural savvy and voracious paranoia draw Chase into another Manhattan, where questions of what is real, what is fake and who is complicit take on a life-shattering urgency.

Jonathan Lethem was born in New York. He is the author of seven novels including *Fortress of Solitude* and *Motherless Brooklyn*, which was named Novel of the Year by Esquire and won the National Book Critics Circle Award. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

The Vagrants

Yiyun Li



Nominated by:
Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany
San Francisco Public Library, USA
University Library of Bern, Switzerland
Free Library of Philadelphia, USA

In this powerful and beautiful story, we follow a group of people in a small town during this dramatic and harrowing time, the era that was a forebear of the Tiananmen Square uprising.

Morning dawns on the provincial city of Muddy River. A young woman, Gu Shan, a bold spirit and a follower of Chairman Mao, has renounced her faith in Communism. Now a political prisoner, she is to be executed for her dissent. Her distraught mother, determined to follow the custom of burning her only child's clothing to ease her journey into the next world, is about to make another bold decision. Shan's father, Teacher Gu, who has already, in his heart and mind, buried his rebellious daughter, begins to retreat into memories. Neither of them imagines that their daughter's death will have profound and far-reaching effects, in Muddy River and beyond.

Yiyun Li is a native of Beijing and a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. In 2007, Granta named her one of the best American novelists under thirty-five. She teaches writing at the University of California, Davis, and lives in Oakland, California, with her husband and their two sons.

Border Songs

Jim Lynch

Nominated by:
Pikes Peak Library District,
Colorado Springs, USA
Free Library of Philadelphia, USA

Six foot eight and severely dyslexic, Brandon Vanderkool has always had an unusual perspective — which comes in handy once his father pushes him off their dairy farm and into the Border Patrol. He used to jump over the ditch into British Columbia but now is responsible for policing a thirty-mile stretch of this largely invisible boundary. Uncomfortable in this uniformed role, he indulges his passion for bird-watching and often finds not only an astonishing variety of species but also a great many smugglers hauling pot into Washington State, as well as potentially more dangerous illegals. What a decade before was a sleepy rural hinterland is now the front line of an escalating war on both drugs and terrorism.

Rich in characters contending with a swiftly changing world and their own elusive hopes and dreams, *Border Songs* is at once comic, tender and momentous.

Jim Lynch lives with his wife and their daughter in Olympia, Washington. As a journalist, he has received the H. L. Mencken Award and a Livingston Award for Young Journalists, among other national honors. His first novel, *The Highest Tide*, won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award, appeared on several bestseller lists, was adapted for the stage and has been published in eleven foreign markets.

The Golden Mean

Annabel Lyon

Nominated by:
Edmonton Public Library and Grant MacEwan
University Library, Edmonton, Canada
Halifax Public Libraries, Canada
Vancouver Public Library, Canada

On the orders of his boyhood friend, now King Philip of Macedon, Aristotle reluctantly arrives in the Macedonian capital of Pella to tutor the king's adolescent sons. An early illness has left one son with the intellect of a child; the other, Alexander, is destined for greatness.

As Alexander's victories on the battlefield mount, Aristotle's attempts to instruct him are honoured, but increasingly unheeded.

Exploring this fabled time and place, Annabel Lyon tells her story in the earthy, frank, and perceptive voice of Aristotle himself. With sensual and muscular prose, she explores how Aristotle's genius touched the boy who would conquer the known world and reveals how we still live with the ghosts of both men.

Annabel Lyon's story collection, *Oxygen*, and book of novellas, *The Best Thing for You*, were published in Canada to wide acclaim. *The Golden Mean*, her first novel, is a Canadian best seller and is being published in six languages. Lyon lives in British Columbia with her husband and two children.

Broken Glass

Alain Mabanckou

Translated from the original
French by Helen Stevenson

Nominated by:
Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek
Bonn, Germany

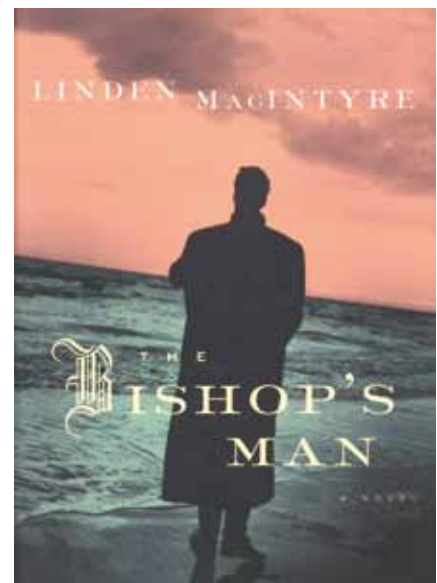
Let's say the boss of the bar Credit Gone West gave me this notebook to fill, he's convinced that I - Broken Glass - can turn out a book, because one day, for a laugh, I told him about this famous writer who drank like a fish...

So begins Alain Mabanckou's riotous novel set in a dilapidated bar in the Congo. Disgraced school-teacher turned public writer, Broken Glass fails abysmally to stay out of trouble, as one drinker after another wants to make sure that their portrayal in the notebooks, (not so golden this one), will reflect their dynamic, ebullient personality. *Broken Glass*, Mabanckou's finest novel, published in English for the first time, is a mocking satire on the dangers of artistic integrity.

Alain Mabanckou was born in the Congo. He lives in California, where he teaches French Literature in UCLA. He is the author of six volumes of poetry and six novels. He was selected by the French journal Lire as one of the fifty writers to watch out for this coming century.

The Bishop's Man

Linden MacIntyre



Nominated by:
Winnipeg Public Library, Canada
Calgary Public Library, Canada
Toronto Public Library, Canada
Ottawa Public Library, Canada
Saint John Free Public Library,
New Brunswick, Canada

The year is 1993 and Father Duncan MacAskill stands at a small Cape Breton fishing harbour a few miles from where he grew up. Enjoying the timeless sight of a father and son piloting a boat, Duncan takes a moment's rest from his worries. But he does not yet know that his

already strained faith is about to be tested by his interactions with a troubled boy, 18-year-old Danny MacKay.

Known to fellow priests as the "Exorcist" because of his special role as clean-up man for the Bishop of Antigonish, Duncan has a talent for coolly reassigning deviant priests while ensuring minimal fuss from victims and their families. *The Bishop's Man* is an unforgettable and complex character study of a deeply conflicted man at the precipice of his life.

Linden MacIntyre is the winner of nine Gemini Awards for broadcast journalism. His most recent book, a boyhood memoir called *Causeway: A Passage from Innocence* won both the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction and the Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-Fiction.

Ransom

David Malouf

Nominated by:

The State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

The National Library of Australia, Canberra
Warsaw Public Library / Biblioteka Główna Województwa Mazowieckiego, Poland

In this exquisite gem of a novel, Achilles is maddened by grief at the death of his friend Patroclus. From the walls of Troy, King Priam watches the body of his son, Hector, being dragged behind Achilles' chariot. There must be a way, he thinks, of reclaiming the body - of pitting compromise against heroics, new ways against the old, and of forcing the hand of fate. Dressed simply and in a cart pulled by a mule, an old man sets off for the Greek camp...

Malouf's fable engraves the epic themes of the Trojan war onto a perfect miniature - themes of war and heroics, hubris and humanity, chance and fate, the bonds between soldiers, fathers and sons, all newly burnished and brilliantly recast for our times.

David Malouf is the author of short story collections and of acclaimed novels including *The Great World* (winner of the Commonwealth Writers' and Miles Franklin Prizes) and *Remembering Babylon* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize and winner of the IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award). He lives in Sydney.

Wolf Hall

Hilary Mantel

Nominated by:

City of Johannesburg Library & Information Services, South Africa
The State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
India International Centre Library, New Delhi, India
Toronto Public Library, Canada
Liverpool Libraries & Information Services, England
Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli, Italy
The Free State Provincial Library Service, Bloemfontein, South Africa
Lincoln Library, Springfield, USA
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, USA
Richmond Public Library, USA

England, the 1520s. Henry VIII is on the throne, but has no heir. Cardinal Wolsey is his chief advisor, charged with securing the divorce the pope refuses to grant. Into this atmosphere of distrust and need comes Thomas Cromwell, first as Wolsey's clerk, and later his successor. Cromwell is a wholly original man: the son of a brutal blacksmith, a political genius, a briber, a charmer, a bully, a man with a delicate and deadly expertise in manipulating people and events.

From one of our finest living writers, *Wolf Hall* is that very rare thing: a truly great English novel, one that explores the intersection of individual psychology and wider politics.

Hilary Mantel was born in northern Derbyshire in 1952. Her novels include: *Every Day is Mother's Day*, *Vacant Possession*, *Eight Months on Ghazal Street*, *A Change of Climate* and *Beyond Black*. *Wolf Hall*, won the 2009 Booker Prize. She reviews widely for a range of newspapers and magazines.

Your Face Tomorrow 3: Poison, Shadow and Farewell

Javier Marías

Translated from the original Spanish by Margaret Jull Costa

Nominated by:

Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain

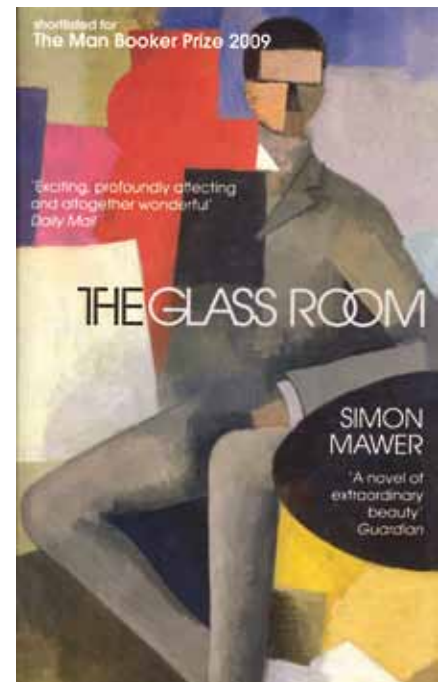
Jacques Deza is back in London and once again working for the secret intelligence agency run by his old Oxford friend Bernard Tupra. Deza finds himself increasingly under the spell of his shadowy boss, forced to witness a savage attack on an old man and watch Tupra's collection of incriminating videotapes of important public figures. The recordings document unconventional private lives - and horrific acts. The scenes enter him like a poison, contaminating everything good, yet he is powerless to counteract them. Set against a background of brutality, *Poison, Shadow and Farewell* asks whether violence can ever

be justified and completes the extraordinary journey that has led us on a descent into hell and a re-emergence, not entirely unscathed, into life.

Javier Marías was born in 1951. He has published eleven novels, two collections of stories and a number of essay collections, winning a dazzling array of international literary awards. His work has been translated into thirty-four languages. He lives in Madrid.

The Glass Room

Simon Mawer



Nominated by:

Free Library of Philadelphia, USA
Tampere City Library, Finland
Municipal Library of Prague, Czech Republic

On honeymoon in Venice in 1929, Viktor and Lisel Landauer face a new world when they meet brilliant architect Rainer von Abt. Soon, on a hillside near a provincial Czech Town, the Landauer House with its celebrated Glass Room will become von Abt's greatest work, a modernist masterpiece in glass and steel. But while Victor's beautiful wife is Aryan he is Jewish and so when Nazi troops arrive the family must flee.

The spectacular building slips from hand to hand from Czech to Nazi to Soviet and finally to the Czechoslovak state. It becomes a laboratory, a shelter from the storm of war and a place where the broken and ruined find some kind of comfort until, with the collapse of Communism the Landauers can finally return to where their story began.

Simon Mawer was born in England, and spent his childhood there, in Cyprus and in Malta. He now lives in Italy. He is the author of seven other novels.

Let the Great World Spin

Colum McCann

Nominated by:

Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland
Waterford County Library, Ireland
Cork City Libraries, Ireland
Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway
Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany
Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany
Münchner Stadtbibliothek, Germany
Seattle Public Library, USA
Milwaukee Public Library, USA
Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland
Boston Public Library, USA
Halifax Public Libraries, Canada
Municipal Library of Thessaloniki, Greece
Richmond Public Library, USA

New York, August 1974: a man is walking in the sky. Between the newly built Twin Towers, the man twirls through the air. Far below, the lives of complete strangers spin towards each other: Corrigan, a radical Irish monk working in the Bronx; Claire, a delicate Upper East Side housewife reeling from the death of her son; Lara, a drug-addled young artist; Gloria, solid and proud despite decades of hardship; Tillie, a hooker who used to dream of a better life; and Jazzlyn, her beautiful daughter raised on promises that reach beyond the skyline of New York. In the shadow of one reckless and beautiful act, these disparate lives will collide, and be transformed for ever.

