

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL IMPAC DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD

FICTION MATTERS

No.18 February 2012

DUBLIN
UNESCO
City of Literature

Complete List of Eligible Titles

2012

SHORTLIST { 12TH
ANNOUNCEMENT { APRIL

WINNER { 13TH
ANNOUNCEMENT { JUNE



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Baile Átha Cliath
Dublin City

Let The Great World Spin by Colum McCann, Winner of the 2011 award



Jason Clarke Photography

The 2011 winner is presented with the trophy (L-R) John Tierney, Dublin City Manager, Colum McCann and The Lord Mayor of Dublin and Patron of the Award, Gerry Breen.



Jason Clarke Photography

(L-R) Dominique Monnot, representing Bibliothèques Municipales Genève, Switzerland is presented with a scroll by Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian and Chair of the Award Committee, in recognition of library participation worldwide.



Jason Clarke Photography

Alexandra Pringle, Bloomsbury Publishing, publishers of Let the Great Word Spin (also published by Random House Inc.) is presented with a Dublin Crystal Bowl by John Tierney, Dublin City Manager.



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Congratulations to the 14 libraries in Canada, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland and the USA, who nominated Let the Great World Spin



This is not just a book about New York City or 9/11, but about finding grace, connection and meaning in the chaos of life. Congrats to Mr. McCann!

– **Theresa Parise, Jane Bickford, Betsy Clarke, Kate Brown, Melissa Andrews** Boston Public Library, USA



Cork City (Ireland) Librarian, Liam Ronayne with colleagues Sinéad Feely and Thomas McCarthy, nominators of Let the Great World Spin.



This was a book Richmond Public Library recommended to every reader who walked through our doors, and we are delighted that the IMPAC Dublin award will bring it similar attention worldwide.

– **Ellen J. Wolf** (left)
Richmond Public Library, USA



"It's a groundbreaking and heartbreaking novel about New York at its wild time by a wonderfully skilled writer, set against a time of sweeping political and social change. A witty, touching and entertaining read!"

– **Annette Krohn**
Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf,
Germany



McCann is very good at describing and making you feel a part of things, sometimes in only a few pages. It invites readers to take time and savor every detail and every character."

– **Jacki Potratz**
Milwaukee Public Library, USA



It is a wonderfully written novel, very close in its observation of human longings and desires. I especially value McCann's empathy that never gets sentimental.

– **Doris Reinwald**
Münchner Stadtbibliothek,
Germany

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 2012 longlist is announced – Dublin City Library & Archive, November 2011



Jason Clarke Photography

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Andrew Montague, meets the 2012 judging panel. (L-R) Tim Parks, Mike McCormack, Philip Maguire, Deputy Dublin City Manager; Elizabeth Nunez, Evelyn Schlag, Judge Eugene Sullivan (non-voting Chair); Dubravka Ugresic, Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian. November 2011.



Jason Clarke Photography

(L-R) Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian discusses the longlist with The Lord Mayor of Dublin & Patron of the Award, Andrew Montague, while Tana French, Irish author of Faithful Place stands by. Pearse Street Public Library, Dublin, November 2011.



Jason Clarke Photography

Judges Tim Parks and Evelyn Schlag at the longlist announcement. Dublin City Library & Archive, November 2011.

Lyrics Alley

by Leila Aboulela

Nominated by:

Aberdeen Library & Information Services, Scotland

Set in 1950s Sudan, *Lyrics Alley* is the story of the powerful Abuzied dynasty. With Mahmood Bey at its helm, the family can do no wrong. But when Mahmood's son, Nur – the brilliant, charming heir to his business empire – suffers a near-fatal accident, his hopes of university and a glittering future are dashed and his betrothal to his cousin and sweetheart, Soraya is broken off. As British rule is coming to an end, the family is divided. Mahmood's second wife, Nabilah, longs to return to Egypt. His first wife, Waheeba, lives traditionally behind veils and closed doors and resents Nabilah's influence on Mahmood. Meanwhile, Nur must find a way to live again in the world. Moving from the villages of Sudan to cosmopolitan Cairo and a decimated post-colonial Britain, this is a sweeping tale of loss, faith and reconciliation.

Leila Aboulela was born in 1964 in Cairo and grew up in Khartoum. She is the author of novels *The Translator* and *Minaret*. Leila's work has appeared in publications such as *Granta*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review* and the *Washington Post*. It has also been translated into 13 languages.

The Sky is Falling

by Caroline Adderson

Nominated by:

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

On a spring day in 2004, Jane Z. a physician's wife and mother of a teenage son, opens her morning newspaper to see a familiar face. Sonia, a lost friend accused of terrorism, has just been released after twenty years. It all comes flooding back to Jane, how twenty years before her life took a very different course.

At nineteen, Jane rents a room in a student house with a trio of idealists: Sonia, who yearns to save the world's children from nuclear war; the Marxist-leaning Dieter; and the anarcho-feminist-pacifist Pete. A bookish misfit, her radical housemates quickly draw Jane into NAG, a non-violent, anti-nuclear direct action group. Tension increases as the group mounts successive protests, until a bomb explodes and changes everything.

Caroline Adderson is the author of two previous novels *A History of Forgetting* and *Sitting Practice*, two collections of short stories and several books for young readers. Her work has received numerous prize nominations and awards. She lives in Vancouver.

The Lessons

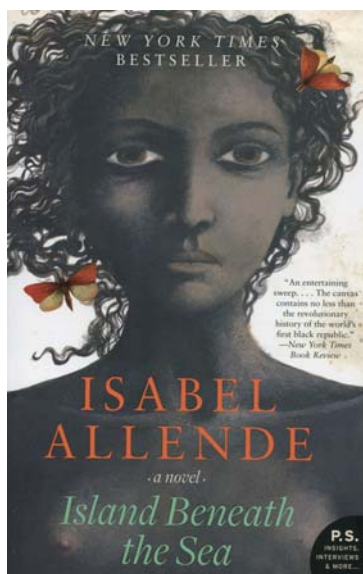
by Naomi Alderman

Nominated by:

Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland

A close-knit group of friends forms at Oxford around the mercurial, charismatic figure of Mark, whose rackets trust-fund upbringing has left him as troubled and dangerously unpredictable as he is wildly promiscuous. After graduation the group fragments, each locked in his or her own suddenly adult, pedestrian world. But Mark's influence is still strong...

Naomi Alderman was born in 1974 and was brought up in the Orthodox Jewish community in Hendon, London, where she now lives. She is a graduate of the UEA creative writing course and has published short fiction in a number of anthologies.



Island Beneath the Sea

by Isabel Allende

Translated from the original Spanish by Margaret Sayers Peden

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Daniel Costó Villegas de El Colegio de México

Born a slave on the island of Saint-Domingue – the daughter of an African mother she never knew and a white sailor who brought her into bondage – Zarité, known as Tété, survives a childhood of brutality and fear, finding solace in the traditional rhythms of African drums and in her exhilarating initiation into the mysteries of voodoo.

When twenty-year-old Toulouse Valmorain arrives on the island in 1770, he discovers that running his father's plantation is neither glamorous nor easy. Marriage also proves problematic when, eight years later, he brings home a bride. But it is his teenaged slave, Tété, upon whom Valmorain becomes most dependent, as their lives intertwine across four tumultuous decades.

Born in Peru and raised in Chile, **Isabel Allende** is the author of many bestselling novels, including, most recently, *Ines of My Soul*, *Zorro*, *Portrait in Sepia*, and *Daughter of Fortune*. Her books have been translated into more than 27 languages. She lives in California.

Sunset Park

by Paul Auster

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III, Naples, Italy
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium

In the sprawling flatlands of Florida, 28-year-old Miles is photographing the last traces of families who have abandoned their houses due to debt or foreclosure. Haunted by guilt for having inadvertently caused the death of his step-brother, Miles fled New York and his father and step-mother seven years before.

He is kept in Florida by his relationship with a teenage girl, Pilar, but when her family threatens to expose their relationship, Miles decides to protect Pilar by going back to Brooklyn, where he settles in a squat to prepare himself to face the inevitable confrontation with his father. *Sunset Park* is above all, a story about love and forgiveness – not only among men and women, but also between fathers and sons.

Paul Auster is the best-selling author of *Invisible*, *Man in the Dark*, *Brooklyn Follies*, *The Book of Illusions* and *The New York Trilogy*, among many other works. His work has been translated into more than 30 languages. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

The Silence of Mohammed

by Salim Bachi

Translated from the original French by Sue Rose

Nominated by:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France

Before becoming the prophet of Islam, Mohammed was a simple man of flesh and blood who started life as a poor orphan in the Arabian city of Mecca. Through his union with Khadija, he became a prosperous merchant and caravaner. He was visited by God at the age of forty to become a prophet and visionary statesman. *The Silence of Mohammed* is the story of "this exceptional man" (Bachi).

Based on historical facts and legends, the novel presents a fictionalised account of the life of Mohammed told by four key characters: his first wife, Khadija; his closest friend, Caliph Abu Bakr; the fiery warrior, General Khalid; and his last love Aisha, who became his wife at the age of nine.

Salim Bachi was born in Algeria. He studied literature in Algeria and France. His first book, *Le Chien d'Ulysse*, was published in 2001 and awarded the Goncourt du Premier Roman.

Other works include *La Kabéna*, *Autoportrait avec Grenade* and *Tuez-les tous*. He lives in France.

Ship Breaker

by Paolo Bacigalupi

Nominated by:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse, France

In America's Gulf Coast region, where grounded oil tankers are being broken down for parts, Nailer, a teenage boy, works the light crew, scavenging for copper wiring just to make quota – and hopefully live to see another day. But when, by luck or chance, he discovers an exquisite clipper ship beached during a recent hurricane, Nailer faces the most important decision of his life: Strip the ship for all it's worth or rescue its lone survivor, a beautiful and wealthy girl who could lead him to a better life. . . .

In this powerful novel, award-winning author Paolo Bacigalupi delivers a thrilling, fast-paced adventure set in a vivid and raw, uncertain future.

Paolo Bacigalupi is a rising star in the science fiction community and has received awards for his work. He is the author of *Pump Six*, *Other Stories* and *The Windup Girl*. He lives in Western Colorado with his wife and son.

Gorée Point of Departure

by Angela Barry

Nominated by:

Bermuda National Library, Hamilton

A chance encounter at Kennedy Airport with her ex-husband, Saliou Wade, takes Magdalene and their now adult daughter, Khadi, on a visit to him and his new family in Senegal. Magdalene is understandably nervous, remembering the pain of the mutual cultural incomprehension – she is a St Lucian – that ended the marriage almost twenty years before. In Senegal, whilst the now cosmopolitan Saliou appears to exist comfortably in multiple worlds, there are more complex relationships to manage with members of his large extended family. But the sensitivities are not merely social and cultural. A visit Khadi and her half-sister Maimouna make to the slave port of Gorée has consequences that lay bare unfinished business between West Indians and Africans, between Magdalene and Saliou, and Khadi and her parents.

Angela Barry lives and works in Bermuda. Her writing has been published in *The Massachusetts Review* and she is the recipient of a James Michener Creative Writing Fellowship.

Rocks in the Belly

by Jon Bauer

Nominated by:

The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

Rocks in the Belly is about a precocious eight-year-old boy and the volatile adult he becomes. During childhood his mother fosters boys, despite the jealous turmoil it arouses in her son. His jealousy reaches unmanageable proportions when she fosters Robert, triggering an event that profoundly changes everyone. Especially Robert.