Colum McCann, born in Dublin, Ireland, is the author of five novels and two collections of stories. He has won numerous international literary awards. *Zoli*, *Dancer* and *This Side of Brightness* were international bestsellers and his fiction has been published in over thirty languages. He lives in New York.

All the Colours of the Town

Liam McIlvanney

Nominated by:

Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway

When Glasgow journalist Gerry Conway receives a phone call promising unsavoury information about Scottish Justice Minister Peter Lyons, his instinct is that this apparent scoop won't warrant space in the Tribune. But as Conway's curiosity grows and his leads proliferate, his investigation takes him from Scotland to Belfast. Shocked by the sectarian violence of the past, and by the prejudice and hatred he encounters even now, Conway soon grows obsessed with the story of Lyons and all he represents.

Compelling, vividly written and shocking, *All the Colours of the Town* is not only the story of an individual and his community, it is also a complex and thrilling enquiry into loyalty, betrayal and duty.

Liam McIlvanney was born in Ayrshire. He won the Saltire First Book Award for *Burns the Radical* in 2002, and his work has appeared in the Times Literary Supplement and the London Review of Books. He lives in Dunedin with his wife and three sons. *All the Colours of the Town* is his first novel.

Black Diamond

Zakes Mda

Nominated by:

Cape Town Central Library, South Africa

Kristin Uys is a tough Roodepoort magistrate who lives alone with her cat. She is on a one-woman crusade to wipe out prostitution in the town for reasons that have personal significance for her. Although she is unable to convict the Visagie Brothers, Stevo and Shortie, on charges of running a brothel, she manages to nail Stevo for contempt of court and gives him a summary six-month sentence.

From prison, the outraged Stevo orchestrates his revenge against the magistrate. Kristin receives menacing phone calls and her home is invaded and vandalised.

In *Black Diamond*, Zakes Mda tackles every conceivable South African stereotype, skilfully turning them upside down and exposing their ironies often hilariously.

Zakes Mda is a South African writer, painter, composer and film maker. He commutes between South Africa and the United States of America, where he works as a professor of creative writing at Ohio University.

Lost World

Patrícia Melo

Translated from the original Brazilian Portuguese by Clifford Landers

Nominated by:

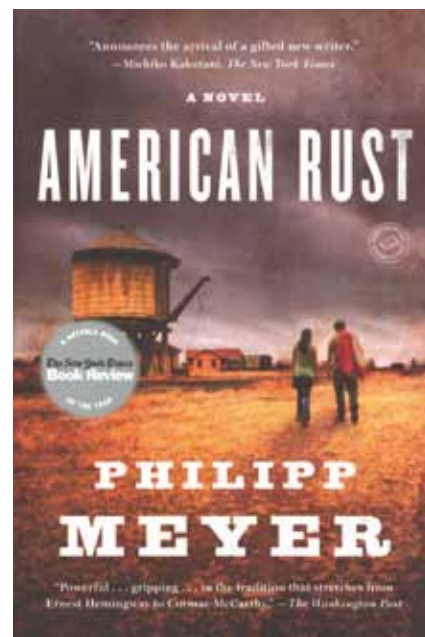
Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal
Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal
Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília BDB, Brazil

Máiquel is an ex-contract killer who's been a fugitive for ten years – ever since his girlfriend Erica ran off with his daughter, took up with an evangelical pastor and disappeared from his life. When his aunt dies, leaving him a house and a savings account, Máiquel has a fresh chance to find the lost world of his onetime family. Breaking all the rules in the book, including his own, he sets out on a relentless journey to seek revenge.

Patrícia Melo is a novelist, scriptwriter and playwright. In 1999 Time magazine included her among their fifty 'Latin American Leaders for the New Millennium'. Her third novel, *Inferno* was published in 2003 and in the same year Patrícia was longlisted for the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize.

American Rust

Philipp Meyer



Nominated by:

Houston Public Library, USA

Left alone to care for his aging father after his mother commits suicide and his sister escapes to Yale, Isaac English longs for a life beyond his hometown. But when he finally sets out to leave for good, accompanied by his temperamental best friend, they are caught up in a terrible act of violence that changes their lives forever.

Set in a beautiful but economically devastated Pennsylvania steel town, *American Rust* is a novel of the lost American dream and the desperation — as well as the acts of friendship, loyalty, and love — that arise from its loss. It is the story of two young men, bound to the town by family, responsibility, inertia, and the beauty around them, who dream of a future beyond the factories and abandoned homes.

Philipp Meyer grew up in Baltimore. His writing has been published in McSweeney's, The Iowa Review, Salon.com, and New Stories from the South. From 2005 to 2008 Meyer was a fellow at the Michener Center for Writers in Austin, Texas. He splits his time between Texas and upstate New York.

A Man Who is Not a Man

Thando Mgqolozana

Nominated by:

Tshwane Library & Information Service, Pretoria, South Africa

The controversial topic of botched traditional circumcision has been very much in the news of late. This powerful first novel recounts the personal trauma of a young Xhosa initiate after one such circumcision gone wrong.

With frankness and courage the author details the pain and life-long shame that is experienced as a result of not just the physical trauma, but the social ostracism of being labelled 'a failed man'. He decodes the values and mysteries of this deep-seated cultural tradition and calls to account the elders for the disintegrating support systems that allow such tragic outcomes to happen. But it is also through this life-changing experience that his protagonist is forced to find his strength and humanity, and reassess what it really means to be a man

Thando Mggqolozana is an eastern Cape author from Whittlesea near East London. *A Man Who is Not A Man* is his first published novel.

The Winter Vault

Anne Michaels

Nominated by:

Waterford County Library, Ireland

Egypt, 1964. The great temple at Abu Simbel must be dismantled and resurrected high above the rising waters of the Aswan Dam. This daunting task is overseen by Avery, a young engineer who, at the same time, is carefully building a life with his new wife, Jean. But not everything can be saved once the floodgates have opened: villages will be deluged, thousands will be exiled from their homes, and graves will be moved. And when Avery and Jean suffer a terrible loss of their own, they begin their separate journeys through the landscape of grief.

Weaving historical moments with the quiet intimacy of human lives, *The Winter Vault* is the story of a husband and a wife trying to find their way back to each other.

Born in 1958, **Anne Michaels** lives in Toronto. She is a poet and novelist. Her first novel, *Fugitive Pieces* was published by Bloomsbury in 1997 to worldwide critical acclaim. *Fugitive Pieces* won the Orange Prize and the Trillium Award among others, and was shortlisted for the Giller Prize.

The City and the City

China Miéville

Nominated by:

Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

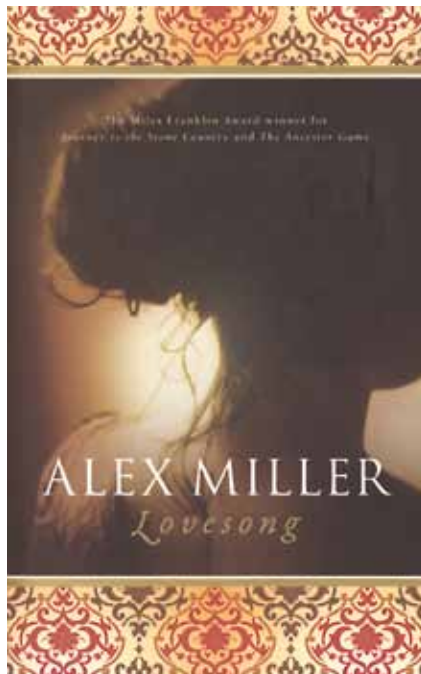
When a murdered woman is found in the city of Beszel, somewhere at the edge of Europe, it looks to be a routine case for Inspector Tyador Borlú of the Extreme Crime Squad. To investigate, Borlú must travel from the decaying Beszel to its equal, rival, and intimate neighbour, the vibrant city of Ul Qoma. But this is a border crossing like no other a journey as psychic as it is physical a seeing of the unseen. With Ul Qoman detective Qussim Dharr, Borlú is enmeshed in a sordid underworld of nationalists intent on destroying their

neighbouring victim and unificationists who dream of dissolving the two into one. As the detectives uncover the dead woman's secrets, they begin to suspect a truth that could cost them more than their lives.

China Miéville is the author of many novels, he lives and works in London.

Lovesong

Alex Miller



The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

The National Library of Australia, Canberra

The State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Strangers did not, as a rule, find their way to Chez Dom, a small Tunisian cafe in Paris. Run by the widow Houria and her young niece, Sabiha, the cafe offers a home away from home for the North African immigrant workers at the great abattoirs of Vaugirard who, as with Houria and Sabiha themselves, have grown used to the smell of blood in the air. When one day a lost Australian tourist, John Patterner, seeks shelter in the cafe from a sudden Parisian rainstorm, a tragic love story begins to unfold.

Told with all Miller's distinctive clarity, intelligence and compassion, *Lovesong* is a pitch-perfect novel, a tender and enthralling story about the intimate lives of ordinary people.

Alex Miller has twice won the prestigious Miles Franklin Literary Award, Australia's premier literary prize; for *The Ancestor Game*, and *Journey to the Stone Country*. Other novels include *Conditions of Faith*, *The Ancestor Game* and *Landscape of Farewell*.

Manituana

Wu Ming

Translated from the original Italian by Shaun Whiteside

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, Florence, Italy

1775–The conflict between the British Empire and the American colonies erupts in all-out war. Rebels and loyalists to the British Crown compete for an alliance with the Six Nations of the Iroquois, the most powerful Indian confederation. In the Mohawk River Valley, Native Americans and colonists have coexisted for generations. But as the thunder of war approaches and the nascent United States struggles violently to be born, old bonds are broken and friends and families are split by betrayal. To save his threatened world, the Mohawk war chief Joseph Brant makes a painful decision. Setting off with a group of warriors, he leaves the only land he has ever known in a journey that will take him from New York to the salons of Georgian London at the heart of the British Empire.

Wu Ming is the pseudonym for a group of Italian writers who are the authors of the novels *54*, *Manituana* and *Q*.

Under this Unbroken Sky

Shandi Mitchell

Nominated by:

Halifax Public Libraries, Canada

In the spring of 1938, Teodor Mykolayenko returns to his family after nearly two years in prison for the crime of trying to feed them. His wife and children have been living under the care of his sister Anna on the harsh, unforgiving prairie landscape. Channelling a determination gained from escaping starvation and Stalin's crimes in the Ukraine, Teodor is committed to making a home. With unbending resolve, he takes to the land and as the crops grow, his family heals and strengthens, but their comfort is soon challenged: Anna's rogue husband returns with an unforgivable plan. Mesmerizing and passionate, *Under This Unbroken Sky* is an astonishing tale of family, love, betrayal, and the resiliency of the human spirit.

Shandi Mitchell is an award-winning Canadian filmmaker and screenwriter. *Under This Unbroken Sky* is her first novel and winner of the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best First Book Award (Canada and Caribbean region). Shandi makes her home in Nova Scotia with her husband, Alan, and their dog, Annie.

February

Lisa Moore

Nominated by:

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

In 1982, the oil rig Ocean Ranger sank off the coast of Newfoundland during a Valentine's Day storm. All eighty-four men aboard died. *February* is the story of Helen O'Mara, one of those left behind when her husband, Cal, drowns.

In her external life, Helen O'Mara cleans and does yoga and looks after her grandchildren and shakes hands with solitude. In her internal life, she continually revisits Cal. Then, one night she gets a phone call: her son John is coming home. He has made a girl pregnant after a brief, sex-filled week in Iceland. As John grapples with what it might mean to be a father, Helen comes to terms with her need to remember the dead.

Lisa Moore has written two collections of stories, *Degrees of Nakedness* and *Open*, as well as a novel, *Alligator*. *Alligator* won the Commonwealth Prize for the Canadian Caribbean Region and the ReLit Award, and *Open* won the Canadian Authors' Association Jubilee Prize for Short Fiction.

A Gate at the Stairs

Lorrie Moore

Nominated by:

**Richland County Public Library, USA
Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA
Lincoln City Libraries, USA
Milwaukee Public Library, USA
Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway
Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain
Serres Central Public Library, Greece**

Twenty-year-old Tassie Keltjin, the daughter of a gentleman farmer, has come to a university town as a student. When she takes a job as a part-time nanny for a mysterious and glamorous family, she finds herself drawn deeper into their world and forever changed.

With her past becoming increasingly alien to her - her parents seem older when she visits; her disillusioned brother ever more fixed on joining the military - Tassie finds herself becoming the stranger she has at time imagined herself to be. As the year unfolds, love leads her to new and formative experiences, but it is then that the past and the future burst forth in dramatic and shocking ways. Told through the eyes of this memorable narrator, *A Gate at the Stairs* is a piercing novel of race, class, love, and war in America.

Lorrie Moore is the author of the story collections *Birds of America*, *Like Life*, and *Self-Help* and the novels *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?* and *Anagrams*. She is a professor of English at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

All the Living

C.E. Morgan

Nominated by:

Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium

Aloma has put aside her life - as well as her dreams of becoming a pianist - to move in with her lover, Orren. His family has recently been killed in an accident. Stricken with grief, Orren is desperate to keep the tobacco farm running. As he toils with the land, Aloma finds that Orren has become more remote than she could ever have imagined, and that silence has taken hold of their relationship. When she begins to play the piano for the local church, she meets the local preacher, and feels a dangerous attraction for him. This novel is about every single relationship between a man and a woman - past, present and future.

C.E. Morgan is a graduate of Berea College in Kentucky and of Harvard Divinity School. *All the Living* is her first novel.

In a Dark Wood

Marcel Möring

Translated from the original
Dutch by Shaun Whiteside

Nominated by:

**The Association of Public Libraries
The Hague, The Netherlands
Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
Helsingin Kaupunginkirjasto /
Helsinki City Library, Finland**

A magnificently ambitious and enthralling novel that confirms Möring's place as one of the most significant European novelists now at work.

At the end of the Second World War, Jacob Noah emerges from the hole in the ground where he has been hiding for three years, to find that his parents and brother have perished at the hands of the Nazis. Setting himself up as a shoemaker in the Dutch town of Assen, Noah expands his business until he has become the most influential entrepreneur in the city. But nothing can console him for the loss of his family and the tragedy of history. In June 1980, a despairing Noah sets off on a journey into the depths of his soul. Guided by a shabby, supernatural pedlar calling himself the 'Jew of Assen', he descends into the smoky heart of the town, a man-made hell modelled on Dis, the city in Dante's *Inferno*.

Holland's most famous and bestselling author, **Marcel Möring**, was born in 1957 in Enschede. Möring published his first novel, *Mendels Erfenis*, in 1990, to almost unanimous critical acclaim. His second novel, *Het Grote Verlangen* (*The Great Longing*) won the AKO Prize - the Dutch equivalent of the Booker Prize.

The Winter Ghosts

Kate Mosse

Nominated by:

London's Public Libraries, England

The Great War took much more than lives. It robbed a generation of friends, lovers and futures. In Freddie Watson's case, it took his beloved brother and, at times, his peace of mind. Unable to cope with his grief, Freddie has spent much of the time since in a sanatorium.

In the winter of 1928, still seeking resolution, Freddie is travelling through the French Pyrenees - another region that has seen too much bloodshed over the years. During a snowstorm, his car spins off the mountain road. Shaken, he stumbles into the woods, emerging by a tiny village. There he meets Fabrisa, a beautiful local woman, also mourning a lost generation. Over the course of one night, Fabrisa and Freddie share their stories of remembrance and loss.

Kate Mosse is the author of two non-fiction books, one play and four previous novels, including the multi-million selling international No 1 best-seller, *Labyrinth*. The Co-Founder & Honorary Director of the Orange Prize for Fiction, she is also Co-Director of the Chichester Writing Festival with her husband, author and translator, Greg Mosse.

John the Revelator

Peter Murphy

Nominated by:

Limerick City Library, Ireland

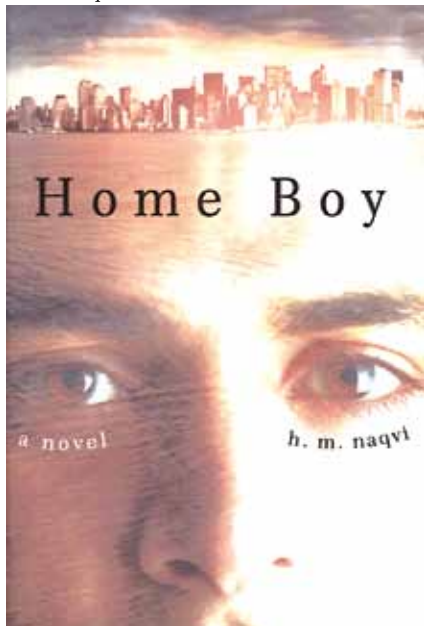
John the Revelator is narrated in the compelling voice of an introverted, watchful adolescent, John Devine. Stuck in a small town, worried over by his single mother - the chain-smoking, bible-quoting Lily - and the gregarious but sinister Mrs Nagle, he yearns for escape. When Jamey Corboy, a self-styled Rimbaudian boy-wonder, arrives in town, John's life suddenly fills with possibilities - welcome and otherwise - and as he hides from the reality of his mother's ever-worsening health, he is faced with a terrible dilemma.

Brilliantly evoking all the frustrations and pent-up energy of a parochial adolescence, *John the Revelator* also gradually becomes the story of Lily herself, and the secrets of her past.

Peter Murphy is a senior writer for Dublin's Hot Press, and has contributed to Rolling Stone and Music Week. He is also a regular guest on RTE's arts review show The View. He lives in Dublin.

Home Boy

H.M. Naqvi



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

They are renaissance men. They are bon vivants. They are three young Pakistani men in New York City at the turn of the millennium: AC, a gangsta-rap-spouting academic; Jimbo, a hulking Pushtun DJ from the streets of Jersey City; and Chuck, a wide-eyed kid, fresh off the boat from the homeland, just trying to get by. In a city where origins matter less than the talent for self-invention, the three Metrostanis have the guts to claim the place as their own.

But when they embark on a road trip to the hinterland weeks after 9/11 in search of the Shaman, a Gatsbyesque compatriot who seemingly disappears into thin air, things go horribly wrong. Suddenly, they find themselves in a changed, charged America.

H. M. Naqvi is a graduate of Georgetown and the creative writing program at Boston University. In recent years, he taught creative writing at B.U., and presently divides his time between Karachi and the U.S. East Coast.

One Day

David Nicholls

Nominated by:
Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany

'I can imagine you at forty,' she said, a hint of malice in her voice. 'I can picture it right now.' He smiled without opening his eyes. 'Go on then.'

15th July 1988. Emma and Dexter meet for the first time on the night of their graduation. Tomorrow they must go their separate ways. So where will they be on this one day next year? And the year after that? And every year that follows?

Twenty years, two people, One Day. From the author of the massive bestseller *Starter for Ten*.

David Nicholls trained as an actor before making the switch to writing. His TV credits include the third series of *Cold Feet*, *Rescue Me*, and *I Saw You*. His novels include *Starter for Ten* and *The Understudy*. *One Day* stayed in the Sunday Times top ten bestseller list for ten weeks on publication.

Her Fearful Symmetry

Audrey Niffenegger

Nominated by:
The National Library of Maldives, Male
Bibliothèque Municipale de Strasbourg, France
Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse, France

Julia and Valentina Poole are normal American teenagers – normal, at least, for identical 'mirror' twins who have no interest in college or jobs or possibly anything outside their cozy suburban home. But everything changes when they receive notice that an aunt whom they didn't know existed has died and left them her flat in an apartment block overlooking Highgate Cemetery in London. They feel that at last their own lives can begin... but have no idea that they've been summoned into a tangle of fraying lives.

With Highgate Cemetery itself a character and echoes of Henry James and Charles Dickens, *Her Fearful Symmetry* is a delicious and deadly twenty-first-century ghost story about Niffenegger's familiar themes of love, loss and identity.

Audrey Niffenegger is a visual artist and a professor at the Columbia College Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts. Her first novel, *The Time Traveler's Wife*, was published in 2003 and was a bestseller around the world.

Anna In-Between

Elizabeth Nunez

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

Anna, the novel's main character, who has a successful publishing career in the U.S., is the daughter of an upper-class Caribbean family. While on vacation in the island home of her birth she discovers that her mother, Beatrice, has breast cancer. Beatrice categorically rejects all efforts to persuade her to go to the U.S. for treatment, even though it is, perhaps, her only chance of survival. Anna and her father, who tries to remain respectful of his wife's wishes, must convince her to change her mind.

In spare prose, Nunez returns to her themes of emotional alienation, within the context of class and color discrimination, so richly developed in her earlier novels.

Elizabeth Nunez is a Distinguished Professor at Hunter College in New York City, and the award-winning author of seven novels, including *Prosperos Daughter* and *Bruised Hibiscus*. She divides her time between Amityville, New York and Brooklyn.

Little Bird of Heaven

Joyce Carol Oates

Nominated by:
Laramie County Library
System, Cheyenne, USA

When young wife and mother Zoe Kruller is found brutally murdered, the police target two suspects: her estranged husband, Delray Kruller, and her longtime lover, Eddy Diehl. In turn, the Krullers' son, Aaron, and Diehl's daughter, Krista, become obsessed with each other, each believing the other's father guilty. By novel's end, the fated lovers are at last ready to exorcise the ghosts of the past and come to terms with their legacy of guilt, misplaced love, and redemptive yearning.

Told in halves in the very different voices of Krista and Aaron, *Little Bird of Heaven* is classic Oates — where the lyricism of intense sexual love is intertwined with the anguish of loss, and tenderness is barely distinguishable from cruelty.

Joyce Carol Oates is a recipient of the National Book Award and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction. She has written some of the most enduring fiction of our time, including the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvanays*, *Blonde*, *The Falls* and *The Gravedigger's Daughter*.

Adulterers

Vida Ognjenovic

Translated from the original Serbian by
Jelena Bankovic and Nicholas Moravcevic

Nominated by:
City Library of Herceg-Novi, Montenegro
City Library of Belgrade, Serbia

In gripping true-confession style, the narrator speaks of love, of family history, of the fragile little things that make us what we are. A woman in the prime of her life, her world coming apart at the seams... Think you already know this story? Think again. It's a brand-new tale in the skilful hands of Vida Ognjenovic, whose well-known talents for the theatre are on full display in this award-winning venture into fiction. Join her leading lady, Amalija, on a soul-searching quest for true identity. If there really is such a thing...

Vida Ognjenovic (born in Dubocke near Niksic, Montenegro) is a highly esteemed Serbian theatre director, playwright, novelist, short story writer, university professor and diplomat. Her plays and fiction have been translated into many languages. She is the ambassador of Serbia to Denmark and is also the president of the Serbian Pen Centre.

The China Garden

Kristina Olsson

Nominated by:

The State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
The State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Over two hot weeks one summer, cracks emerge in the veneer of a small coastal town.

When a newborn baby is found abandoned in a backyard, this dramatic event pierces the lives of three very different women. Laura has returned home for her mother's funeral after years in exile, only to discover her upbringing was based on a lie; elderly Cress, the moral compass of the community, conceals her own vices; while young Abby walks the streets, her bruises wrapped in baggy clothes. But it is gentle Kieran, an unlikely guardian, who knows their secrets and watches over them.

As their lives collide, what is buried can no longer remain hidden. *The China Garden* is a captivating story about betrayal and its echoes across generations.

Kristina Olsson is the author of the novel *In One Skin* (2001) and the biography *Kilroy Was Here* (2005). Her journalism and non-fiction have been published in *The Australian*, *The Courier-Mail*, *The Sydney Sunday Telegraph* and *Griffith Review*. She lives in Brisbane.

Rhyming Life and Death

Amos Oz

Translated from the original
 Hebrew by Nicholas de Lange

Nominated by:

Veria Central Public Library, Greece

An unnamed author waits in a bar in Tel Aviv on a stifling hot night. He is there to give a reading of his work but as he sits, bored, he begins to conjure up the life stories of the people he meets, not least Ricky, an equally bored but seductive waitress. Later, when the reading is underway, he weaves stories around the audience and panel before asking the professional reader for a drink. She declines and the Author walks away, only to climb the steps to her flat later that night. Or does he?

In Amos Oz's beguiling, intriguing story the reader hardly knows where reality ends and invention begins...

Born in Jerusalem in 1939, **Amos Oz** is the internationally acclaimed author of many novels and essay collections, translated into 30 languages. He has received several international awards, including the Prix Femina, the Israel Prize and the Frankfurt Peace Prize. He lives in Arad, Israel.

The Museum of Innocence

Orhan Pamuk

Translated from the original
 Turkish by Maureen Freely

Nominated by:

Bibliotheken der Stadt Mainz, Germany
Veria Central Public Library, Greece
Regional Library of Karviná, Czech Republic

It is 1975, a perfect spring in Istanbul. Kemal, scion of one of the city's wealthiest families, is about to become engaged to Sibel, daughter of another prominent family, when he encounters Füsun, a beautiful shopgirl and a distant relation. Once the long-lost cousins violate the code of virginity, a rift begins to open between Kemal and the world of the Westernized Istanbul bourgeoisie. For eight years Kemal will find excuses to visit another Istanbul, that of the impoverished backstreets where Füsun, her heart now hardened, lives with her parents.