At twenty-eight the son returns to face his mother. He hasn't forgiven her for what happened. But now she's the dependent one and he the dominant force — a power he can't help but abuse.

Rocks in the Belly is about the destruction we wreak on one another in the pursuit of our own happiness; how we never escape our upbringing; and a stark reminder that the most dangerous place for a child is within the family.

Jon Bauer is the author of short stories, and plays for stage and radio. His work has been published in *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sleepers Almanac* and *The Bridport Prize*, as well as broadcast on national radio. *Rocks in the Belly* is his first novel.

The Matter with Morris

by David Bergen

Nominated by:

Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries, Canada

When Morris Schutt, a prominent newspaper columnist, surveys his life he sees disaster everywhere. His son has just been killed in Afghanistan, and his newspaper has put him on indefinite leave; his psychiatrist wife, Lucille, seems headed for the door; he is strongly attracted to Ursula, the wife of a dairy farmer; and his daughter appears to be having an affair with one of her professors.

What is a thinking man to do but turn to Cicero and Plato and Socrates in search of the truth? Or better still; call one of those discreet "dating services" in search of happiness? But happiness, as Morris discovers, is not that easy to find.

An unforgettable story with a vitality, charm and intelligence all its own.

David Bergen is an award-winning author of five previous novels including *A Year of Lesser*, *The Case of Lena S.* and *The Time in Between* and a collection of short stories. He lives in Winnipeg with his family.

Zoo City

by Lauren Beukes

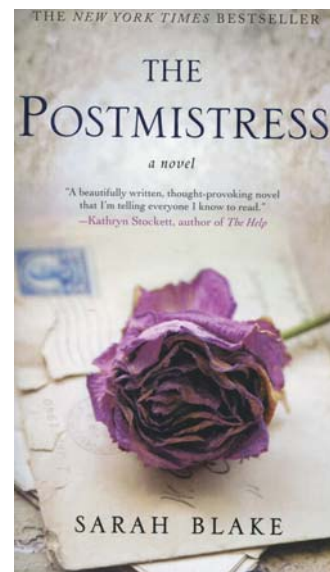
Nominated by:

Cape Town Central Library, South Africa

Zinzi has a Sloth on her back, a dirty 419 scam habit, and a talent for finding lost things. But when a little old lady turns up dead and the cops confiscate her last pay check, she's forced to take on her least favourite kind of job – missing persons.

Winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award 2011.

Lauren Beukes is a writer, TV scriptwriter and recovering journalist (although she occasionally falls off the wagon). She has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Cape Town under André Brink. She lives in Cape Town with her husband and daughter.



The Postmistress

by Sarah Blake

Nominated by:

Denver Public Library, USA

In 1940, Iris James is the postmistress in coastal Franklin, Massachusetts. Iris knows more about the townspeople than she will ever say, and believes her job is to deliver secrets. Yet one day she does the unthinkable: slips a letter into her pocket, reads it, and doesn't deliver it.

Meanwhile, Frankie Bard broadcasts from overseas with Edward R. Murrow. Her dispatches beg listeners to pay heed as the Nazis bomb London nightly. Most of the townspeople of Franklin think the war can't touch them. But both Iris and Frankie know better...

The Postmistress is a tale of two worlds – one shattered by violence, the other wilfully naïve – and of two women whose job is to deliver the news, yet who find themselves unable to do so.

Sarah Blake lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, the poet Josh Weiner, and their two sons.

Aphrodite's War

by Andrea Busfield

Nominated by:

Cyprus Library, Nicosia

The island is divided, but one man's love will never be compromised.

Cyprus, 1955 – a guerrilla war is raging and four Greek brothers are growing up to the familiar sounds of exploding bombs and sniper fire.

Determined to avenge the death of his elder brother and to win the heart of his beloved Praxi, young Loukis joins a cell of schoolboy terrorists operating in the mountains. But when his cohorts blow themselves up in a freak accident, he returns home in shock, yearning for the warm embrace of his family – and of his sweetheart.

But his adored Praxi is now married to someone else, and playing at her feet is a young toddler...

Andrea Busfield is a British journalist. Whilst covering the fall of the Taliban for the News of the World she fell in love with Afghanistan and made it her home. She is now the deputy editor of the Gulf Times. *Aphrodite's War* is her first novel.

Bandit Love

by Massimo Carlotto

Translated from the original Italian by Antony Shugaar

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma, Italy

Closing the door on a crime ridden past, Marco Buratti plans to spend the rest of his days in the darkness of a seedy nightclub sipping Calvados and listening to the blues. But things don't quite work out as he planned: though he may be through with his past, his past isn't through with him. When his gangster friend, Beniamino Rossini's girlfriend is kidnapped, Buratti is forced to investigate a case of international drug dealing. He will be thrown headfirst into the underworld he had struggled to escape. Here, new and old criminal organizations collide and innocent bystanders are as hard to find as straight cops.

Marco "The Alligator" Buratti is one of the most fully realized characters in contemporary crime fiction.

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*. His novels have been translated into many languages.



The Vintage and the Gleaning

by Jeremy Chambers

Nominated by:

The State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

The Vintage and the Gleaning is set in a winemaking town in the north-east of Victoria, close to the Murray River. Smithy is a retired shearer turned vineyard worker who has recently been forced to give up drinking after a lifetime of alcoholism. In his new sobriety he is contemplating the world in which he lives and the man he has been and become with a new understanding. Assaulted by long forgotten memories, Smithy is forced to take stock of his own past.

Living in the same town is Charlotte, a young woman in a dangerous relationship, whose misfortunes have led her into an uneasy friendship with Smithy. It is in his confused and ultimately futile attempts to help Charlotte that he seeks redemption.

Jeremy Chambers was born in 1974 and studied at the University of Melbourne, completing majors in Philosophy and English. He has also undertaken studies with the Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis. He lives in Melbourne.

A Different Sky

by Meira Chand

Nominated by:

The National Library Board, Singapore

Singapore 1927 and three young people are starting to question whether this in-between island can ever truly be their home. Mei Lan comes from a famous Chinese dynasty but yearns to free herself from its stifling traditions; ten-year-old Howard seethes at the indignities heaped on his fellow Eurasians by the colonial British; Raj, fresh off the boat from India, wants only to work hard and become a successful businessman. As the years pass, and the Second World War sweeps through the

east, with the Japanese occupying Singapore, the three are thrown together in unexpected ways, and tested to breaking point.

A Different Sky paints a scintillating panorama of thirty tumultuous years in Singapore's history through the passions and struggles of characters the reader will find it hard to forget.

The author of seven previous novels, **Meira Chand** is of Indian-Swiss parentage. Born and educated in London, she lived most of her adult life in Japan before moving to Singapore in 1997.

Exley

by Brock Clarke

Nominated by:

Boston Public Library, USA

For nine-year-old Miller, who lives with his mother in Watertown, New York, life has become a struggle to make sense of his father's disappearance, for which he blames himself. Then, when he becomes convinced that he has found his father lying comatose in the local VA hospital, a victim of the war in Iraq, Miller begins a search for the one person he believes can save him, the famously reclusive — and, unfortunately, dead — Frederick Exley, a Watertown native and the author of his father's favourite book, the "fictional memoir" *A Fan's Notes*. The story of Miller's search, told by both Miller himself and his somewhat flaky therapist, ultimately becomes an exploration of the difference between what we believe to be real and what is in fact real, and how challenging it can be to reconcile the two.

Brock Clarke is the author of two previous novels and two short story collections. He lives in Portland, Maine, and teaches at Bowdoin College.

The Water Theatre

by Lindsay Clarke

Nominated by:

London's Public Libraries, UK

As war-reporter Martin Crowther arrives in Umbria, still raw from a recent assignment in Africa, and from a failing love affair, a storm hits and the sky opens. Things are on the move inside him too, as he comes to the small village of Fontanalba, on a mission to track down two friends from a lifetime ago.

Adam and Marina are the estranged children of his mentor, Hal Brigshaw, who wants to summon them home. But there are reasons for their self-imposed exile. An air of secrecy also surrounds preparations for an event at Fontanalba in which Adam and Marina have an extraordinary role to play. As Martin waits, trapped between duty and desire, he is both intrigued and dismayed by his dealings with a close-knit community, who seem bent on protecting their own.

Lindsay Clarke is the author of 7 novels, including *The Chymical Wedding*, which won the Whitbread Award for Fiction in 1989. He lives in Somerset with his wife, who is a ceramic artist.

The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim

by Jonathan Coe

Nominated by:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Nice, France
The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

Maxwell Sim seems to have hit rock bottom: separated from his wife and daughter, estranged from his father, and with no one to confide in even though he has 74 friends on Facebook. He's not even sure whether he's got a job until suddenly a strange business proposition comes his way which involves a long journey to the Shetland Isles – and a voyage into his family's past which throws up some surprising revelations.

Jonathan Coe's new book is a story for our times: Maxwell finds himself at sea in the modern world, surrounded by social networks but unable to relate properly to anyone. Yet as he delves into his family history he manages to find the resources to survive.

Jonathan Coe was born in Birmingham in 1961. He has written eight novels including *The Accidental Woman*, *What a Carve Up!* (which won the 1995 John Llewellyn Rhys Prize) and *The Rotters' Club* (winner of the Everyman Wodehouse Prize). He lives in London with his wife and two daughters.

Mockingjay

by Suzanne Collins

Nominated by:

Denver Public Library, USA

Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she's made it out of the bloody arena alive, she's still not safe. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge. Who do they think should pay for the unrest? Katniss. And what's worse, President Snow has made it clear that no one else is safe either. Not Katniss's family, not her friends, not the people of District 12. Powerful and haunting, this thrilling final instalment of Suzanne Collins's groundbreaking *The Hunger Games* trilogy promises to be one of the most talked about books of the year.

Suzanne Collins is the author of the bestselling *Underland Chronicles*, which started with *Gregor the Overlander*. In *The Hunger Games*, she continues to explore the effects of war and violence on those coming of age. Suzanne lives with her family in Connecticut.

The Reversal

by Michael Connelly

Nominated by:

Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, USA

Long time defence attorney Mickey Haller is recruited to change stripes and prosecute the high-profile retrial of a brutal child murder. After 24 years in prison, convicted killer Jason Jessup has been exonerated by new DNA evidence. Haller is convinced Jessup is guilty, and he takes the case on the condition that he gets to choose his investigator, LAPD Detective Harry Bosch.

With the odds and the evidence against them, Bosch and Haller must nail a sadistic killer once and for all. Opposing them is Jessup, now out on bail, a defence attorney who excels at manipulating the media, and a runaway eyewitness reluctant to testify. If Bosch is sure of anything, it is that Jason Jessup plans to kill again.

Michael Connelly is the author of the bestselling Harry Bosch series of novels as well as the recent #1 New York Times bestsellers *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *The Brass Verdict* and *The Scarecrow*. He spends his time in California and Florida.

The Passage

by Justin Cronin

Nominated by:

The National Library of Maldives, Male

An epic and gripping tale of catastrophe and survival, *The Passage* is the story of Amy—abandoned by her mother at the age of six, pursued and then imprisoned by the shadowy figures behind a government experiment of apocalyptic proportions. But Special Agent Brad Wolgast, the lawman sent to track her down, is disarmed by the curiously quiet girl—and risks everything to save her. As the experiment goes nightmarishly wrong, Wolgast secures her escape—but he can't stop society's collapse. And as Amy walks alone, across miles and decades, into a future dark with violence and despair, she is filled with the mysterious and terrifying knowledge that only she has the power to save the ruined world.

Justin Cronin is the author of *Mary and O'Neil*, which won the PEN/Hemingway Award and the Stephen Crane Prize, and *The Summer Guest*. A professor of English at Rice University, he lives with his family in Houston, Texas.

By Nightfall

by Michael Cunningham

Nominated by:

Houston Public Library, USA
Chicago Public Library, USA

Peter and Rebecca Harris: mid-forties denizens of Manhattan's Soho, nearing the apogee of committed careers in the arts—he a dealer, she an editor. With a spacious loft, a college-age daughter in Boston, and lively friends, they are admirable, enviable contemporary urbanites with every reason; it seems, to be happy. Then Rebecca's much younger look-alike brother, Ethan (known in the family as Mizzy, "the mistake"), shows up for a visit. A beautiful, beguiling twenty-three-year-old with a history of drug problems, Mizzy is wayward, at loose ends, looking for direction. And in his presence, Peter finds himself questioning his artists, their work, his career—the entire world he has so carefully constructed.

Michael Cunningham's masterly new novel is a heartbreaking look at the way we live now.

Michael Cunningham is the author of the novels *The Hours*, *A Home at the End of the World*, *Specimen Days*, and *Flesh and Blood*. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the PEN/Faulkner Award for *The Hours*. He is a Professor at Brooklyn College, New York.

Point Omega

by Don DeLillo

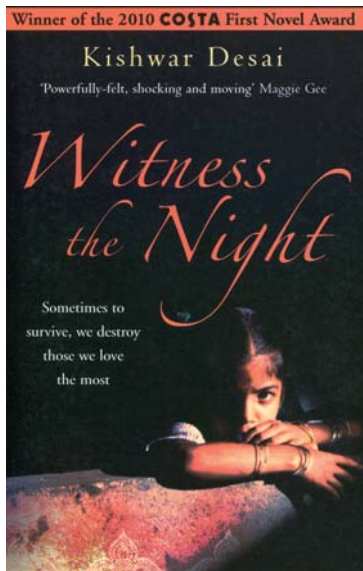
Nominated by:

Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany
Bibliothèque Municipale de Nice, France
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium

Richard Elster, a retired secret war adviser, has retreated to a forlorn house in a desert, 'somewhere south of nowhere'. But his planned isolation is interrupted when he is joined by a young filmmaker intent on documenting his experience in a one-take film. The two men sit on the deck, drinking and talking. Weeks go by. And then Elster's daughter Jessie visits. When a devastating event follows, all the men's talk, the accumulated meaning of conversation and isolation, is thrown into question.

Written in hypnotic prose, this substantial novel is both a metaphysical meditation and a deeply unsettling mystery, from which one thing emerges: loss, fierce and incomprehensible.

Don DeLillo, the author of fifteen novels, including *Falling Man*, *White Noise* and *Underworld*, has won many honours in America and abroad, including the National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. He has also written three plays.



Witness the Night

by Kishwar Desai

Nominated by:

Birmingham Libraries, UK

Durga, a fourteen-year-old girl, found all alone in a house in Punjab. Silent, terrified, and the sole suspect in the mass murder of thirteen members of her family. Simran, a whisky-swilling, chain-smoking social worker from Delhi, is Durga's sole hope, for Simran is the only one who believes that she may be more a victim than a suspect. As Simran tries to unravel the mystery of what really happened that night of the multiple murders, she comes in close and often uncomfortable contact with Jullundur and its people. The prejudices she encounters are deep-seated and the secrets manifold. Simran knows she cannot rest until she has uncovered the whole truth. A chilling first novel that gets to the heart of tradition-bound India.

Kishwar Desai has worked in print and broadcast media as journalist, scriptwriter, TV anchor, producer and the head of a TV channel in India. *Witness the Night* is her first novel and winner of the 2010 COSTA first novel award.

One Amazing Thing

by Chitra Divakaruni

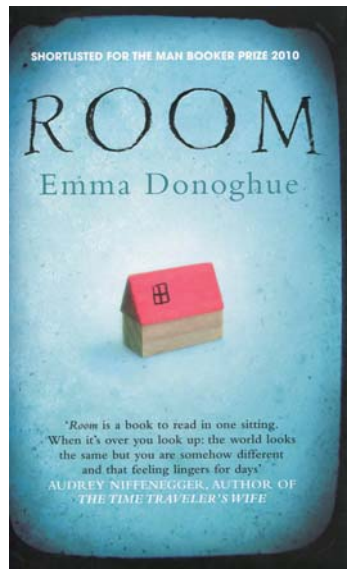
Nominated by:

Katona József County Library, Hungary

Late afternoon in a passport and visa office in an unnamed American city. Most customers have gone, but a punky teenager, an upper-class Caucasian couple, a young Muslim-American man, and five others remain. Out of nowhere, an earthquake rips through the lull, trapping these nine people together, with little food and no way to escape the slowly flooding office. When the psychological and emotional stress becomes nearly too much for them to bear, the young graduate student suggests that each tell a personal tale, "one amazing thing" from their lives. As their surprising stories of romance, marriage, family, political upheaval,

and self-discovery unfold, the novel proves the transcendent power of stories and the meaningfulness of human expression itself.

Chitra Divakaruni is an award-winning and bestselling writer, poet, and fifteen-time novelist. Her writing has appeared in more than fifty magazines, including *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The New Yorker*. She is the Betty and Gene McDavid Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Houston.



Room

by Emma Donoghue

Nominated by:

The State Library of Tasmania, Australia
The State Library of Queensland, Australia
Saint John Free Public Library, Canada
Halifax Public Libraries, Canada
Toronto Public Library, Canada
Calgary Public Library, Canada
Edmonton Public Library & Grant MacEwan University Library, Canada
London's Public Libraries, UK
Gateshead Libraries, UK
Bibliothèque Municipale de Strasbourg, France
Limerick City Library, Ireland
Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland
The National Library of Maldives, Male
Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand
Jacksonville Public Library, USA
San Diego Public Library, USA
Denver Public Library, USA
Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, USA
Chicago Public Library, USA
LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library System, USA

Jack is five. He lives with his Ma. They live in a single, locked room. They don't have the key.

Jack and Ma are prisoners.

'This book will break your heart . . . It is the most vivid, radiant and beautiful expression of maternal love I have ever read' Irish Times

'I've never read a more heart-burstingly, gut wrenchingly compassionate novel . . . As for sweet, bright, funny Jack, I wanted to scoop him up out of the novel and never let him go' Daily Mail

'This is a truly remarkable novel. It presents an utterly unique way to talk about love, all the while giving us a fresh, expansive eye on the world in which we live' New York Times Book Review

Born in 1969, **Emma Donoghue** is an Irish writer who spent eight years in England before moving to Canada. Her fiction includes *Slammerkin*, *Life Mask*, *Touchy Subjects* and the international bestseller *Room* (shortlisted for the Man Booker and Orange Prizes).

The Einstein Enigma

by José Rodrigues dos Santos

Translated from the original Portuguese by Lisa Carter

Nominated by:

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

Princeton, New Jersey-1951. A police-escorted motorcade stops at a small, unremarkable house while an old man with a shock of white hair jumps out of the lead car. As he ambles up the walkway, another man around the same age, also sporting wild white hair, descends from the porch and warmly greets him. Operatives from the CIA are also close by, recording the conversation taking place inside the house between newly arrived Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and his host, the world-renowned scientist Albert Einstein. The subject of their conversation: nuclear weapons and the existence of God.

Cairo, Egypt—today. World-famous cryptanalyst Thomas Noronha is hired by a mysterious, dark-haired woman to decipher a cryptogram hidden in a secret document that has recently been discovered. Penned by Albert Einstein, the manuscript's title is, simply, Die Gottesformel: The God Formula.

José Rodrigues dos Santos is a professor at the New University of Lisbon and a journalist at RTP, the Portuguese public television station. He is the author of the international bestseller *Codex 632*. Born in Mozambique, he lives in Portugal.

The Pleasure Seekers

by Tishani Doshi

Nominated by:

India International Centre Library, New Delhi

Meet the Patel-Joneses: Babo, Sian, Mayuri and Bean, in their little house next-door to the Punjab Women's Association. As the twentieth century creaks and croaks its way along – somewhere out there Charles and Diana get hitched; Indira Gandhi is assassinated by her own bodyguards; cable TV arrives in India – these four navigate their way through the uncharted territory of a 'hybrid' family: the hustle and bustle of Babo's relatives, the faraway phone-line crackle of Sian's, the eternal wisdom and soft bosom of great-grandmother Ba, the perils of first love, lost innocence and old age, and the big question: what do you do with the space your loved ones leave behind?

Tishani Doshi effortlessly captures the quirks and calamities of one unusual clan in a story of identity, family, belonging and all-transcending love.

Tishani Doshi is a poet and dancer based in Madras, India. Her first collection of poetry, *Countries of the Body*, won the Forward Poetry Prize for best first collection in 2006. *The Pleasure Seekers*, published by Bloomsbury, is her first novel.

The Betrayal

by Helen Dunmore

Nominated by:

Gateshead Libraries, UK

Leningrad, 1952. Andrei, a young hospital doctor, and Anna, a nursery school teacher, are forging a life together in the post-war, post siege wreckage. But their happiness is precarious, like that of millions of Russians who must avoid the claws of Stalin's merciless Ministry of State Security. So when Andrei is asked to treat the seriously ill child of a senior secret police officer, he and Anna are fearful. Can they avoid the whispers and watchful eyes of those who will say or do anything to save themselves?

The Betrayal is a powerful and touching novel of ordinary people in the grip of a terrible and sinister regime, and a moving portrait of a love that will not be extinguished.

Helen Dunmore was born in Yorkshire in 1952. She has published eight novels including: *Zennor in Darkness*, *A Spell of Winter* and *The Siege*. She is also a poet, children's novelist and short-story writer. She lives in Bristol

Kaya, Belgrade and the Good American

by Mirjana Đurđević

Translated from the original Serbian by Alice Copple-Tosic

Nominated by:

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

A vivid picture of a period, ennobled by robust story-telling. The story-teller, one moment an omniscient observer, the next moment an unnamed character in the story – talks ironically and humorously about a carefree world which is not aware of the oncoming cataclysm that will be caused by the outbreak of Nazism in Germany. The novel conjures up the atmosphere of Belgrade before World War II, and the story centres mostly on the small Kalmyk population which settled there together with the Russians who fled in the face of the October Revolution. At its core, there is an auto-ironic portrait of a not-so-popular authoress, who compensates for her want of productivity with a fashionable life in the Yugoslav capital, participating in local scandals and running her own small detective investigation.

Mirjana Đurđević (Belgrade, 1956), is a teacher at the Engineering-Geodetics Trade School, and a writer. She has published several books in her profession. For her novel *Kaya, Belgrade and the Good American* she received the prestigious Meša Selimović Award for the best book in the region in 2010.



A Visit from the Goon Squad

by Jennifer Egan

Nominated by:

Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Boston Public Library, USA
Hartford Public Library, USA
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA
Kansas City Public Library, USA

Bennie is an aging former punk rocker and record executive. Sasha is the passionate, troubled young woman he employs. Here Jennifer Egan brilliantly reveals their pasts, along with the inner lives of a host of other characters whose paths intersect with theirs. With music pulsing on every page, *A Visit from the Goon Squad* is a startling, exhilarating novel of self-destruction and redemption. It is a Pulitzer Prize Winner and the National Book Critics Circle Award Winner.