A stirring exploration of the nature of romantic attachment and of the mysterious allure of collecting, *The Museum of Innocence* also plumbs the depths of an Istanbul half Western and half traditional — its emergent modernity, its vast cultural history.

Orhan Pamuk won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2006. His novel *My Name Is Red* won the 2003 IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award. His work has been translated into more than fifty languages. He lives in Istanbul.

Little Ice Cream Boy

Jacques Pauw

Nominated by:

City of Johannesburg Library & Information Services, South Africa

From the photograph she keeps beside her bed, Maria Goosen will always remember her son as her 'little ice cream boy', smiling from the frame on a beach in Margate with a cone in his hand. Everyone else knows Gideon Goosen as a monster: a gangster, assassin and murderer, who made a pact with the devil and deserves to live out his days in a solitary cell in Pretoria Central. How is it possible that the son of a decorated, God-fearing security policeman could fall so low?

His mother blames it on his friends from the other side of the railway line in Randfontein, others on a leggy prostitute from Nigel who became his obsession. Gideon himself believes everything changed on an autumn morning when the fatal pellets from a pump-action shotgun cut short the life of an anti-apartheid activist in the driveway of his home.

Jacques Pauw has been named as South Africa's Journalist of the Year and was twice CNN's African Journalist of the Year. He has written several non-fiction books. *Little Ice Cream Boy* is his first work of fiction and has been shortlisted for the 2010 M-Net Literary Awards.

They All Ate Sushi

Eva Petric

Nominated by:

Knjižnica Otona Župancica, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Eva Petric's composite love novel: *They All Ate Sushi* has the anatomy of a sushi, being both literally and metaphorically composed of various ingredients. Just as the ingredients of a sushi are rolled up, the main heroes of this novel are also rolled up in their own separate love stories. When unrolled they form an even bigger final sushi- one three-layered story with a wrapper: that of Sara and Juan Cruz, Jan and Lovro, Diana and Juan, with Laura and the anonymous man wrapping them all up. Despite the three sushi's having different ingredients- these are expressed in the novel as differing circumstances of the heroes- the end taste offered is the same. All are cursed by one and the same – an expiration date.

Eva Petric was born in 1983 in Kranj, Slovenia. She devotes her time to writing, photography, video and performance art. She currently resides in Vienna where she is the artist in residence of the gallery Suppan.

In the Falling Snow

Caryl Phillips

Nominated by:

San Diego Public Library, USA

Keith- born in England in the early 1960's to immigrant West Indian parents but primarily raised by his white stepmother – is a social worker heading a Race Equality unit in London whose life has come undone. He is separated from his wife of twenty years, kept at arm's length by his seventeen-year-old son, estranged from his father, and accused of harassment by a co-worker.

Moving deftly between past and present, the narrative uncovers the particulars of class, background, temperament, and desire that have brought Keith to this moment, and reveals how, often unwittingly, his wife, his son, and ultimately, his father help him grasp the breadth of the changes that have occurred around him – and what these changes will require of him.

Caryl Phillips was born in St. Kitts, West Indies, and brought up in England. He is the author of numerous works of fiction and non-fiction. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and currently lives in New York.

Lark & Termite

Jayne Anne Phillips

Nominated by:

Oslo Public Libraries, Norway.
Boston Public Library, USA

Lark and Termite is a rich, wonderfully alive novel about seventeen year old Lark and her brother, Termite, living in West Virginia in

the 1950s. Their mother, Lola, is absent, while their aunt, Nonie, raises them as her own, and Termite's father, Corporal Robert Leavitt, is caught up in the early days of the Korean War. Award-winning author Jayne Anne Phillips intertwines family secrets, dreams, and ghosts in a story about the love that unites us all.

Jayne Anne Phillips was born in Buckhannon, West Virginia. She is the author of the novels *Mother Kind*, *Shelter* and *Machine Dreams*, and two collections of widely anthologized stories. She is currently Professor of English and Director of the MFA Program at Rutgers-Newark, the State University of New Jersey.

Thursday Night Widows

Claudia Piñeiro

Translated from the original
Spanish by Miranda France

Nominated by:

**Biblioteca Demonstrativa de
Brasília BDB, Brazil
Biblioteca Municipal Central de
Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal**

Three bodies lie at the bottom of a swimming pool in a gated country estate near Buenos Aires. It's Thursday night at the magnificent Scaglia house. Behind the locked gates, shielded from the crime, poverty and filth of the people on the streets, the Scaglias and their friends hide lives of infidelity, alcoholism, and abusive marriages. Claudia Piñeiro's novel eerily foreshadowed a criminal case that generated a scandal in the Argentine media. But this is more than a story about crime. The suspense is a by-product of Piñeiro's hand at crafting a psychological portrait of a professional class that lives beyond its means and leads secret lives of deadly stress and despair. It takes place during the post 9/11 economic melt-down in Argentina but it's a universal story that will resonate among credit-crunched readers of today.

Claudia Piñeiro was a journalist, playwright and television scriptwriter. She has more recently turned to fiction and is the author of literary crime novels that are all best-sellers in Latin America and have been translated into four languages.

The Mistress of Nothing

Kate Pullinger

Nominated by:

**Edmonton Public Library & Grant MacEwan
University Library, Edmonton, Canada
Calgary Public Library, Canada**

Lady Duff Gordon is the toast of Victorian London society. But when her debilitating tuberculosis means exile, she and her devoted lady's maid, Sally, set sail for Egypt. It is Sally who describes the odd menage (marshalled by the resourceful Omar) that travels down the Nile to a new life in Luxor. When Lady Duff Gordon undoes her stays and takes to native dress, throwing herself into weekly salons,

language lessons and excursions to the tombs, Sally too adapts to a new world, which affords her freedoms never known before. But freedom is a luxury that a maid can ill-afford, and when Sally grasps more than her status entitles her to, she is brutally reminded that she is mistress of nothing.

Kate Pullinger was born in Vancouver, and now lives in London. She is the author of *Tiny Lies*, a collection of short stories, and the novels *When the Monster Dies*, *Weird Sister* and *A Little Stranger*. She teaches creative writing and new media at De Montfort University.

The Rescue Man

Anthony Quinn

Nominated by:

**Liverpool Libraries & Information
Services, England**

The Rescue Man opens on the eve of the Second World War. Liverpool is a city tense in anticipation of the coming conflict. Orphaned as a child and now approaching forty with no prospect of a family of his own, Tom Baines is a man emotionally adrift. Unable to commit to anything, he is left looking in at life from the outside, with only his fascination for architecture to connect him.

The outbreak of war brings a new sense of purpose. Baines joins the Rescue Men, retrieving the wounded and dying from bombed buildings. Yet in wartime, ordinary rules are suspended, risks taken and Baines finds himself caught up in a love affair that is as heady and all-consuming as it is transgressive.

Anthony Quinn was born in Liverpool in 1964. Since moving to London in 1986 he has written about film and books for a number of newspapers and magazines, including *The Independent*, *Daily Telegraph* and the *New York Times*. In 2006 he was one of the judges of the Man Booker Prize.

Galileo's Dream

Kim Stanley Robinson

Nominated by:

Chicago Public Library, USA

In Late Renaissance Italy the great scientist Galileo creates a powerful new telescope to explore the universe.

Then one night a stranger presents him with a different kind of telescope. Galileo is not sure if he is in a dream, an enchantment, a vision, or something else as yet undefined. He is a devout Catholic, but he is also a scientist. By day Galileo's life unfurls in early seventeenth century Italy, leading inexorably to his trial for heresy. By night Galileo struggles to be a kind of sage, or an arbiter in a conflict... but understanding what that conflict might be is no easy matter, and resolving his double life is even harder.

Kim Stanley Robinson was born in 1952 and, after travelling and working around the world, now lives in California. He is widely regarded as the finest science fiction writer working today and has won just about every major science fiction award there is to win.

Red April

Santiago Roncagliolo



Translated from the original
Spanish by Edith Grossman

Nominated by:

**Cork City Libraries, Ireland
Richland County Public Library,
Columbia, USA**

Associate District Prosecutor Felix Chacaltana Saldivar is a by-the-book prosecutor wading through life. Two of his greatest pleasures are writing mundane reports and speaking to his long-dead mother. Everything changes, however, when he is asked to investigate a bizarre and brutal murder: the body was found burnt beyond recognition and a cross branded into its forehead. Adhering to standard operating procedures, Chacaltana begins a meticulous investigation, but when everyone he speaks to meets with an unfortunate and untimely end, he realizes that his quarry may be much closer to home. With action rising in chorus to Peru's Holy Week, *Red April* twists and turns racing toward a riveting conclusion.

Santiago Roncagliolo was born in Lima, Peru, in 1975. He is the author of two other novels; *Red April*, which will appear in eleven languages, marks his debut in English. He currently lives in Barcelona.

The Devil's Music

Jane Rusbridge

Nominated by:
Tampere City Library, Finland

It is 1958. Five-year-old Andy has a new sister, Elaine – a baby who, his father insists, is 'not quite all there'. While his parents argue over whether or not to send Elaine away, Andy sleeps beside her cot each night, keeping guard.

But one day Andy is left in charge of his baby sister and discovers that not all treasures can be kept safe for ever.

Three decades later Andrew returns from self-imposed exile. Looking back on the broken strands of his childhood, he tries, at last, to weave them together, aided by his grandfather's copy of *The Ashby Book of Knots* and the arrival of a wild-haired, tango-dancing sculptor – a woman with her own ideas about making peace with the past.

Jane Rusbridge lives on the coast in West Sussex with her husband, a farmer, and three of their five children. For the past ten years she has worked at Chichester University as an Associate Lecturer in English.

Joseph's Box

Suhayl Saadi

Nominated by:
University Library of Bern, Switzerland

Recently bereaved Zuleikha Chashm Framareza MacBeth wades into the Clyde one morning and recovers a large box, with which she becomes obsessed. The discovery brings her together with Alex, and they manage to open the box – only to find six more boxes inside, each of which can be opened only by following a cryptic clue. The clues lead Zulie and Alex on a physical and emotional journey. Meanwhile Zulie, a troubled doctor, has been sucked into the vortex of the terminally ill Archie MacPherson, an ambivalent, visionary Second World War airman and Glasgow shipyard worker.

Drawing on a wide framework of cultural and spiritual reference, uniquely blending contemporary Western literature and traditional Arabo-Persian storytelling, this is an extraordinary and ambitious novel.

Suhayl Saadi is a novelist and stage and radio dramatist based in Glasgow. He is the author of *Psychoraag*, and the short story collection, *The Burning Mirror*. His work has been adapted for stage and screen.

Without Saying Goodbye

Maryam Sachs

Translated from the original
French by Sara Sugihara

Nominated by:
Bibliothèque Municipale de Nice, France

Everything I had hoped to avoid is happening right now, silently, in the back of this taxi.

An Iranian exile in Paris, Roxane works in a bookshop and is married to the man she fell in love with when she was twelve-years old. Although her husband is often away on business and she longs for the smells and tastes of her home in Tehran, Roxane is never lonely. She lives in the company of books and her own vivid imagination.

One evening at a local restaurant, she catches sight of a young man with blue eyes. Immediately, everything else in her life falls away. Normally timid and withdrawn, Roxane finds herself brazenly following him through the streets of Paris.

Maryam Sachs lives between London, New York, and Paris... and she dreams of Tehran.

The Shape of Him

Gill Schierhout

Nominated by:
Tshwane Library & Information Service, Pretoria, South Africa

Sara Highbury, forty-eight years old, is the manageress of a boarding house. She lives her life in the past, haunted by a love affair with a diamond digger called Herbert.

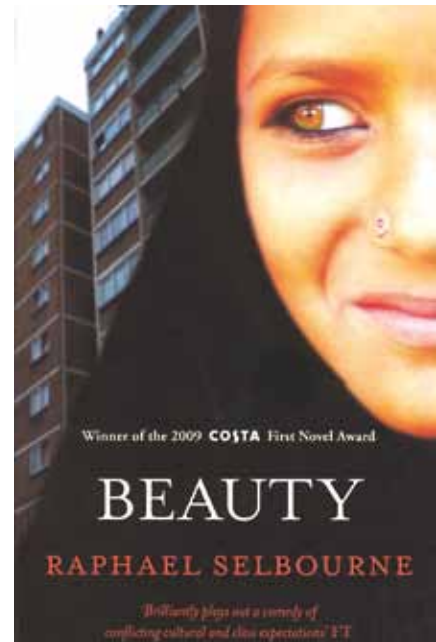
One day a young child arrives at Sara's door. Apparently the girl is Herbert's illegitimate daughter and there is no one else to look after her. Having a child to care for disrupts Sara's quiet routine. Troubled by the mystery surrounding the girl's arrival, Sara begins to excavate the past.