Jennifer Egan is the author of *The Keep*, *Look at Me*, *The Invisible Circus*, and the story collection *Emerald City*. Her stories have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *GQ*, *Zoetrope*, *All-Story*, and *Ploughshares*. She lives with her husband and sons in Brooklyn.

Days of Change

by Chuah Guat Eng

Nominated by:

National Library of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Days of Change is a sequel to *Echoes of Silence*. The narrator is 55-year old Hafiz, whose name means 'the preserver' and 'the memorizer'. When his story begins, Hafiz is suffering from memory loss following a fall down a ravine in Ulu Banir. Unable to talk to a psychiatrist, he uses the *I Ching*, the Chinese 'book of changes' to trigger his memory. His

objectives: to remember the circumstances of his fall, and why he now feels repulsed by his beautiful young wife. His experiment results in 8 notebooks, in which he records his memories of his childhood, the women in his life, his battle against a major corporation bent on appropriating his land, and his efforts to contribute to Malaysia's progress and development while preserving local traditional knowledge and his own moral integrity.

Chuah Guat Eng was Malaysia's first English-language woman novelist. She read English Literature at University of Malaya Kuala Lumpur, and German Literature at Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich.

Counterpoint

by Anna Enquist

Translated from the original Dutch by J.K. Ringold

Nominated by:

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

The unnamed woman practices Bach's Goldberg Variations. As she practices, tenaciously, almost grimly, it soon becomes clear that she is seeking not only technical control and intellectual understanding but an emotional release from the burden of her past.

Slowly but surely, variation by variation, innocent, everyday memories unfold, of her family life with her husband, her son and, especially, her daughter. In this deeply moving novel, elegantly translated from the original Dutch, acclaimed novelist Anna Enquist skilfully counterpoints the different mood and pace of each variation with the varying moods and textures of the woman's memories. It is a journey of loss and longing, rage and despair, which ultimately affirms the beauty of music, family and maternal love.

Anna Enquist is one of Holland's best loved writers of quality fiction, including the novels *The Secret* and *The Masterpiece* and has been translated into many languages. She also writes poetry, plays and short stories and is a practicing psychiatrist.

Shadow Tag

by Louise Erdrich

Nominated by:

Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA

When Irene America discovers that her artist husband, Gil, has been reading her diary, she begins a secret Blue Notebook, stashed securely in a safe-deposit box. There she records the truth about her life and marriage, while turning her Red Diary—hidden where Gil will find it—into a manipulative charade. As Irene drifts into alcoholism and she and Gil fight to keep

up appearances for their three children, their home becomes a place of increasing violence and secrecy.

Alternating between Irene's twin journals and an unflinching third-person narrative, Louise Erdrich's *Shadow Tag* fearlessly explores the complex nature of love, the fluid boundaries of identity, and the anatomy of one family's struggle for survival and redemption.

Louise Erdrich is the author of thirteen novels, volumes of poetry, short stories, children's books, and a memoir of early motherhood. Her novel *Love Medicine* won the National Book Critics Circle Award. Louise Erdrich lives in Minnesota.

Visitation

by Jenny Erpenbeck

Translated from the original
German by Susan Bernofsky

Nominated by:

Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany
Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin, Germany
San Diego Public Library, USA

Encompassing over one hundred years of German history, from the nineteenth century to the Weimar Republic, from World War II to the Socialist German Democratic Republic, and finally reunification and its aftermath, *Visitation* offers the life stories of twelve individuals who over the decades seek to make their home in one magical little house. The novel breaks into the everyday life of the house and shimmers through it, while relating the passions and fates of its inhabitants. Elegant and poetic, *Visitation* forms a literary mosaic of the last century, tearing open wounds and offering moments of reconciliation, with its drama and its exquisite evocation of a landscape no political upheaval can truly change.

Critically acclaimed **Jenny Erpenbeck** was born in 1967 in East Berlin. The author of *The Book of Words* and *The Old Child & Other Stories*, she has won various awards, including the prestigious Solothurn Literature Prize and the Heimito von Doderer Prize. Her works have been translated worldwide.

Gifted

by Patrick Evans

Nominated by:

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

One day in 1955 the 'father of New Zealand fiction' finds a young woman on his doorstep. A writer herself, she has recently emerged from a lengthy spell in hospital and is looking for somewhere safe to live and write. Somewhat to his own surprise, not to mention discomfort, he takes her in. What happens behind that high Takapuna hedge in the ensuing year is the story told in this delightful and moving novel.

'A magnificent re-imagining of a signal moment in our cultural history, this is both a novel of surpassing tenderness and a primer on creative writing. A rare and transforming reading experience.' – Kate de Goldi

Patrick Evans is the author of two previous novels (*Being Eaten Alive* and *Making It*) and a number of plays. He lives in Christchurch and has taught New Zealand literature at the University of Canterbury since 1978.

Book of Lost Threads

by Tess Evans

Nominated by:

The State Library of Victoria,
Melbourne, Australia

Tender, funny and memorable, *Book of Lost Threads* is a story about love and loss, parents and children, hope, faith and the value of simple kindness.

Moss has run away from Melbourne to Opportunity on the trail of a man she knows only by name. But her arrival sets in train events that disturb the long-held secrets of three of the town's inhabitants: Finn, a brilliant mathematician, who has become a recluse; Lily Pargetter, eighty-three-year-old knitter of tea cosies; and Sandy, the town buffoon, who dreams of a Great Galah.

It is only as Moss, Finn, Lily and Sandy develop unlikely friendships that they find a way to lay their sorrows to rest and knit together the threads that will restore them to life.

Tess Evans lives in Melbourne where she worked in the TAFE system, primarily managing programmes for the unemployed. *Book of Lost Threads* is her first novel.

The Blasphemer

by Nigel Farndale

Nominated by:

Tampere City Library, Finland

He had always been scared of flying. Now, the fear is real. A plane crash. The water is rising over his mouth. In his nostrils. Lungs. As Daniel gasps, he swallows; and punches at his seat-belt. Nancy, the woman he loves, is trapped in her seat. He clammers over her, pushing her face into the headrest. It is a reflex, visceral action made without rational thought...

But Daniel Kennedy did it. And already we have judged him from the comfort of our own lives.

Almost a hundred years earlier, Daniel's great-grandfather goes over the top at Passchendaele. A shell explodes, and he wakes up alone and lost in the hell of no-man's-land. Where are the others? Has he been left behind? And if he doesn't find his unit, is he a deserter?

Love; cowardice; trust; forgiveness. How will any of us behave when we are pushed to extremes?

Nigel Farndale was born in North Yorkshire, in 1964. He is the author of five books, including *The Blasphemer* (which was shortlisted for the 2010 Costa Novel Award). He now lives on the Hampshire-Sussex border with his wife Mary and their three children.

The Hut Builder

by Laurence Fearnley

Nominated by:

Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand

As a boy in the early 1940s, young Boden Black finds his life changed for ever the day his neighbour Dudley drives him over the hills into the vast snow-covered plains of the Mackenzie country. Unexpectedly his world opens up and he discovers a love of landscape and a fascination with words that will guide him throughout his life, as he forges a career as a butcher and poet, spends a joyous summer building a hut on the slopes of Mount Cook and climbs to the summit in the company of Sir Edmund Hillary.

A moving exploration of one man's journey and the events which shape him, *The Hut Builder* is also an evocative celebration of the mountain world and the wonder of life.

Laurence Fearnley is the author of eight novels. Her second novel, *Room*, was shortlisted for the Montana NZ Book Awards in 2001. Her book *Edwin and Matilda* was runner-up in fiction for the Montana NZ Book Awards in 2008. She lives in Dunedin.

The Book Club

by Marjolijn Februari

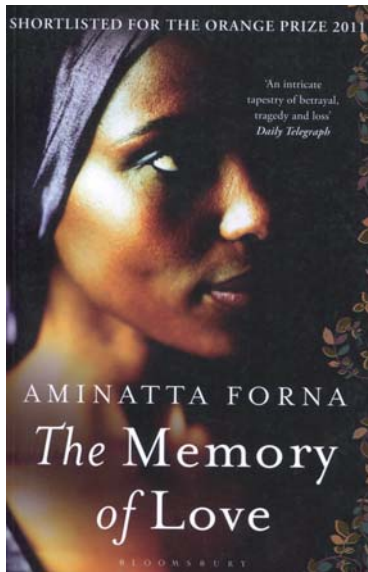
Translated from the original
Dutch by Paul Vincent

Nominated by:

Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek,
Brussels, Belgium
Openbare Bibliotheek Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
Openbare Bibliotheek Eindhoven,
The Netherlands
Foundation Bibliotheek,
The Hague, The Netherlands

Thirty-year-old Theresa Pellikaan is typical of the wealthy middle classes – with her respectable background, successful husband and house in a rich village. When her former schoolmate Ruth Ackermann, makes waves with an international bestseller, but none of the villagers ever mention her achievement, not even the literary circle of Theresa's father, famous civil rights scholar Randolph Pellikaan, Theresa begins to wonder why. It can't only be because it's not 'literature'. It emerges that there is a dark secret in the village. Every member of the book club has a reason to keep quiet and Ruth Ackermann's novel threatens to bring the past into the present, with devastating results. Unable to cope with the silence, Theresa investigates, no matter the consequences.

Marjolijn Februari studied Art History, Philosophy and Law. The Book Club is her second novel. She has also published several collections of essays and has written a Saturday column for a Dutch newspaper since 1999.



The Memory of Love

by Aminatta Forna

Nominated by:

Auckland Libraries, New Zealand

Freetown, Sierra Leone: a devastating civil war has left an entire populace with terrible secrets to keep. In the capital's hospital, Kai, a gifted young surgeon is plagued by demons that are beginning to threaten his livelihood. Elsewhere in the hospital lies Elias Cole, a university professor who recalls the love that obsessed him and drove him to acts that are far from heroic. As past and present intersect, Kai and Elias are drawn unwittingly closer by Adrian, a British psychiatrist with good intentions, and into the path of one woman at the centre of their stories. *The Memory of Love* is a heartbreaking story of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

Aminatta Forna was born in Glasgow, raised in Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom. Her books include *Ancestor Stones*, and *The Devil that Danced on the Water*, a memoir of her dissident father and her country. In 2007 Aminatta was named by Vanity Fair as one of Africa's most promising new writers.

Juliet

by Anne Fortier

Nominated by:

Richland County Public Library, Columbia, USA

A stunning debut novel that follows a young woman who discovers that her family's origins reach all the way back to literature's greatest star-crossed lovers.

When Julie Jacobs inherits a key to a safety deposit box in Siena, she is told it will lead her to an old family treasure. Soon she is launched on a precarious journey into the true history of her ancestor Giulietta, whose legendary love for a young man named Romeo inspired

Shakespeare's unforgettable story. As Julie crosses paths with the descendants of the families who turned medieval Siena upside down, she begins to realize that the notorious curse – 'a plague on both your houses!' – is still at work.

Anne Fortier grew up in Europe, in Denmark mainly. After university she moved to the US, where she worked in film and television before writing *Juliet*, inspired by the very first Romeo and Juliet story, which was set in Siena.

Freedom

by Jonathan Franzen

Nominated by:

Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin, Germany
Leipziger Städtische Bibliotheken, Germany
Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany
Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain
Veria Central Public Library, Greece
Lincoln Library, Springfield, USA
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale
Firenze, Florence, Italy
Liverpool Libraries & Information Services, UK
Pikes Peak Library District,
Colorado Springs, USA
Toronto Public Library, Canada
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA
Kansas City Public Library, USA

Patty and Walter Berglund were the new pioneers of old St. Paul – the gentrifiers, the hands-on parents, the avant-garde of the Whole Foods generation. Patty was an enviably perfect mother and the wife of Walter's dreams.

But now, in the new millennium, the Berglunds have become a mystery. Why has their teenage son moved in with the aggressively Republican family next door? Why has Walter taken a job working with Big Coal? Most of all, what has happened to poor Patty? Why has the bright star of Barrier Street become 'a very different kind of neighbour', an implacable Fury coming unhinged before the street's attentive eyes?

In charting the mistakes and joys of Freedom's intensely realized characters, as they struggle to learn how to live in an ever more confusing world, Franzen has produced an indelible and deeply moving portrait of our time.

Jonathan Franzen was born in 1959 and is the author of novels *The Twenty-Seventh City*, *Strong Motion*, and *The Corrections* for which he received the National Book Award in 2001. He writes frequently for the New Yorker, and lives in New York City.

Faithful Place

by Tana French

Nominated by:

Lincoln City Libraries, USA

The hotly anticipated third novel of the Dublin murder squad from the *New York Times* bestselling author.

Back in 1985, Frank Mackey was nineteen, growing up poor in Dublin's inner city, and living crammed into a small flat with his family

on Faithful Place. He and Rosie Daly were all ready to run away to London together. But on the winter night when they were supposed to leave, Rosie didn't show. Frank took it for granted that she'd dumped him. He never went home again.

Twenty-two years later, Rosie's suitcase shows up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place and Frank, now an undercover detective, finds himself straight back in the dark tangle of relationships he left behind.

Tana French grew up in Ireland, Italy, the US and Malawi, and has lived in Dublin since 1990. She trained as a professional actress at Trinity College, Dublin, and has worked in theatre, film and voiceover.

Consolation

by Anna Gavalda

Translated from the original French by Alison Anderson

Nominated by:

Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain

An international bestseller and French publishing sensation *Consolation* is a dazzling, heartbreaking tale of one man, two remarkable women and an unforgettable transvestite.

Charles Balandra is forty-seven; a successful architect, he is constantly on the move. But from the moment he hears about the death of the woman he once loved – Anouk, the tragically big-hearted mother of a childhood friend – his life begins to unravel until, one day, he finds himself on a Paris pavement covered in blood. But fate brings him one final chance to be happy in Kate, an enchanting young woman, herself damaged but fearless and in love with life. The resulting story is a triumphant, spellbinding and ultimately consoling novel about the power of a second chance.

Born in 1970, **Anna Gavalda** was a teacher whose collection of stories, *I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere*, shot her to fame. Her work has been translated into 36 languages. The mother of two small children, she lives and writes just outside Paris.

The Only Witness to Beauty

by Miro Gavran

Translated from the original Croatian by Nina H. Kay-Antoljak

Nominated by:

Gradska Knjižnica Rijeka, Croatia
Knjižnica Otona Župancica, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The Only Witness to Beauty is an intriguing love story that unfolds in an identifiable Zagreb setting, with short episodes set on the exotic island of Malta. The hero is a forty-year-old in love with a mysterious young woman. Unusually sensitive characters, torn by emotions that overwhelm them, try to bond the fragments of their innermost feelings. Toying with truth and lies, this novel also toys with various story-telling perspectives, offering the reader memorable enjoyment.

Miro Gavran is a contemporary Croatian author. His works have been translated into 32 languages, and his books have come out in 150 different editions at home and abroad. He lives in Zagreb, with his wife actress Mladena Gavran and family.

The Beauty of Humanity Movement

by Camilla Gibb

Nominated by:
Vancouver Public Library, Canada

Set in contemporary Vietnam, this is the story of a country undergoing momentous change. Tu' is a young tour guide working in Hanoi for a company called New Dawn but while he leads tourists through his city, he starts to wonder what it is they are seeing of Vietnam – and what they miss entirely. Maggie, who is Vietnamese by birth but has lived most her life in the U.S., has returned to the country in search of clues to her dissident father's disappearance during the war. Holding the story together is Old Man Hung, who has lived through decades of political upheaval and through it all has found a way to feed hope to the community of pond side dwellers among who he lives.

Camilla Gibb was born in London, England and grew up in Toronto. *Sweetness in the Belly* was a national bestseller, a Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist, and winner of the Trillium Award. Her novels have been translated into 14 languages and published worldwide.

Chosen

by Lesley Glaister

Nominated by:
Sheffield Libraries, Archives & Information Services, UK

The last time Dodie sees her mother alive, Stella is unusually busy, splendid in an old red velvet dress. Soon after this, Dodie's brother Seth goes missing: the only trace of him is through postcards addressed from the Soul Life Centre, New York State.

When Stella hangs herself, Dodie must leave her baby Jake at home and cross the Atlantic to bring Seth back from the mysterious Soul Life Centre. But when she arrives, Seth is always one day away from seeing her. She becomes drawn into the Brothers and Sisters' communal living, meditation, fasting and chanting. In a parallel narrative, Stella's sister Melanie tells the story of their teenage years in the 1970s. These two compelling stories collide in a series of shocking revelations and an exhilarating conclusion. Heartfelt and frightening, *Chosen* is Lesley Glaister at the top of her game.

Lesley Glaister was born in England. Her novels include *Honour Thy Father*, *Trick or Treat*, *Limestone and Clay*, *Partial Eclipse* and *Nina Todd Has Gone*. She lives with her husband between Sheffield and Orkney. She has three sons and teaches Creative Writing at Sheffield Hallam University.

The Widower's Tale

by Julia Glass

Nominated by:
The National Library of Maldives, Male
San José Public Library, USA

Seventy-year-old Percy Darling is settling happily into retirement: reading novels, watching old movies, and swimming naked in his pond. But his routines are disrupted when he is persuaded to let a locally beloved preschool take over his barn. As Percy sees his rural refuge overrun by children, parents, and teachers, he must re-examine the solitary life he has made in the three decades since the sudden death of his wife. With equal parts affection and humour, Julia Glass spins a captivating tale about a man who can no longer remain aloof from his community, his two grown daughters, or—to his great shock—the precarious joy of falling in love.

Julia Glass is the author of *Three Junes*, winner of the 2002 National Book Award for Fiction; *The Whole World Over*; and *I See You Everywhere*. Her short fiction has won several prizes, and her personal essays have been widely anthologized. She lives in Massachusetts with her family.

Unfinished Desires

by Gail Godwin

Nominated by:
Richmond Public Library, USA

It is the fall of 1951 at Mount St. Gabriel's, an all-girls school tucked away in the mountains of North Carolina. Tildy Stratton, the undisputed queen bee of her class, befriends Chloe Starnes, a new student recently orphaned by the untimely and mysterious death of her mother. Their friendship fills a void for both girls but also sets in motion a chain of events that will profoundly affect the course of many lives, including those of the girl's young teacher and of the school's matriarch, Mother Suzanne Ravened.

Fifty years on, the headmistress relives a pivotal night, trying to reconcile past and present, reaching back even further to her own senior year at the school, where the roots of a tragedy are buried.

Gail Godwin is a three-time National Book Award finalist and the bestselling author of twelve critically acclaimed novels, including *A Mother and Two Daughters*, *Violet Clay*, *Father Melancholy's Daughter*, *Evensong*, *The Good Husband*, and *Evenings at Five*. She lives in Woodstock, New York.

Lord of Misrule

by Jaimy Gordon

Nominated by:
Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada

At the rock-bottom end of the sport of kings sits the ruthless and often violent world of cheap horse racing, where trainers and jockeys, grooms and hot walkers, loan sharks and touts are all struggling to take an edge, or prove their

luck, or just survive. *Lord of Misrule* follows five characters – scarred and lonely dreamers in the American grain – through a year and four races at Indian Mound Downs, downriver from Wheeling, West Virginia.

Horseman Tommy Hansel has a scheme to rescue his failing stable: He'll ship four unknown but ready horses to Indian Mound Downs, run them in cheap claiming races at long odds, and then get out fast before anyone notices. The problem is, at this rundown riverfront half-mile racetrack in the Northern Panhandle, everybody notices

Jaimy Gordon was born in Baltimore. *Lord of Misrule* won the National Book Award for Fiction in 2011. Her third novel, *Bogeywoman*, was a Los Angeles Times Best Book for 2000 and her second novel, *She Drove Without Stopping*, brought her an Academy-Institute Award from the American Institute of Arts and Letters.

Secret Daughter

by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

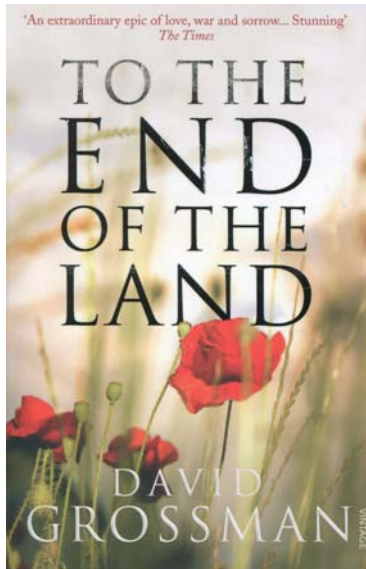
Nominated by:
Halifax Public Libraries, Canada

Somer's life is everything she imagined it would be – she's newly married and has started her career as a physician in San Francisco – until she makes the devastating discovery she never will be able to have children.

The same year in India, a poor mother makes the heartbreaking choice to save her newborn daughter's life by giving her away. It is a decision that will haunt Kavita for the rest of her life, and cause a ripple effect that travels across the world and back again.

Asha, adopted out of a Mumbai orphanage, is the child that binds the destinies of these two women. We follow both families, invisibly connected until Asha's journey of self-discovery leads her back to India.

Shilpi Somaya Gowda was born and raised in Toronto to parents who migrated there from Mumbai. In 1991, she spent a summer as a volunteer in an Indian orphanage. She lives with her husband and two children in California.



To the End of the Land

by David Grossman

Translated from the original
Hebrew by Jessica Cohen

Nominated by:

Münchner Stadtbibliothek, Germany
Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany
Leipziger Stadtische Bibliotheken, Germany
Public Library of Cincinnati &
Hamilton County, USA
Free Library of Philadelphia, USA
Richmond Public Library, USA
Kansas City Public Library, USA
San José Public Library, USA
Toronto Public Library, Canada
Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília, Brazil

Ora, a middle-aged mother, is on the verge of celebrating her son Ofer's release from Israeli army service when he returns to the front for a major offensive. In a fit of pre-emptive grief and magical thinking, she sets out for a hike in the Galilee, leaving no forwarding information for the 'notifiers' who might darken her door with the worst possible news.

She drags along an unlikely companion: a former best friend and lover Avram, once a brilliant artistic spirit. Now, as Ora and Avram sleep out in the hills, ford rivers and cross valleys, avoiding all news from the front, she gives him the gift of Ofer, word by word; a retelling that keeps Ofer very much alive for Ora, and opens Avram to human bonds undreamed of in his broken world.

David Grossman was born in Jerusalem in 1954 where he now lives with his family. His books include *The Yellow Wind*, *Sleeping on a Wire: Conversations with Palestinians in Israel* and a novel *The Smile of the Lamb*.