With the backdrop of a rural landscape and characters that are as memorable as they are unexpected, *The Shape of Him* introduces a writer whose spare, exquisitely crafted prose places her deservedly in the tradition of the best of South African literary fiction.

Gill Schierhout was born in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1967. She lives in Johannesburg, South Africa with her husband and their two daughters. She has twice been a finalist for the HSBC/SA Pen literary award and was shortlisted for the Caine Prize for African writing in 2008.

Beauty

Raphael Selbourne



Nominated by:
Birmingham Libraries, England

Beauty – in both name and appearance – is a twenty-year-old Bangladeshi, back in England having disgraced her family by fleeing an abusive arranged marriage. Placed on the jobseekers' treadmill, and under continuing domestic pressure, she runs away.

Her encounters with officialdom, fellow claimants, and passers-by in the city streets, complicated by the restrictions and comfort of her language and culture, place her at the mercy of "helpers". Determined and spirited, yet tormented by doubts, Beauty is forced to examine her own beliefs and think seriously about her future. While her brothers search for her across the city, the conflict between her desire for personal freedom and her sense of family duty deepens. A sharply rendered, compassionate and challenging portrait of a fragmented, multicultural urban England.

Born in Oxford, **Raphael Selbourne** moved to Italy where he was a translator, sold TV advertising and scooters. He interrupted an MA in Islamic Studies at Birmingham University to write *Beauty*, which was the Winner of the 2009 Costa First Novel Award.

Of Bees and Mist

Erick Setiawan

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

To Meridia, growing up with her father Gabriel, who vanishes daily in clouds of mist, and her bewitching mother Ravenna, the outside world is a refuge. So when as a young woman her true love Daniel offers her marriage, it seems an escape to a more straightforward existence.

Yet behind the welcoming façade of her new home lies a life of drudgery and a story even stranger than that she left behind. Aged retainers lurk in the background; swarms of bees appear at will, and of course, there's her indomitable mother-in-law, Eva.

Of Bees and Mist is a modern fable, a gothic page-turner, but most of all, a passionate story about the power of love to conquer all that comes its way.

Erick Setiawan was born in 1975 in Jakarta, Indonesia, to Chinese parents. At sixteen, he moved to the United States to study English. He currently lives in San Francisco and is a graduate of Stanford University.

Burnt Shadows

Kamila Shamsie

Nominated by:
Leipziger Stadtische Bibliotheken, Germany
Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn, Germany

August 9th, 1945, Nagasaki. Hiroko Tanaka steps out onto her veranda. Wrapped in a kimono with three black cranes swooping across the back, she is twenty-one, in love with the man she is to marry, Konrad Weiss.

In a split second, the world turns white. In the next, it explodes with the sound of fire and the horror of realisation. In the numbing aftermath of a bomb that obliterates everything she has known, all that remains are the bird-shaped burns on her back, an indelible reminder of the world she has lost.

Sweeping in its scope and mesmerising in its evocation of time and place, *Burnt Shadows* is an epic narrative of disasters evaded and confronted, loyalties offered and repaid, and loves rewarded and betrayed.

Kamila Shamsie was born in 1973 in Pakistan. She is the author of *In the City by the Sea*, *Kartography*, *Salt and Saffron* and *Broken Verses*. She lives in London and Karachi.

A Monster's Notes

Laurie R. King

Nominated by:
Hartford Public Library, USA

What if Mary Shelley had not invented Frankenstein's monster but had met him when she was a girl of eight, sitting by her mother's grave, and he came to her unbidden?

This bold, genre-defying book brings us the "monster" in his own words. He recalls how he was "made" and how Victor Frankenstein abandoned him. He ponders the tragic tale of the Shelleys and the intertwining of his life with that of Mary (whose fictionalized letters salt the narrative, along with those of her nineteenth-century intimates) in this riveting mix of fact and poetic license.

A Monster's Notes is Shek's most thrilling work to date, a luminous meditation on creativity and technology, on alienation and otherness, on ugliness and beauty, and on our need to be understood.

Laurie Shek is the author of four previous books of poetry, including *Black Series* and *The Willow Grove*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. She teaches in the MFA Program at the New School and lives in New York City.

The Defector

Daniel Silva

Nominated by:
Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal

Grigori Bulganov once saved Gabriel Allon's life in Moscow and Allon always repays his debts. So when the former Russian intelligence officer vanishes, Allon gathers his team of operatives to go after those responsible. But, in a running battle that rages across the globe, Allon soon realizes that his enemy may already hold the key to victory. And that if he continues, it will cost him more than he can bear...

Daniel Silva is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Unlikely Spy*, *The Mark of the Assassin*, *The Marching Season*, *The Kill Artist*, *The English Assassin*, *The Confessor*, *A Death in Vienna*, *Prince of Fire*, *The Messenger*, *The Secret Servant*, *Moscow Rules* and *The Defector*.

Jasper Jones

Craig Silvey

Nominated by:
The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

Late on a hot summer night in 1965, Charlie Bucktin, a precocious and bookish boy of thirteen, is startled by an urgent knock on the window of his sleep-out. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in the regional mining town of Corrigan. Rebellious, mixed-race and solitary, Jasper is a distant figure of danger and intrigue for Charlie. So when Jasper begs for his help, Charlie eagerly steals into the night by his side, terribly afraid but desperate to impress.

Jasper takes him through town and to his secret glade in the bush, and it's here that Charlie bears witness to Jasper's horrible discovery. With his secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion.

Craig Silvey grew up in Western Australia. He is the author of *Rhubarb*, and *The World According to Warren*, a picture book affectionately starring the guide-dog from Rhubarb. Outside of literature, Silvey is the singer/songwriter for the band The Nancy Sikes!

Inner City Girl

Colleen Smith-Dennis

Nominated by:
Jamaica Library Service, Kingston

Martina does the unthinkable: a poor girl from the inner city gains entry into one of the most prestigious high schools in the country. Milverton High, situated on a hill with its picturesque surroundings, students from the upper echelons of society and teachers who do not necessarily understand, contrasts with the poverty, hunger and family problems with Martina encounters.

But Martina is not about to succumb to ridicule, rejection and poverty. Milverton High! Here she comes- defying all the odds!

Colleen Smith-Dennis was born in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the early sixties. She completed a certificate and an honours degree in the field of the teaching of English.

In 2006 she completed her Masters in Education in the same area, again at the University of the West Indies. Currently, she is a teacher of English at a high school in St. Andrews.

The Help

Kathryn Stockett

Nominated by:
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, USA
The National Library of Maldives, Male
San Francisco Public Library, USA
Denver Public Library, USA
Laramie County Library System, USA
Jacksonville Public Library, USA
Houston Public Library, USA
Lincoln Library, Springfield, USA
Katona József County Library, Kecskemet, Hungary
Seattle Public Library, USA
National Library Service of Barbados, Bridgetown

Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Aibileen is a black maid, a wise, regal woman raising her seventeenth white child. Something has shifted inside her after the loss of her own son. Minny, Aibileen's best friend, is short, fat, and perhaps the sassiest woman in Mississippi. She can cook like nobody's business, but she can't mind her tongue, so she's lost yet another job.

Seemingly as different from one another as can be, these women will nonetheless come together for a clandestine project that will put them all at risk. And why? Because they are suffocating within the lines that define their town and their times. And sometimes lines are made to be crossed.

Kathryn Stockett was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She currently lives in Atlanta with her husband and daughter. *The Help* is Kathryn's debut novel, and a New York Times bestseller.

The Earth Hums in B Flat

Mari Strachan

Nominated by:

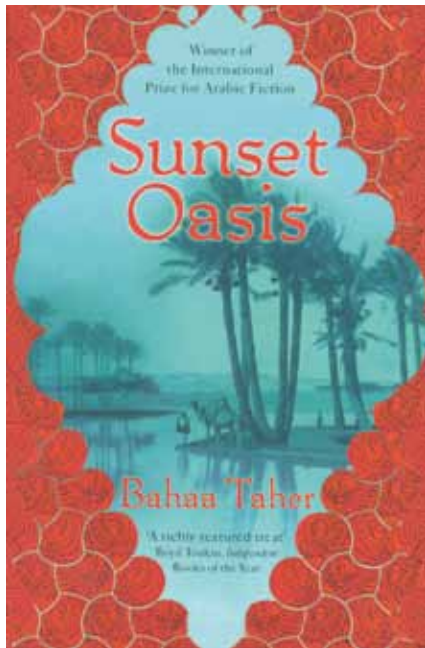
Aberdeen Library & Information Services, Scotland

Young Gwenni Morgan has a gift. She can fly in her sleep. She's also fond of strawberry whip, detective stories and asking difficult questions. When a neighbour mysteriously vanishes, she resolves to uncover the secret of his disappearance and return him to his children. She truthfully records what she sees and hears: but are her deductions correct? What is the real truth? And what will be the consequences – for Gwenni, her family and her community – of finding it out? Gwenni Morgan is an unforgettable creation, and this portrait of life in a small Welsh town on the brink of change in the 1950s, is enthralling, moving and utterly real.

Mari Strachan has been immersed in books all her life. She has worked as a librarian in academic, school, public, private and prison libraries. She has also been a book reviewer, researcher, translator, copy writer and web editor. She and her husband live part-time in Ceredigion, West Wales, and part-time in London.

Sunset Oasis

Bahaa Taher



Translated from the original Arabic by Humphrey T. Davies.

Nominated by:

Zentralbibliothek Zurich, Switzerland

As the 19th century draws to a close, the politically disgraced Mahmoud Abd El Zahir takes up his post as District Commissioner of the remote and dangerous Egyptian oasis of Siwa, knowing he has no choice. The hostile, warring natives are no surprise – but little did he expect to fall in love, his Irish wife to alienate the entire community, or a local beauty to prove a fatal ally. As the gulf between occupier and occupied, husband and wife, dreams and reality widens, tensions reach boiling point.

Bahaa Taher was born in 1935 in Cairo, Egypt. Now one of the most widely read novelists in the Arab world, Taher has received the State's Award of Merit in Literature. He is the author of four collections of short stories, several plays and works of non-fiction, and six novels.

Giv: The Story of a Dog and America

Boston Teran

Nominated by:

Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA

My name is Dean Hickok, Sergeant, late of the U.S. Marines. I authored this work, though I did not create its people nor their stories. The book and its people become known to me because I nearly ran down a dog one night on a back road during a Kentucky rainstorm.

The dog, it turned out, had been made to suffer and left to die. But his will to survive, his determination to overcome the many cruelties inflicted upon him, and the ultimate and unabated goodness that abided in him, are the actual reason these pages bearing my name exist at all.

But it is not just a book about a dog know as GIV. It is also about America, its place and people.

Boston Teran is the author of four previous novels, including the cult classic *God is a Bullet*. He was born in N.Y.C. and currently lives in Mexico.

Brooklyn

Colm Tóibín

Nominated by:

**Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland
London's Public Libraries, England
Zentralbibliothek Zurich, Switzerland
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium
The Free State Provincial Library Service, Bloemfontein, South Africa
Cape Town Central Library, South Africa
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, USA
Boston Public Library, USA
San Francisco Public Library, USA
Richland County Public Library, USA
San José Public Library, USA
Chicago Public Library, USA
Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand**

It is Ireland in the early 1950s and for Eilis Lacey, as for so many young Irish girls, opportunities are scarce. So when her sister arranges for her to emigrate to New York, Eilis knows she must go, leaving behind her family and her home for the first time.

Arriving in a crowded lodging house in Brooklyn, Eilis can only be reminded of what she has sacrificed. She is far from home – and homesick. And just as she takes tentative steps towards friendship, and perhaps something more, Eilis receives news which sends her back to Ireland. There she will be confronted by a terrible dilemma – a devastating choice between duty and one great love.

Colm Tóibín is an Irish writer and journalist, and the author of four novels, including *The Heather Blazing* and *The Blackwater Lightship*. He lives in Dublin.

Running Away

Jean-Philippe Toussaint

Translated from the original French by Matthew B. Smith

Nominated by:

Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland

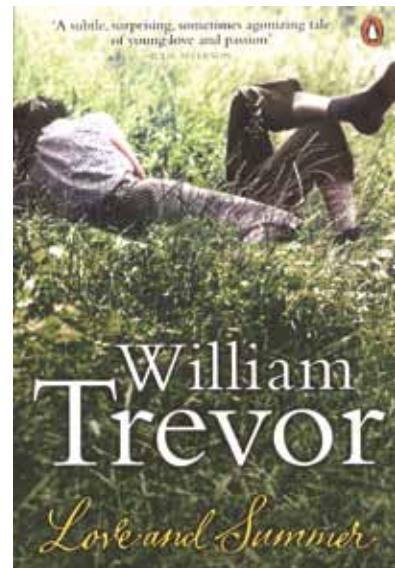
A European man arrives in Shanghai, ostensibly on vacation, yet a small task given him by his Parisian girlfriend Marie starts a series of complications. There is a mysterious Chinese man and a manila envelope full of cash. Later, he meets a woman at an art gallery and they agree to travel together to Beijing, yet when he joins her at the train station, the Chinese man is along. Events eclipse explanations, and soon he surrenders himself to the on-rush of experience.

Toussaint's latest novel pulls the reader into a jet-lag reality, a confusion of time and place that is both particularly modern and utterly real. The mature Toussaint shows himself to be no less ingenious an inventor of existential dilemmas, but with a new, surprising tenderness, and a deepened concern for the inexpressible immediacy and sensuality of human experience.

Jean-Philippe Toussaint is the author of seven novels. His writing has been compared to the work of Samuel Beckett, Jacques Tati, the films of Jim Jarmusch, and even Charlie Chaplin.

Love and Summer

William Trevor



Nominated by:

**Limerick City Library, Ireland
Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland
Miami-Dade Public Library System, USA
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, USA**

In spare, exquisite prose, master storyteller William Trevor presents a haunting love story about the choices of the heart, and the passions

and frustrations of three lives during one long summer. Ellie is a shy orphan girl from the hill country, married to a man whose life has been blighted by an unspeakable tragedy. She lives a quiet life in the Irish village of Rathmoye, until she meets Florian Kilderry, a young photographer preparing to leave Ireland and his past forever. The chance intersection of these two lost souls sets in motion a poignant love affair that requires Ellie to make an impossible choice.

William Trevor is the author of twenty-nine books, including *Felicia's Journey*, which won the Whitbread Book of the Year Award and was made into a motion picture. Two of his books were chosen by The New York Times as best books of the year, and his short stories appear regularly in the New Yorker. He lives in Devon, England.

Waiting for Columbus

Thomas Trofimuk

Nominated by:

Calgary Public Library, Canada

In a Spanish mental institution in 2004, a man who believes he is Christopher Columbus begins to tell his story. Nurse Consuela listens, hoping to discover what tragedy drove this educated, cultured man to retreat from reality. This Columbus is not heroic: he falls in love with every woman he meets, and, on land, he has absolutely no sense of direction. More troublingly, he is convinced a terrible tragedy is coming. Yet with each tale, Consuela draws closer to this lost navigator.

Waiting for Columbus is richly imagined, cinematic, and often playful; a novel about truth, loss, love, and hope by a writer at the height of his powers.

Thomas Trofimuk's first novel, *The 52nd Poem*, won several awards, and his second, *Doubting Yourself to the Bone*, was a #1 bestseller (Edmonton Journal) and a Globe and Mail Best Book of 2006. He lives in Edmonton with his wife and daughter.

Baba Yaga Laid an Egg

Dubravka Ugresic

Translated from the original

Croatian by Ellen Elias-Bursac, Celia Hawkesworth, and Mark Thompson.

Nominated by:

Rijeka City Library, Croatia

Baba Yaga is an old hag who lives in a house built on chicken legs and kidnaps small children. She is one of the most pervasive and powerful creatures in all mythology. She appears in many forms: as Pupa, a tricksy, cantankerous old woman who keeps her legs

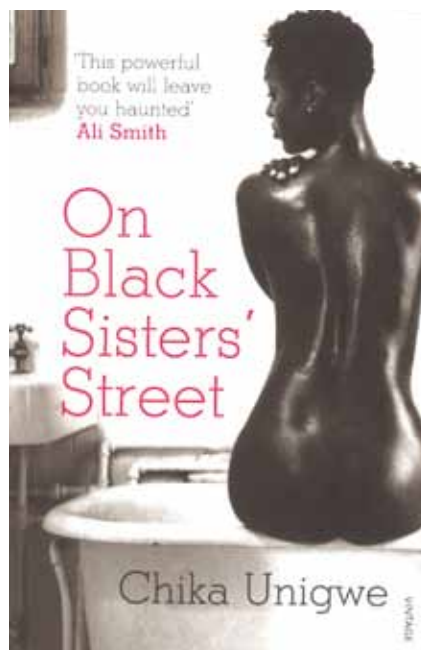
tucked into a huge furry boot; as a trio of mischievous elderly women who embark on the trip of a lifetime to a hotel spa; and as a villainous flock of ravens, black hens and magpies infected with the H5N1 virus.

But what story does Baba Yaga have to tell us today? This is a quizzical tale about one of the most pervasive and powerful creatures in all mythology, and an extraordinary yarn of identity, secrets, storytelling and love.

Dubravka Ugresic was born in 1949 in Croatia. Her books have been translated into more than twenty languages and she has received several major European literary awards. She is now based in Amsterdam and works as a freelance writer.

On Black Sisters' Street

Chika Unigwe



Nominated by:

Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek, Brussels, Belgium

At the house on Zwartezusterstraat four very different women have made their way from Africa to claim for themselves the riches of Europe. Sisi, Ama, Efe and Joyce are prostitutes, the girls who stand in the windows of the red-light district, promising to make men's dreams come true. The murder of Sisi, the most enigmatic of the women, shatters their already fragile world and as the women gather to mourn, the stories they have kept hidden are finally told.

Raw, vivid and suffused with the power of the oral story-telling tradition, *On Black Sisters' Street* is a moving story of the illusion of the West through African eyes, and its annihilation. It is also a story of courage, unity and hope.

Chika Unigwe was born in Nigeria and now lives in Belgium, with her husband and four children. She is the recipient of several awards for her short stories. In 2004 she was shortlisted for the Caine Prize for African Writing.

Her first novel, *De Feniks*, was published in Dutch in 2005.

Lake Como

Srdjan Valjarević

Translated from the original Serbian by Alice Coppel-Tosic

Nominated by

City Library of Belgrade, Serbia

City Library of Herceg-Novi, Montenegro

When his hero, a novelist, receives a Rockefeller scholarship to spend a month in Villa Maranese in Bellagio on Lake Como, he is bound to reconsider his measure of things, to find his place in a world of whose existence he was not aware of before. In his work, Valjarević is uncompromisingly open and honest both to others and to himself - no wonder his readers trust him and understand his need to be who he is, any time, at any cost. Be it in Belgrade, Bellagio or on the Island of Korčula, he keeps his mind open and the membrane of his identity permeable but firm. And because of this, the hero of the novel is able to have fun and enjoy in the fine things of this fleeting life. Because of this, solitude becomes him perfectly.

Srdjan Valjarević was born in Belgrade in 1967. He is an award-winning author who had his literary debut at the beginning of the 1990s, with the novel *List na korici bleba* (*Leaf on a Bread Crust*, 1990). His works can be read in Swedish, French and German.

Cutting for Stone

Abraham Verghese

Nominated by:

Birmingham Libraries, England

Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Houston Public Library, USA

Marion and Shiva Stone, born in a mission hospital in Ethiopia in the 1950s, are twin sons of an illicit union between an Indian nun and British doctor. Bound by birth but with widely different temperaments they grow up together, in a country on the brink of revolution, until a betrayal splits them apart. But fate has not finished with them - they will be brought together once more, in the sterile surroundings of a hospital theatre.

From the 1940s to the present, from a convent in India to a cargo ship bound for the Yemen, from a tiny operating theatre in Ethiopia to a hospital in the Bronx, this is both a richly visceral epic and a riveting family story.

Born and brought up of Indian parents in Ethiopia, **Abraham Verghese** is currently professor of medicine at Stanford University, California. He is the author of *My Own*

Country, and NBCC finalist made into a film directed by Mira Nair, and *The Tennis Partner*, a New York Times Notable Book.

Close-Up

Esther Verhoef

Translated from the original
Dutch by Paul Vincent

Nominated by:

*Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam,
The Netherlands*

Leon's partner died in his bath, and although the police report said she took her own life . . . she didn't. When he meets Margot, overweight, lacking in confidence and recently separated, he sees an opportunity. Her life's a mess. Who better to help her put it back together than a man who's recovering from his own girlfriend's tragic demise? Dragging her into a very intense, sexual relationship, which she realises, all too late, is one giant power game, Leon moves her into his flat and sets her up with a new career, introducing her to all the contacts she could need. How could she ever manage without him? If his ideas go to plan, she'll never need to worry about that.

Esther Verhoef was born in 1968 and gained recognition for her critically acclaimed action thrillers *Restless*, *Under Pressure* and *Rendez-Vous*.

Madame Verona Comes Down the Hill

Dimitri Verhulst

Translated from the original
Dutch by David Colmer

Nominated by:

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

Years ago, Madame Verona and her husband made a home for themselves on a hill above a small remote village. There they lived in seclusion, practicing their music, and enjoying each other's company. When Mr Verona died, the locals were expecting that Madame Verona, a woman of legendary beauty, would return to the village life. But she had enough wood to keep her warm during the years it would take to make a cello – the instrument her husband loved – and in the meantime she had her dogs for company.

Then, one cold February morning, when the last log has burned, Madame Verona sets off down the village path, with her cello and her memories, knowing that she will have no strength to climb the hill again.

Dimitri Verhulst was born in Belgium in 1972, is the author of a collection of short stories, a volume of poetry and several novels, including *Problemski Hotel* which was translated into English in 2003.

Deaf Heaven

Pinki Virani

Nominated by:

*Connemara (State Central) Public
Library, Chennai, India*

The voice is that of Saraswati, librarian and collector of curious facts, who dies among her beloved books on Thursday evening. Until her body is discovered on Monday, her spirit is free to play sutradhar and watch over all she holds dear: her sister Damayanti, wife of a superstar; Tisca, heroine spurned by a rising star; Qudsia Begum, Bangalore beautician and wise mother; Czaerandhari, erstwhile maharani and sms-addict; hard-talking journalist Nafisa, does she hide a secret?

Yet: Saraswati's stories are not only about women who wait for their idea of heaven to happen. This is fiction that dares to subvert form, structure and expectations to hold up a mirror to a nation at tipping point.

Pinki Virani is the author of three bestselling nonfiction titles: *Aruna's Story*, *Once Was Bombay* and *Bitter Chocolate*.

Season of Ash

Jorge Volpi

Translated from the original Spanish
by Alfred A. MacAdam

Nominated by:

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

The Soviet biologist Irina Granina has experienced the worst of Communism, struggling to free her husband from the gulag for years. Following the rise of Gorbachev, her husband emerges a changed man, but then Irina is forced to witness the worst of capitalism, and she loses her husband again.

In the West, Jennifer Moore takes a high-ranking job at the International Monetary Fund, where she hopes to bring the tough love of the free market economy to the unenlightened masses the world over. But she also has to deal with a philandering husband.

Season of Ash puts a human face on earth-shaking events of the late twentieth century. It is a thrilling exploration of greed and disillusionment, and a clear-eyed examination of the passions that rule our lives and make history.

Jorge Volpi is a doctor in law and a teacher of Mexican literature at the UNAM (Autonomous University of Mexico). He author of nine novels, including *In Search of Klingsor*, for which he won the Spanish Premio Biblioteca Breve prize and the French Deux-Océans-Grizane-Cavour Prize.

In the United States of Africa

Abdourahman A. Waberi

Translated from the original French
by David and Nicole Ball

Nominated by:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France

In a literary reversal as deadly serious as it is wickedly satiric, this novel turns the fortunes of the world upside down. On this reimaged globe a stream of sorry humanity flows from the West, from the slums of America and the squalor of Europe, to escape poverty and desperation in the prosperous United States of Africa. It is in this world that an African doctor on a humanitarian mission to France adopts a child. Now a young artist, this girl, Malaika, travels to the troubled land of her birth in hope of finding her mother — and perhaps something of her lost self. Her search, at times funny and strange, is also deeply poignant, reminding us at every moment of the turns of fate we call truth.

Abdourahman A. Waberi was born in Djibouti in 1965 and has lived in France since 1985. He has published numerous books, articles, and stories. His first collection of short stories, *Le Pays Sans Ombre* won Belgium's Royal Academy of French Language and Literature Grand Prix.

A Short History of Women

Kate Walbert

Nominated by:

*Biblioteca Metropolitană București,
Bucharest, Romania
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA*

A profoundly moving portrait of the complicated legacies of mothers and daughters, *A Short History of Women* chronicles five generations of women from the close of the nineteenth century through the early years of the twenty-first. Beginning in 1914 at the deathbed of Dorothy Trevor Townsend, a suffragette who starves herself for the cause, the novel traces the echoes of her choice in the stories of her descendants — a brilliant daughter who tries to escape the burden of her mother's infamy; a granddaughter who chooses a conventional path, only to find herself disillusioned; a great-granddaughter who wryly articulates the free-floating anxiety of post-9/11 Manhattan. With a richness of imagery, emotion, and wit, *A Short History of Women* is a thought-provoking and vividly original narrative that crisscrosses a century.