The Body in the Clouds

by Ashley Hay

Nominated by:

The State Library of Queensland,
Brisbane, Australia

What if you looked up at just the right moment and saw – out of the corner of your eye – something unexpected? What if it was something so marvellous, so extraordinary, that it transformed time and space forever?

The Body in the Clouds tells the story of one extraordinary moment – a man falling from the sky, and surviving – and of three men who see it. An astronomer in the late 1700s, a bridge worker in the 1930s, an expatriate banker returning home in the early 21st century: all three are transformed by one magical event. All are searching for the same thing: how to understand what it means to call a place home, and how to be able to tell when you get there.

Ashley Hay is the author of four books of non-fiction. *The Body in the Clouds* is her first novel and was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize 'Best First Book' (South-East Asia and Pacific region) and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards.

Snakewoman of Little Egypt

by Robert Hellenga

Nominated by:

Hartford Public Library, USA

On the morning of his fortieth birthday, anthropology professor Jackson Jones contemplates his future: Should he return to Africa, where he did his fieldwork, and live with the Mbuti, or should he marry and settle down in the Midwestern university town where he now teaches? On the morning of her release from prison, Sunny, who grew up in a snake-handling church in the Little Egypt region of Southern Illinois, rents a garage apartment from Jackson. Sunny and Jackson are drawn to each other, but then push comes to shove in this page-turning novel brimming with wit, substance, emotional depth – a fascinating and original story that delivers Robert Hellenga at the top of his form.

Robert Hellenga was educated at the University of Michigan and Princeton University. He is a professor at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and the author of the novels *The Sixteen Pleasures*, *The Fall of a Sparrow*, *Blues Lessons*, *Philosophy Made Simple*, and *The Italian Lover*.

Elegies for the Broken Hearted

by Christie Hodgen

Nominated by:

Hartford Public Library, USA

Who are the people you'll never forget? For Mary Murphy, there are five.

In five quirky elegies to lost friends and relatives, Mary tells us the story of her life. We begin with a restless childhood spent following her mother between multiple homes

and husbands. Then comes the disappearance of Mary's rebellious and beloved sister, Malinda. By the time Mary leaves for college, she has no one to write home to, and we follow along on her difficult search for purpose. From a series of miserable jobs to her "reborn" mother's deathbed, Mary finds hope in the most surprising places. With a rhythmically unique voice and pitch-perfect wry humour, Christie Hodgen spins an unconventional and moving story about identity, belonging, and family.

Christie Hodgen is the author of *Hello, I Must Be Going*; and *A Jeweler's Eye for Flaw*. She has won the AWP Award for Short Fiction and the Pushcart Prize. She teaches at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, where she lives.

Mr. Chartwell

by Rebecca Hunt

Nominated by:

Liverpool Libraries & Information Services, UK

In bed at home in Kent, Winston Churchill is waking up. There's a visitor in the room, someone he hasn't seen for a while, a dark, mute bulk, watching him with tortured concentration. It's Mr Chartwell.

In her terraced house in Battersea, Esther Hammerhans, young, vulnerable and alone, goes to answer the door to her new lodger. Through the glass she sees a vast silhouette the size of a mattress. It's Mr Chartwell.

He is charismatic and dangerously seductive, and Esther and Winston Churchill are drawn together by his dark influence. But can they withstand Mr Chartwell's strange, powerful charms and strong hold? Can they even explain to anyone who or what he is? Or why he has come to visit?

For Mr Chartwell is a huge, black dog.

Rebecca Hunt graduated from Central Saint Martins College with a first class honours degree in fine art. She lives and works in London. *Mr Chartwell* is her first novel.

My Friend Jesus Christ

by Lars Husum

Translated from the original
Danish by Mette Petersen

Nominated by:

Copenhagen Central Library, Denmark

When Nick is thirteen, he loses his parents in a car crash. His sister is left to look after him. As he grows up Nick goes to extremes to retain his sister's attention, putting himself, his girlfriend and others in harm's way, striking up with a gang and administering violence to order.

On the other side of tragedy, he returns to his flat to find an intruder on his sofa – a biker who proves immune to Nick's menace. The biker convinces Nick, first, that he is Jesus Christ, and, second, that he must now take charge of Nick's life. Nick is moved to return to his home village, where he sets about reconstructing himself and doing penance for his failures. He

even finds love anew. But has he really learned anything from his sister or from his miraculous new mentor...?

Born in West Jutland, Denmark in 1974, **Lars Husum** has written for the screen and directed films. *My Friend Jesus Christ* is his first book.

Daisy Chains

by Kevin Ireland

Nominated by:

Auckland Libraries, New Zealand

David Asquith is a bumptious, preposterous rogue, yet as the rest of the world slides into financial ruin he plans a radiant pathway to personal success and universal happiness. The catalyst for his miraculous transformation is a chance meeting with a young woman called Daisy, beginning a chain of unlikely events that sees him quickly develop from pathetic failure to, in his eyes, a highly successful and brilliant entrepreneur and self-styled public benefactor.

Kevin Ireland lives on Auckland's North Shore and is one of New Zealand's best-known writers. His many other publications include prize-winning memoirs and eighteen books of poems. He was the second recipient of the Prime Minister's Award for poetry. *Daisy Chains* is his sixth novel.

The Finkler Question

by Howard Jacobson

Nominated by:

Městská knihovna v Praze, Prague, Czech Republic

Julian Treslove, a professionally unspectacular former BBC radio producer, and Sam Finkler, a popular Jewish philosopher, writer and television personality, are old school friends. Despite very different lives, they've never quite lost touch with each other – or with their former teacher, Libor Sevcik. Both Libor and Finkler are recently widowed, and together with Treslove they share a sweetly painful evening revisiting a time before they had loved and lost. It is that very evening, when Treslove hesitates a moment as he walks home, that he is attacked – and his whole sense of who and what he is slowly and ineluctably changes.

An award-winning writer and broadcaster, **Howard Jacobson** was born in Manchester. He lectured for three years at the University of Sydney before returning to teach at Selwyn College, Cambridge. His novels include *The Mighty Walzer*, *Kalooki Nights* and the highly acclaimed *The Act of Love*. He lives in London.

Da Happie Laand

by Robert Alan Jamieson

Nominated by:

Aberdeen Library & Information Services, Scotland

A Perth minister opens his door to a traumatised stranger who calls himself 'the son and heir to being lost'. When the stranger disappears, the events leading up to

and following on from this are revealed. A modern and far-reaching Shetlandic saga with ethnology, history, linguistics entwined with humour, a mystery, and a love story.

Robert Alan Jamieson was born in 1958 on Shetland. His work appears in many anthologies, he has published two poetry collections and three novels. In 2005 *A Day at the Office* was featured in The List's '100 Best Scottish Books of All Time'. He is currently teaching a Creative Writing course at Edinburgh University.

World and Town

by Gish Jen

Nominated by:

Boston Public Library, USA

Hattie Kong, a retired teacher and a descendant of Confucius, has decided that it's time to start over. She moves to the peaceful New England town of Riverlake, a place that once represented the rock-solid base of American life. Instead of quietude, Hattie discovers a town challenged by cell-phone towers, chain stores, and struggling farms. Soon Hattie is joined by an immigrant Cambodian family on the run, and—quite unexpectedly—Carter Hatch, a love from her past. As each character seeks to make a new start on life, *World and Town* asks deep, absorbing questions about religion, love, home, and meaning.

Gish Jen is the author of three previous novels and a book of stories. Her honours include the Lannan Literary Award for fiction and the Mildred and Harold Strauss Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She lives with her husband and two children in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

We, the Drowned

by Carsten Jensen

Translated from the original Danish by Charlotte Barslund with Emma Ryder

Nominated by:

Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna im Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego, Łódź, Poland
Copenhagen Central Library, Denmark

In 1848 a motley crew of Danish sailors sets sail from the small island town of Marstal to fight the Germans. Not all of them return – and those who do will never be the same. Among them is the daredevil Laurids Madsen, who promptly escapes again into the anonymity of the high seas.

As soon as he is old enough, his son Albert sets off in search of his missing father on a voyage that will take him to the furthest reaches of the globe and into the clutches of the most nefarious company. Bearing a mysterious shrunken head, and plagued by premonitions of bloodshed, he returns to a town increasingly run by women – among them a widow intent on liberating all men from the tyranny of the sea.

Carsten Jensen was born in 1952. He first made his name as a columnist and literary critic. His essays, novels and travel books

have won numerous literary awards. *We, the Drowned* has sold more than 300,000 copies in Scandinavia alone and was voted best Danish novel of the past twenty-five years.

Hand Me Down World

by Lloyd Jones

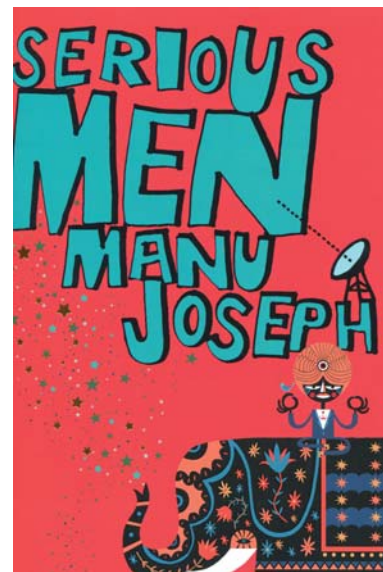
Nominated by:

Wellington City Libraries, New Zealand
Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand

A woman washes ashore in Sicily. She has come from North Africa to find her son, taken from her when he was just days old by his father and stolen away to Berlin. With nothing but her maid's uniform and a knife stashed in a plastic bag, she relies on strangers—some generous, some exploiting—to guide her passage north.

These strangers tell of their encounters with a quiet, mysterious woman in a blue coat—each account a different view of the truth, a different truth. And slowly these fragments of a life piece together to create a spellbinding story of the courage of a mother and the versions of truth we create to accommodate our lives.

Lloyd Jones was born in 1955 in New Zealand. He studied at Victoria University, and has worked as a journalist and consultant as well as a writer. His recent novels are *Here at the End of the World We Learn to Dance*, *Paint Your Wife* and *Mister Pip*.



Serious Men

by Manu Joseph

Nominated by:

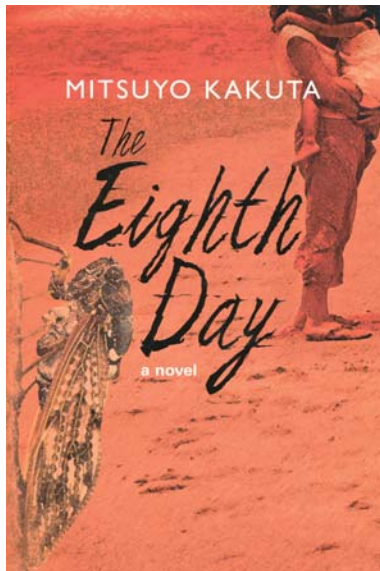
India International Centre Library, New Delhi

Ayyan Mani will not be constrained by Indian traditions. Despite working at the Institute of Theory and Research in Mumbai as the lowly personal assistant to a brilliant but insufferable astronomer, he dreams of more for himself and his family.

He weaves two plots: the first to cheer up his weary, soap-opera-addicted wife by creating outrageous fictions around their ten-year-old son; the other to sabotage the married director by using his boss's seeming romance

with the institute's first female researcher. As the institute's Brahmins wage a vicious war over theories about alien life, Ayyan sees his deceptions intertwining and setting in motion a series of extraordinary events he cannot stop. *Serious Men* is at once a hilarious portrayal of runaway egos and ambitions and a moving portrait of love and its strange workings.

Manu Joseph is the deputy editor of the new Indian magazine *Open*. The former features editor of *The Times of India*, he was voted "India's Most Stylish Writer", and short-listed for *Society Magazine's* Young Achiever Award.



The Eighth Day

by Mitsuyo Kakuta

Translated from the original Japanese by Margaret Mitsutani

Nominated by:

Osaka Municipal Library, Japan

The year is 1985. Kiwako is an ordinary office worker, in love with a married man, until an unwanted abortion causes her to snap. She kidnaps her lover's six-month-old baby and runs away with her, eventually taking refuge in an all-female religious commune. Here, she attempts to raise the girl. Fifteen years later, the child, Elena, is an adult contending with the difficulties of returning to her "natural family," made up of a mother who doesn't come home, an alcoholic father, and siblings with whom she can't connect.

Mitsuyo Kakuta's powerful second novel in English is a sympathetic portrait of two women brought together by tragedy, each struggling to determine her own destiny.

Mitsuyo Kakuta has written more than 40 books (novels, short stories and essays) and is considered one of Japan's most popular authors. She has won seven major literary awards. Her short stories have appeared in English in the *Asia Literary Review* and *Japanese Literature Today*.

Russian Winter

by Daphne Kalotay

Nominated by:

Richmond Public Library, USA

When Nina Revskaya puts her remarkable jewellery collection up for auction, the former Bolshoi Ballet star finds herself overwhelmed by memories of her homeland, and of the events that changed her life half a century earlier. It was in Russia that she discovered the magic of dance and fell in love, and where, faced with Stalinist aggression, a terrible discovery incited a deadly act of betrayal—and an ingenious escape to the West.

Nina has kept her secrets for half a lifetime. But now Drew Brooks, an inquisitive associate at a Boston auction house, and Grigori Solodin, a professor who believes Nina's jewels hold the key to unlocking his past, begin to unravel her story—setting in motion a series of revelations that will have life-altering consequences for them all.

Daphne Kalotay is the author of the acclaimed fiction collection *Calamity and Other Stories*. She earned a master's in creative writing and a PhD in literature from Boston University. She has taught creative writing at Boston University, Middlebury College, and Skidmore College, and lives in the Boston area.

The Convent

by Panos Karnezis

Nominated by:

Veria Central Public Library, Greece

Those whom God wishes to destroy he first makes mad...

The convent of Our Lady of Mercy stands alone in an uninhabited part of the Spanish sierra. Its inhabitants are devoted to God, to solitude and silence; six women cut off from the world they've chosen to leave behind.

Everything changes on the day that Mother Superior Maria Ines discovers a suitcase punctured with air-holes at the entrance to the retreat. Soon she is to find the box and its contents are to have consequences beyond her imagining, and that even in her carefully protected sanctuary she is unable to keep the world, or her past, at bay.

Panos Karnezis was born in Greece in 1967. He came to England in 1992 to study engineering, and worked in industry before starting to write. He was awarded an MA in Creative Writing by the University of East Anglia. His first book, *Little Infamies*, was published in 2002. He lives in London.

Swell

by Ioanna Karystiani

Translated from the original Greek by Konstantine Matsoukas

Nominated by:

Veria Central Public Library, Greece
Serres Central Public Library, Greece

The moment of reckoning has come for Captain Mitsos Avgustis. After twelve years at sea it is time to go home to the island on which he was born: home to his wife Flora, his two daughters, his son, a granddaughter he has never met, and Litsa, his lover from all those years ago. It will take all Avgustis's courage and strength to face the squalls and storms on land after a lifetime at sea—and all the while, he must resist the ocean's siren song bidding him return, tempting him back to the cargo vessel, the Athos III, that he so reluctantly left.

Statuesque like Poseidon, gruff yet tender, a true legend of the seven seas, Avgustis will learn that no matter how many or how varied one's experiences of life have been, there is always something new to learn.

Ioanna Karystiani was born on the island of Crete. Her literary debut came with the collection of short stories, *I kyria Katakhi* (*Ms. Katakhi*). She has since written three novels, all of which have been translated into several languages. She has received the Greek state prize for literature.

Under Heaven

by Guy Gavriel Kay

Nominated by:

Winnipeg Public Library, Canada

Inspired by the glory of Tang Dynasty China in the eighth century, Guy Gavriel Kay melds history and the fantastic into something both powerful and emotionally compelling.

Shen Tai is the son of a general who led the forces of imperial Kitai in that empire's last war against their western enemies from Tagur, twenty years before. Forty thousand men on both sides were slain beside a remote mountain lake. General Shen Gao himself has died recently. To honour his father's memory, Tai has spent two years of official mourning alone at the battle site among the ghosts of the dead, laying to rest their unburied bones.

Now Tai starts east towards the glittering, dangerous imperial capital and gathers his wits for a return from solitude by a mountain lake to his own forever-altered life.

Guy Gavriel Kay is an internationally bestselling author. He has been awarded the International Goliardos Prize for his work in the literature of the fantastic, is a two-time winner of the Aurora Award, and won the 2008 World Fantasy Award for *Ysabel*. His works have been translated into 25 languages.

Fame

by Daniel Kehlmann

Translated from the original German
by Carol Brown Janeway

Nominated by:

Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin, Germany
Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany
Stadtbüchereien Düsseldorf, Germany
Leipziger Städtische Bibliotheken, Germany
Bibliotheken der Stadt Mainz, Germany

Imagine being famous. Adored by people who have never even met you, known the world over, wouldn't that be great? But what if, one day, you got stuck in a country where no one spoke your language and you didn't speak theirs. How would your fame help you then? What would happen if someone got hold of your mobile phone? If they spoke to your girlfriends, your agent, your director and started making decisions for you? What if you realised your magnum opus was drivel, a total waste of time and energy for all concerned, how would you react? In this delightfully entertaining joy of a book, Daniel Kehlmann throws his characters into all these situations with thrilling, funny and surprising results, showing once again that he is one of his generation's finest European writers.

Daniel Kehlmann was born in Munich in 1975 and moved to Vienna in 1981, where he studied philosophy and literature at university. *Fame* is his sixth novel.

Under the Poppy

by Kathe Koja

Nominated by:

Jacksonville Public Library, USA

Under the Poppy is a brothel owned by Decca and Rupert. Decca is in love with Rupert but he in turn is in love with her brother, Istvan. When Istvan comes to town, louche puppet troupe in tow, the lines of their age-old desires intersect against a backdrop of approaching war. Hearts are broken when old betrayals and new alliances—not just their own—take shape. With the war getting too close, Istvan and Rupert abandon the Poppy and find a place in high society where they try to avoid becoming more than puppets themselves. *Under the Poppy* is a vivid, sexy historical novel as delicious and intoxicating as the best guilty pleasure.

Kathe Koja's books include *The Cipher*, *Skins* and *Extremities*, her young adult novels include *Budda Boy*, *Talk*, *Kissing the Bee*, and *Headlong*. Her books have been published in 7 languages. She's a Detroit native and lives in the area with her husband, artist Rick Lieder, and their cats.

Great House

by Nicole Krauss

Nominated by:

Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek,
Brussels, Belgium
Cleveland Public Library, USA
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA

For twenty-five years, a reclusive American novelist has been writing at the desk she inherited from a young Chilean poet who disappeared at the hands of Pinochet's secret police. One day a girl claiming to be the poet's daughter arrives to take it away. Across the ocean, a man caring for his dying wife discovers, among her papers, a lock of hair that unravels a terrible secret. In Jerusalem, an antiques dealer slowly reassembles his father's study, plundered by the Nazis in Budapest in 1944.

Connecting these stories is a desk of many drawers that exerts a power over those who possess it. As the narrators of *Great House* make their confessions, the desk takes on more and more meaning, and comes finally to stand for all that has been taken from them, and all that binds them to what has disappeared.

Nicole Krauss is the author of *Man Walks into a Room*, and the international bestseller *The History of Love*. Her books have been translated into more than 35 languages. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

The Surrendered

by Chang-rae Lee

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio
Emanuele III, Naples, Italy
National Library Service of
Barbados, Bridgetown
Milwaukee Public Library, USA
New York Public Library, USA

June Han was only a girl when the Korean War left her orphaned; Hector Brennan was a young GI who fled the petty tragedies of his small town to serve his country. When the war ended, their lives collided at a Korean orphanage where they vied for the attentions of Sylvie Tanner, the beautiful yet deeply damaged missionary wife whose elusive love seemed to transform everything. Thirty years later and on the other side of the world, June and Hector are reunited in a plot that will force them to come to terms with the mysterious secrets of their past, and the shocking acts of love and violence that bind them together.

Chang-rae Lee has delivered a mesmerizing novel, elegantly suspenseful and deeply affecting.

Chang-rae Lee is the author of *Native Speaker*, winner of the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for first fiction, *A Gesture Life*, and *Aloft*. Selected by The New Yorker as one of the twenty best writers under forty, Chang-rae Lee teaches writing at Princeton University.

A Watermelon, a Fish and a Bible

by Christy Lefteri

Nominated by:

Cyprus Library, Nicosia

It is July 1974; the Turkish army has invaded the town of Kyrenia in Cyprus. Everyone has always talked about Koki. They never believed she was her father's daughter and when she became pregnant, her fate was sealed. So she lives outside the town and hides from her neighbours' eyes. But, held captive with the very women who have made her life so lonely, Koki finally tells them the truth. Meanwhile, Adem Berker finds himself back in Kyrenia, his former home, now as a member of the invading force. Here he left everything he ever wanted and, by cover of darkness, risking his life, he searches every house, every cafe, and every old pathway, for just a glimpse of the only woman he has ever loved.

Christy Lefteri was born in London in 1980 to Greek Cypriot parents who moved to London in 1974 during the Turkish invasion. She completed a degree in English and a Masters in creative writing, and became a secondary school teacher, before leaving to pursue a PhD and to write.

The Long Song

by Andrea Levy

Nominated by:

Hoofdstedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek,
Brussels, Belgium
Liverpool Libraries & Information Services, UK
Jamaica Library Service, Kingston
The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

You do not know me yet. My son Thomas, who is publishing this book, tells me, it is customary at this place in a novel to give the reader a little taste of the story that is held within these pages. As your storyteller, I am to convey that this tale is set in Jamaica during the last turbulent years of slavery and the early years of freedom that followed.

July is a slave girl who lives upon a sugar plantation named Amity and it is her life that is the subject of this tale. She was there when the Baptist War raged in 1831, and she was also present when slavery was declared no more. My son says I must convey how the story tells also of July's mama Kitty, of the Negroes that worked the plantation land, of Caroline Mortimer the white woman who owned the plantation and many more persons besides.

Andrea Levy was born in England to Jamaican parents. She has written four previous novels, *Every Light in the House Burnin'*, *Never Far From Nowhere*, *Fruit of the Lemon* and *Small Island* (winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, which has now been adapted into a major BBC TV drama).

Lost

by Alice Lichtenstein

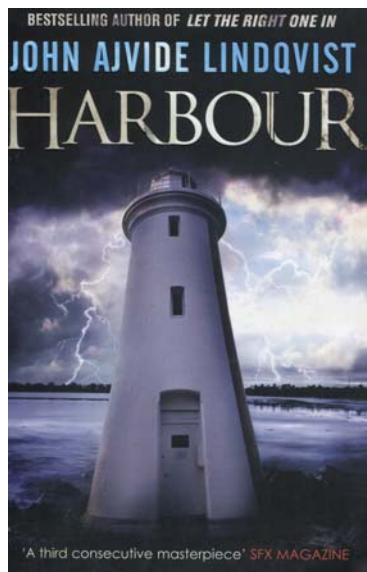
Nominated by:

Regional Library of Karviná, Karviná-Mizerov, Czech Republic

On a cold January morning, Susan leaves her husband alone for a few minutes and returns to find him gone. Suffering from dementia, Christopher has wandered alone into a frigid landscape. Lost.