Kate Walbert is the author of *Where She Went*, *The Gardens of Kyoto* and *Our Kind*. Her short fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Short Stories*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, and numerous other publications. She lives in New York City and Connecticut with her family.

Half-Broke Horses

Jeannette Walls

Nominated by:

Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany
Katona József County Library,
Kecskemét, Hungary
Lincoln City Libraries, USA

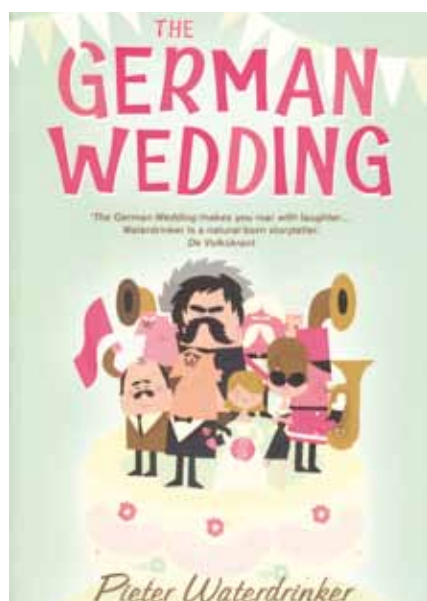
"Those old cows knew trouble was coming before we did." So begins the story of Lily Casey Smith, Jeannette Walls's no-nonsense, resourceful, and spectacularly compelling grandmother. By age six, Lily was helping her father break horses. At fifteen, she left home to teach in a frontier town. She learned to drive a car and fly a plane. And, with her husband, Jim, she ran a vast ranch in Arizona and raised two children.

Lily survived tornadoes, droughts, floods, the Great Depression, and the most heartbreaking personal tragedy. Rosemary Smith Walls always told Jeannette that she was like her grandmother, and in this true-life novel, Jeannette Walls channels that kindred spirit.

Jeannette Walls was born in Phoenix, Arizona. Her memoir, *The Glass Castle*, has been a New York Times bestseller for over three years and has been translated into twenty-two languages. She lives in rural Virginia with her husband, the writer John Taylor.

The German Wedding

Pieter Waterdrinker



Translated from the original
 Dutch by Brian Doyle

Nominated by:

Bibliotheek Eindhoven, The Netherlands
Bibliotheek Utrecht, The Netherlands

Ludo is Dutch, Liza is German, and they are getting married. When Ludo's parents, Jacob and Maria, welcome their in-laws to their hotel for the happy occasion, they spare no expense. Not to be outdone, the father of the bride, Hans, arrives with his sausage factory's brass band, The Fleshtones, in tow. All is shaping up for the party of the century!

But almost immediately the happy day begins to fall apart. Ludo has the clap; Liza's bitchy, sex addicted mother is lying about absolutely everything to absolutely everybody; and a local newspaper reveals that both Hans and Jacob are hiding very shady pasts...

"This novel will make you roar with laughter... Waterdrinker is a natural born storyteller who never loses his grip on his readers.' De Volkskrant.

Pieter Waterdrinker was born in Holland. He studied Russian, French and Law at the University of Amsterdam. A novelist, journalist and broadcaster, he is the Moscow correspondent for the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf. He lives in Moscow.

The Little Stranger

Sarah Waters

Nominated by:

Chicago Public Library, USA
Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand
Municipal Library of Prague, Czech Republic
Jacksonville Public Library, USA

In a dusty post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, a doctor is called to a patient at lonely Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house, once grand and handsome, is now in decline, its masonry crumbling, its gardens choked with weeds, its owners mother, son and daughter struggling to keep pace. But are the Ayreses haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life? Little does Dr Faraday know how closely, and how terrifyingly, their story is about to become entwined with his.

Sarah Waters was born in Wales in 1966 and lives in London. She has a Ph.D in English Literature and has lectured for the Open University. She is the author of *Tipping the Velvet*, *Affinity* and *Fingersmith*.

Sag Harbor

Colson Whitehead

Nominated by:

Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands

From the award-winning author of *John Henry Days* and *The Intuitionist*: a tender, hilarious, and supremely original novel about coming-of-age in the 80s. Benji Cooper is one of the few black students at an elite prep school in Manhattan. But every summer, Benji escapes to the Hamptons, to Sag Harbor, where a small community of African American professionals have built a world of their own. The summer of '85 won't be without its usual trials and tribulations, of course. There will be complicated new handshakes to fumble through and state-of-the-art profanity to master. Benji will be tested by contests big and small, by his misshapen haircut (which seems to have a will of its own), by the New Coke Tragedy, and by his secret Lite FM addiction. But maybe, just maybe, this summer might be one for the ages.

Colson Whitehead was born in New York City. His is author of the acclaimed novels *The Intuitionist* and *John Henry Days*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Joe Speedboat

Tommy Wieringa

Translated from the original
 Dutch by Sam Garrett

Nominated by:

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

When Frankie Hermans emerges from a coma after 200 days, he can't talk, he can't walk and it's a struggle even to wield a pen. And then there's Joe Speedboat – a boy who arrived in the sleepy village of Lomark like a blazing comet and who's been stirring things up ever since. Joe sees a use for Frankie's good right arm beyond writing: as a champion arm-wrestler Frankie will be strong enough to impress his friends, and maybe even win the favour of the gorgeous, golden-haired girl who has them all in a spin.

Joe Speedboat tells the fast-paced story of an unlikely friendship between two boys, and of their lightning dash towards adulthood.

Tommy Wieringa was born in 1967 and grew up partly in the Netherlands, partly in the tropics. He is the author of two previous novels, one of which was awarded Holland's Halewijn prize. *Joe Speedboat* is his first novel to be published in English.

Theravada Man

Manuka Wijesinghe

Nominated by:

Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

Following the success of her first novel *Monsoons* and *Potholes*, Manuka Wijesinghe digs deeper into the history and psyche of her native Sri Lanka with the story of a village schoolmaster who finds his unwavering faith in Theravada Buddhism and the British educational system challenged by the irrational forces of astrology, numerology, mythology and human desire.

Told with characteristic passion and humour, the story combines a satirical take on the Sinhala myth with a healthy dose of its own brand of mysticism. Manuka's strengths are her unique narrative voice, her playwright's ear for dialogue, and her idiosyncratic perspective on her nation's history and culture.

Manuka Wijesinghe was born in Colombo. She completed school, entered university, got a degree, danced, did a job, gave birth to kids and sometime before entering the twilight zone realized she had a story to tell.

Somebody Loves Us All

Damien Wilkins

Nominated by:

Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand
Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand

Paddy Thompson, speech therapist, newspaper columnist, is fifty and happy. His dark period is behind him, now he lives with Helena, helps kids with their speech problems, and has moved his mother into the next-door apartment. His life feels sane and settled.

So what are these new signs of upset? One of his clients refuses to speak. Helena is under stress at work. His newspaper column has run out of puff. Paddy buys a bicycle. He feels, with a typical metaphorical flourish, that 'one of those great wheels of life had begun a revolution'. Then his mother presents him with the biggest challenge of his life. What follows, in this wonderfully expansive novel, takes Paddy deep into the vortex of family love.

Damien Wilkins is the author of eight books in total, including a book of poems and two books of short stories. He is well-known as a book reviewer and essayist. He lives in Wellington, NZ with his wife and two daughters.

As the Earth Turns Silver

Alison Wong

Nominated by:

Auckland City Libraries, New Zealand
Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand

From the late nineteenth century to the 1920s, from Kwangtung, China to Wellington and Dunedin and the Battlefields of the Western Front – A story of two families.

Yung faces a new land that does not welcome the Chinese. Alone, Katherine struggles to raise her children and find her place in the world.

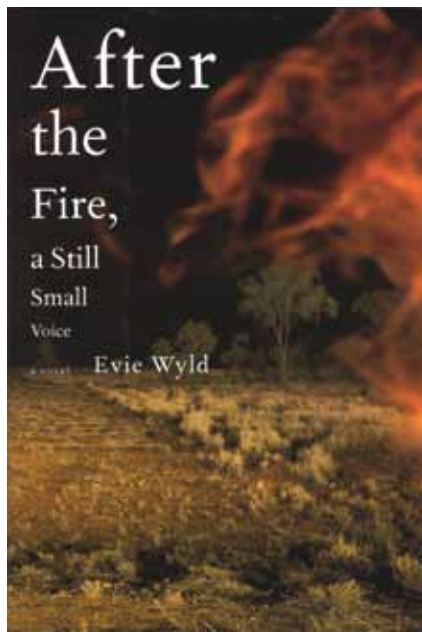
In a climate of hostility towards the foreign newcomers, Katherine and Yung embark on a poignant and far-reaching love affair...

"He came from behind and held her in his arms, told her to look again at earth and sky and water. Could she see how the world turned silver?"

Alison Wong was born and raised in Hawke's Bay. Her poetry collection *Cup* was shortlisted for the Jessie Mackay Best First Book for Poetry at the 2007 Montana New Zealand Books Awards, and her poetry was selected for Best New Zealand Poems 2006 and 2007. *As the Earth Turns Silver* is her first novel.

After the Fire, a Still, Small Voice

Evie Wyld



Nominated by:

San Diego Public Library, USA

After the departure of the woman he loves, Frank drives out to a shack by the ocean that he has last visited as a teenager. There, among the sugarcane and sand dunes, he struggles to rebuild his life.

Forty years earlier, Leon is growing up in Sydney, turning out treacle tarts at his parents' bakery and flirting with one of the local girls. But when he's drafted to service in Vietnam, he finds himself suddenly confronting the same experiences that haunt his war-veteran father.

As these two stories weave around each other—each narrated in a voice as tender as it is fierce—we learn what binds Frank and Leon together, and what may end up keeping them apart.

Evie Wyld grew up in Australia and London, where she currently lives. She received an M.A. in Creative and Life Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London and was featured as one of Granta's New Voices in May 2008.

The Leisure Seeker

Michael Zadoorian

Nominated by:

Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands

John and Ella Robina have shared a wonderful life for more than fifty years. Now in their eighties, Ella suffers from cancer and has chosen to stop treatment. John has Alzheimer's. Yearning for one last adventure, they kidnap themselves from the adult children and doctors to steal away from their home in suburban Detroit on a forbidden vacation of rediscovery.

Darkly observant, told with humor, affection, and a touch of irony, *The Leisure Seeker* is an odyssey through the ghost towns, deserted trailer parks, forgotten tourist attractions, giant roadside icons, and crumbling back roads of America. Ultimately it is the story of Ella and John, the love they share, and their courage to take back the end of their own lives.

Michael Zadoorian was born in Detroit, Michigan. He was the recipient of the Loughhead Eldridge Creative Writing Scholarship and three Tompkins Awards for his fiction and essays. Zadoorian's first novel, *Second Hand* was critically acclaimed. His short story collection, *The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit* features published and new work.

The Angel's Game

Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Translated from the original
Spanish by Lucia Graves

Nominated by:

Birmingham Libraries, England
Cork City Libraries, Ireland
Gateshead Libraries & Arts, England
Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

In an abandoned mansion at the heart of Barcelona, a young man – David Martin – makes his living by writing sensationalist novels under a pseudonym. The survivor of a troubled childhood, he has taken refuge in the world of books, and spends his nights spinning baroque tales about the city's underworld. But perhaps his dark imaginings are not as strange as they seem, for in a locked room deep within the house are letters hinting at the mysterious death of the previous owner. Like a slow poison, the history of the place seeps into his bones as he struggles with an impossible love...

Carlos Ruiz Zafón was born in Barcelona and is the author of six novels, including *The Shadow of the Wind*, the most successful novel in Spanish publishing history after Don Quixote. His work has been translated into more than 35 languages and has received numerous international awards.

photo: Mark Condren



John Boyne

John Boyne was born in Dublin in 1971. He is the author of 8 novels, including the international bestsellers *Mutiny On The Bounty*, *The House of Special Purpose* and *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*, which sold 5 million copies worldwide, topped the New York Times bestseller list and was made into a Miramax feature film. His second children's novel, *Noah Barleywater Runs Away*, was published in October 2010. His books are published in over 40 languages.

photo: George Archer Photography Ltd.



Susan Bassnett

Susan Bassnett is a writer and Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Warwick. She is the author of over 20 books, which include translations, collections of her poetry, and academic writing. Recent publications include a study of Ted Hughes (2009) and a co-authored book on translation and global news (2010). A collection of her short essays, *Reflections on Translation* will appear in 2011. She travels all over the world to give lectures and run workshops, but always finds time for her children, grandchildren and beloved dogs.

photo: Malcolm Hadley



Tessa Hadley

Tessa Hadley has written three novels: *Accidents in the Home*, (2002), (longlisted for the Guardian First Book award); *Everything Will Be All Right*, (2003), (shortlisted for the Encore Award); and *The Master Bedroom*, (2007) (longlisted for the Orange Prize). A new novel, *The London Train*, was published in January 2011. She has had stories published in The New Yorker, Granta, and The Guardian, and published a collection of stories, *Sunstroke*, in 2007 (shortlisted for the Story Prize in the US). She reviews for The London Review of Books and The Guardian, and was Chair of the Editorial Board of New Welsh Review from 2005-8. Tessa is also a Senior Lecturer in English and Creative Studies at Bath Spa University. Her book on Henry James, *Henry James and the Imagination of Pleasure*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2002.

photo: Melania Avanzato



Nancy Huston

Born in Calgary, Alberta in 1953, Nancy Huston has been living in Paris since 1973. She writes fiction and non-fiction, in both French and English, translating herself in both directions. Her novels have won numerous prizes, including the Prix Goncourt des Lycéens (France), the Prix Elle (Québec) and the Governor General's Award (Canada). Published in 2006 in French and in 2008 in English, *Fault Lines*, her eleventh novel, was shortlisted for both the Orange Prize in Great Britain and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize in Canada. Distinguished by the Prix Femina in France, it became an international bestseller and has been translated into nearly forty languages.

photo: Ulla Montan



Michael Hofmann

Michael Hofmann was born in Freiburg, Germany, in 1957, and moved to England in 1961. He went to schools in Bristol, Edinburgh and Winchester, and studied at Cambridge for seven years. Since 1983, he has been a freelance writer and reviewer. In 1993, he was offered a teaching post at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is the author of four books of poems and a *Selected Poems* (2008), a book of criticism called *Behind the Lines* (2001), and the translator of many German authors, including *Brecht*, *Kafka*, *Jünger* and *Roth*. In 1998, his translation of Herta Müller's *The Land of Green Plums* won the IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award. Among his recent translations are *Alone in Berlin* by Hans Fallada and *Angina Days*, the selected poems of Günter Eich.



Eugene R. Sullivan

Hon. Eugene R. Sullivan, non-voting chair of the judging panel, is a former Chief Judge of a US Court of Appeals and brings a wealth of experience from sixteen years on the bench and as an author. His first novel, *The Majority Rules*, was published in 2005. His second novel of his political thriller trilogy, *The Report to the Judiciary*, was published in 2008. Judge Sullivan is currently a senior partner in Freeh Group International, a global consultant group of former judges/FBI officials based in Washington DC, New York, Los Angeles, and Wilmington, Delaware.

Australia

Adelaide, *The State Library of South Australia*
Brisbane, *The State Library of Queensland*
Canberra, *The National Library of Australia*
Melbourne, *The State Library of Victoria*
Sydney, *The State Library of New South Wales*

Barbados

Bridgetown, *National Library Service of Barbados*

Belgium

Brussels, *Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek*
Gent, *Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent*
Leuven, *Tweebronnen Openbare Bibliotheek*

Brazil

Brasilia, *Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília BDB*

Canada

Calgary, *Calgary Public Library*
Edmonton, *Edmonton Public Library & Grant MacEwan University Library*
Gander, *Newfoundland Labrador Public Libraries*
Halifax, *Halifax Public Libraries*
Ottawa, *Ottawa Public Library*
Saint John, *Saint John Free Public Library*
St John's, *St. John's Public Libraries*
Sydney, *Cape Breton Regional Library*
Toronto, *Toronto Public Library*
Vancouver, *Vancouver Public Library*
Winnipeg, *Winnipeg Public Library*

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Bogota, *Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango*

Croatia

Rijeka, *Rijeka City Library / Gradska Knjiznica Rijeka*
Zagreb, *City Library of Zagreb / Gradska Knjižnica*

Czech Republic

Karviná-Mizerov, *Regional Library of Karviná*
Prague, *Mestská Knihovna v Praze / Municipal Library of Prague*

Denmark

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

England

Birmingham, *Birmingham Libraries*
Gateshead, *Gateshead Libraries & Arts*
Liverpool, *Liverpool Libraries & Information Services*
London, *London's Public Libraries*
Newcastle, *Newcastle City Libraries*

Estonia

Tallinn, *Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu / National Library of Estonia*

Finland

Helsinki, *Helsingin Kaupunginkirjasto / Helsinki City Library*
Tampere, *Tampere City Library*

France

Lyon, *Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon*
Mulhouse, *Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse*
Nice, *Bibliothèque Municipale de Nice*
Strasbourg, *Bibliothèque Municipale de Strasbourg*

Germany

Bonn, *Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn*
Bremen, *Stadtbibliothek Bremen*
Dusseldorf, *Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf*
Frankfurt, *Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main*
Leipzig, *Leipziger Stadtische Bibliotheken*
Mainz, *Bibliotheken der Stadt Mainz*
Munich, *Münchner Stadtbibliothek*

Greece

Serres, *Serres Central Public Library*
Thessaloniki, *Municipal Library of Thessaloniki*
Veria, *Veria Central Public Library*

Hungary

Kecskemét, *Katona József County Library*

India

Chennai, *Connemara (State Central) Public Library*
New Delhi, *India International Centre Library*

Ireland

Cork, *Cork City Libraries*
Dublin, *Dublin City Public Libraries*
Galway, *Galway County Library*
Limerick, *Limerick City Library*
Waterford, *Waterford County Library*

Italy

Florence, *Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze*
Naples, *Biblioteca Nazionale di Napoli/Biblioteca Nazionale "Vitt.Em.111" Napoli*
Rome, *Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma*

Jamaica

Kingston, *Jamaica Library Service*

Lebanon

Beirut, *Jafet Library – American University of Beirut*

Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, *National Library of Malaysia*

Maldives

Male, *The National Library of Maldives*

Mexico

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

Montenegro

Herceg Novi, *City Library of Herceg-Novi*

New Zealand

Auckland, *Auckland City Libraries*

Christchurch, *Christchurch City Libraries*

Dunedin, *Dunedin Public Libraries*

Wellington, *Wellington City Libraries*

Norway

Bergen, *Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek*

Oslo, *Oslo Public Libraries*

Stavanger, *Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturhus*

Poland

Łódź, *Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka*

Publiczna im Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego

Warsaw, *Warsaw Public Library / Biblioteka*

Główna Województwa Mazowieckiego

Portugal

Lisbon, *Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa*

Porto, *Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto*

Romania

Bucharest, *Biblioteca Metropolitană București*

Russia

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

Scotland

Aberdeen, *Aberdeen Library & Information Services*

Glasgow, *Glasgow Libraries Information & Learning*

Serbia

Belgrade, *City Library of Belgrade*

Slovenia

Ljubljana, *Knjižnica Otona Župancica*

South Africa

Bloemfontein, *The Free State Provincial Library Service*

Cape Town, *Cape Town Central Library*

Johannesburg, *City of Johannesburg Library & Information Services*

Pretoria, *Tshwane Library & Information Service*

Spain

Barcelona, *Biblioteques de Barcelona*

Sri Lanka

Colombo, *Colombo Public Library*

Sweden

Stockholm, *Stockholm Public Library*

Switzerland

Bern, *University Library of Bern*

Geneva, *Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva*

Zurich, *Zentralbibliothek Zurich*

The Netherlands

Amsterdam, *Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam*

Eindhoven, *Openbare Bibliotheek Eindhoven*

Rotterdam, *Bibliotheek Rotterdam*

The Hague, *The Association of Public Libraries The Hague*

Utrecht, *Gemeentebibliotheek Utrecht*

Trinidad & Tobago

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

Turkey

Ankara, *National Library of Turkey*

USA

Boston, *Boston Public Library*

Cheyenne, *Laramie County Library System*

Chicago, *Chicago Public Library*

Cincinnati, *Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County*

Cleveland, *Cleveland Public Library*

Colorado Springs, *Pikes Peak Library District*

Columbia, *Richland County Public Library*

Concord, *New Hampshire State Library*

Denver, *Denver Public Library*

Hartford, *Hartford Public Library*

Houston, *Houston Public Library*

Jacksonville, *Jacksonville Public Library*

Lincoln, *Lincoln City Libraries*

Miami, *Miami-Dade Public Library System*

Milwaukee, *Milwaukee Public Library*

Philadelphia, *Free Library of Philadelphia*

Pittsburgh, *Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh*

Portland, *Multnomah County Library*

Richmond, *Richmond Public Library*

San Diego, *San Diego Public Library*

San Francisco, *San Francisco Public Library*

San José, *San José Public Library*

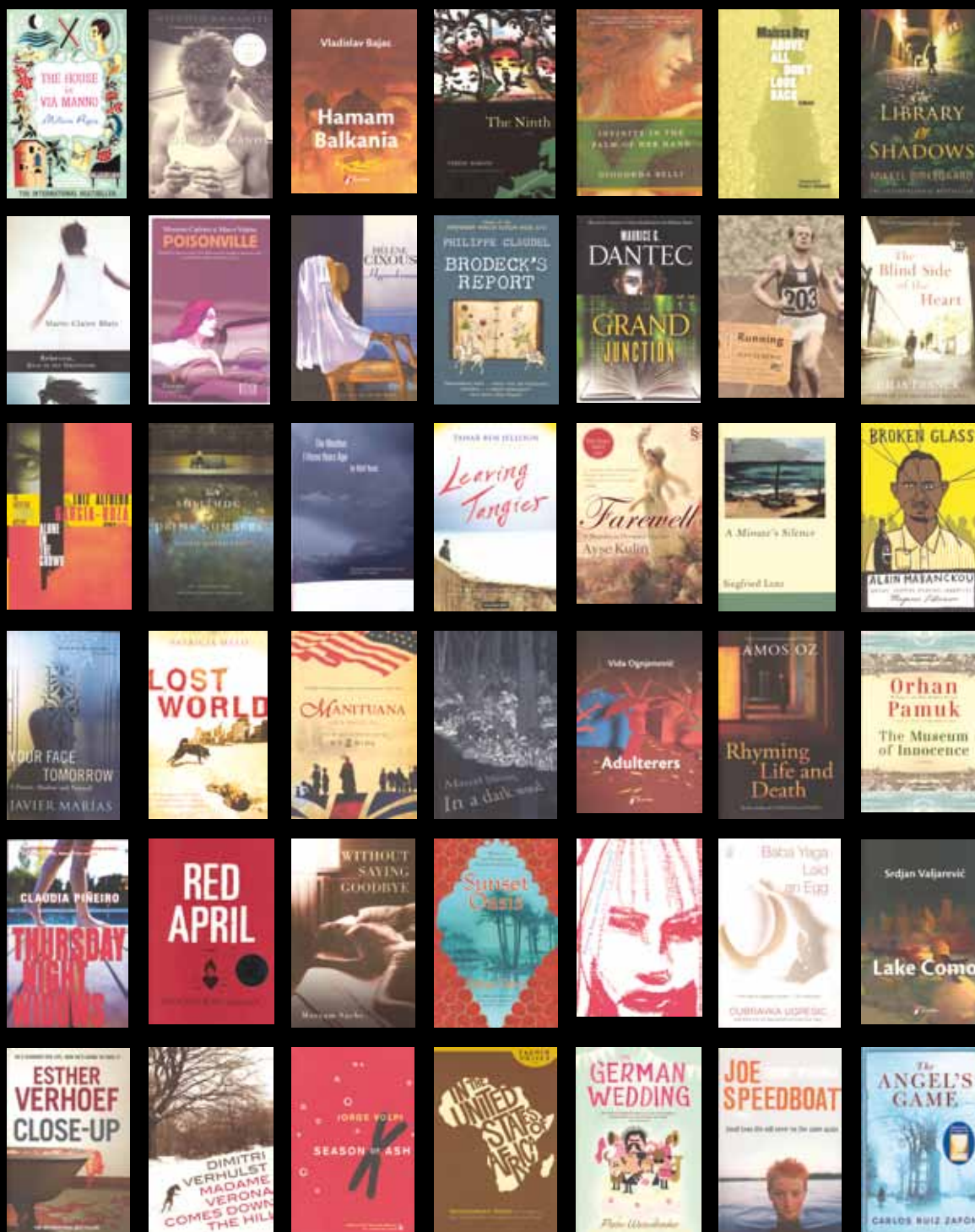
Seattle, *Seattle Public Library*

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Contact us

International IMPAC DUBLIN Literary Award
Dublin City Library & Archive
138-144 Pearse Street
Dublin 2, Ireland

Telephone: + 353 1 674 4802 / 1
Facsimile: + 353 1 674 4879
E-mail: literaryaward@dublincity.ie
Web: www.impacdublinaward.ie