As a massive search for Christopher takes place, Susan's life intersects with those of two strangers: Jeff, her liaison with the police, a search-and-rescue expert shaken by his young wife's betrayal, and Corey, a twelve-year-old boy, rendered mute by a family tragedy. While the temperature drops and teams scour the countryside with greater and greater urgency, Susan and Jeff venture into the fraught territory of their pasts. Corey, too, is troubled by memories, and a secret that could affect them all. When the desperate search concludes, what it uncovers will transform Susan, Jeff, and Corey and irrevocably bind them together.

Alice Lichtenstein graduated from Brown University and was named the Boston University Fellow in Creative Writing. She has received a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant in Fiction and has twice been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony. She teaches at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York.



Harbour

by John Ajvide Lindqvist

Translated from the original Swedish by Marlaine Delargy

Nominated by:

Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

On a beautiful winter's day Anders, his wife and their feisty six-year-old, Maja, set out across the ice of the Swedish archipelago to visit the lighthouse on Gavasten. There was no one around, so they let her go on ahead. Maja disappeared, seemingly into thin air, and was never found. Two years later, Anders, a broken alcoholic, his life ruined, returns to the archipelago. Through the haze of memory,

loss and alcohol, he realizes that someone – or something – is trying to communicate with him. Soon enough, his return sets in motion a series of horrifying events which exposes a mysterious and troubling relationship between the inhabitants of the remote island and the sea.

John Ajvide Lindqvist is a Swedish author. He has written TV series as well as stage plays and TV drama. Two of his other novels, *Let the Right One In* and *Handling the Undead* have been translated into English and published by Quercus.

Train to Budapest

by Dacia Maraini

Translated from the original Italian by Sylvester Mazzarella

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze, Florence, Italy

1956: Amara, a young Italian journalist, is sent to report on the growing political divide between East and West in post-war central Europe. She also has a more personal mission: to find out what happened to Emanuele, her soul mate from before the war when both were children in Florence. Emanuele and his family were Jews transported by the Nazis from wartime Vienna, but not before he had sent Amara a long series of letters she still carries with her. Her quest now takes her on long train journeys. She visits the holocaust museum at Auschwitz, and Budapest, where she is caught up in the tumultuous events of the October rising against the Soviet Union. She is helped by chance travel companions, and other survivors she meets along the way.

Novelist, poet and playwright, **Dacia Maraini** has been awarded Italy's top two literary prizes, the Premio Strega and the Premio Campiello. Her fiction, which has been published in 22 countries, includes *Woman at War*, *Isolina*, *Voices* and the worldwide best-seller *The Silent Duchess*. She lives in Rome.

Matterhorn

by Karl Marlantes

Nominated by:

Regional Library of Karviná, Karviná-Mizerov, Hungary
Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Cork City Libraries, Ireland
Houston Public Library, USA
Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, USA
Lincoln Library, Springfield, USA
Seattle Public Library, USA

An epic war novel, *Matterhorn* is the timeless story of a young Marine lieutenant, Waino Mellas, and his comrades in Bravo Company, who are dropped into the mountain jungle of Vietnam as boys and forced to fight their way into manhood. Standing in their way are not merely the North Vietnamese but also monsoon rain and mud, leeches and tigers, disease and malnutrition. Almost as daunting, it turns out, are the obstacles they discover between each other: racial tension, competing ambitions, and duplicitous superior officers. But

when the company finds itself surrounded and outnumbered by a massive enemy regiment, the Marines are thrust into the raw and all-consuming terror of combat. The experience will change them forever.

Karl Marlantes served as a Marine in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Bronze Star, two Navy Commendation Medals for valour, two Purple Hearts, and ten air medals. *Matterhorn* is his first novel. He lives in rural Washington State.

Beatrice & Virgil

by Yann Martel

Nominated by:

Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna im Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego, Łódź, Poland
Oslo Public Libraries, Norway

Fate takes many forms.

When Henry receives a letter from an elderly taxidermist, it poses a puzzle that he cannot resist. As he is pulled further into the world of this strange and calculating man, Henry becomes increasingly involved with the lives of a donkey and a howler monkey – named Beatrice and Virgil – and the epic journey they undertake together.

With all the spirit and originality that made *Life of Pi* so treasured, this brilliant new novel takes the reader on a haunting odyssey. On the way Martel asks profound questions about life and art, truth and deception, responsibility and complicity.

Yann Martel is the award-winning author of four books, the most recent of which is *What Is Stephen Harper Reading?* *Life of Pi* was the winner of the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction as well as the Man Booker Prize. Yann lives with writer Alice Kuipers and their son, Theo, in Saskatoon.

Dog-Heart

by Diana McCauley

Nominated by:

Jamaica Library Service, Kingston

Dog-Heart is a novel about the well-meaning attempt of a middle-class single mother to transform the life of a boy from the ghetto who she meets on the street. Set in present-day, urban Jamaica, *Dog-Heart* tells the story from two alternating points of view – those of the woman and the boy. They speak in the two languages of Jamaica that sometimes overlap, sometimes display their different origins and world views. Whilst engaging the reader in a tense and absorbing narrative, the novel deals seriously with issues of race and class, the complexity of relationships between people of very different backgrounds, and the difficulties faced by individuals seeking to bring about social change by their own actions.

Diana McCauley is a Jamaican writer, newspaper columnist and environmental activist. *Dog-Heart* won first prize in the 2008 Jamaican National Literature awards.

The Dervish House

by Ian McDonald

Nominated by:

Birmingham Libraries, UK

The Dervish House centres on Istanbul in 2025. Turkey is part of Europe but sited on the edge, an Islamic country that looks to the West. *The Dervish House* is the story of the families that live in and around its titular house; it is at once a rich mosaic of Islamic life in the new century and a telling novel of future possibilities.

The new SF epic from Ian McDonald does for Turkey what *Brasyl* did for Brazil. Ian McDonald has found renown at the cutting edge of a movement to take SF away from its British and American white roots and out into the rich cultures of the world.

Ian McDonald was born in Manchester in 1960. He now lives in Belfast and works in TV production. The author of many previous novels, including the groundbreaking Chaga books set in Africa. *River of Gods* won the BSFA award in 2005.

When Colts Ran

by Roger McDonald

Nominated by:

The State Library of New South

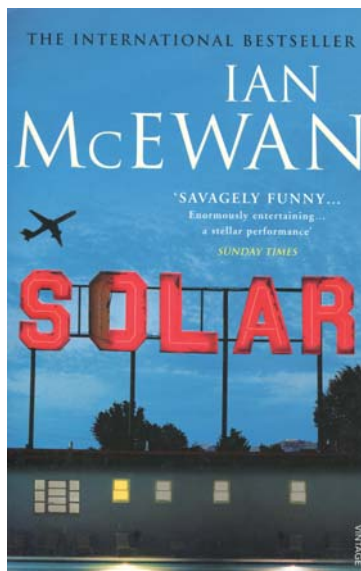
Wales, Sydney, Australia

The National Library of Australia, Canberra

In this sweeping epic of friendship, toil, hope and failed promise, multi-award-winning author Roger McDonald follows the story of Kingsley Colts as he chases the ghost of himself through the decades, and in and out of the lives and affections of the citizens of 'The Isabel', a slice of Australia scattered with prospectors, artists, no-hopers and visionaries. Against this spacious backdrop of sheep stations, timeless landscapes and the Five Alls pub, men play out their fates, conduct their rivalries and hope for the best.

When Colts Ran is in turns humorous and hard-bitten, it charts the ebb and flow of human fortune, and our fraught desire to leave an indelible mark on society and those closest to us.

Roger McDonald was born at Young, New South Wales. His novels include *1915*, *Slipstream*, *Rough Wallaby*, *Water Man* and *The Slap*. *The Ballad of Desmond Kale* won the 2006 Miles Franklin Award.



Solar

by Ian McEwan

Nominated by:

Stadtbücherei Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany

Bibliothek der Stadt Mainz, Germany

Bibliothèques Municipales Geneva, Switzerland

Halifax Public Libraries, Canada

Michael Beard is a Nobel prize-winning physicist whose best work is behind him. Trading on his reputation, he speaks for enormous fees, lends his name to the letterheads of renowned scientific institutions and half-heartedly heads a government-backed initiative tackling global warming. A compulsive womaniser, Beard finds his fifth marriage floundering. But this time it is different: she is having the affair, and he is still in love with her.

When Beard's professional and personal worlds collide in a freak accident, an opportunity presents itself for Beard to extricate himself from his marital mess, reinvigorate his career and save the world from environmental disaster.

Solar is a serious and darkly satirical novel, showing human frailty struggling with the most pressing and complex problem of our time.

Ian McEwan is the author of two collections of stories and ten previous novels, including *Enduring Love*, *Amsterdam*, for which he won the Booker Prize in 1998, *Atonement* and *Saturday*.

Even the Dogs

by Jon McGregor

Nominated by:

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

On a cold, quiet day between Christmas and the New Year, a man's body is found in an abandoned apartment. His friends look on, but they're dead, too. Their bodies found in squats and sheds and alleyways across the city. Victims of a bad batch of heroin, they're in the shadows,

a chorus keeping vigil as the hours pass, paying their own particular homage as their friend's body is taken away.

All of their stories are laid out piece by broken piece through a series of fractured narratives. Stories of lives fallen through the cracks, hopes flaring and dying, love overwhelmed by a stronger need, and the havoc wrought by drugs, distress, and the disregard of the wider world.

Even the Dogs is an intimate exploration of life at the edges of society; littered with love, loss, despair, and a half-glimpse of redemption.

Jon McGregor is the author of the critically acclaimed *If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things* and *So Many Ways to Begin*. He is the winner of the Betty Trask Prize and the Somerset Maugham Award, and has been twice longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

Kraken

by China Miéville

Nominated by:

Bibliothèque Municipale de Mulhouse, France

Stockholm Public Library, Sweden

In the Darwin Centre at London's Natural History Museum, Billy Harrow, a cephalopod specialist, is conducting a tour whose climax is meant to be the Centre's prize specimen of a rare *Architeuthis dux* – better known as the Giant Squid. But Billy's tour takes an unexpected turn when the squid suddenly and impossibly vanishes into thin air.

As Billy soon discovers, this is the precipitating act in a struggle to the death between mysterious but powerful forces in a London whose existence he has been blissfully ignorant of until now, a city whose denizens – human and otherwise – are adept in magic and murder.

China Miéville is the author of *King Rat* and *Perdido Street Station*, winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award and the British Fantasy Award among others. He lives and works in London.

The Last Warner Woman

by Kei Miller

Nominated by:

Jamaica Library Service, Kingston

Once upon a time in Jamaica a young woman went somewhere that no one had visited for years. It may have been nestled in a valley between the Stone Hill Mountains of St Catherine, four rocking chairs on a veranda surveying a garden full of bougainvillea and vegetables. Or perhaps it was merely a pastel-coloured house on an ordinary street in Spanish Town.

One thing everyone agrees on: this is the place that Adamine Bustamante was born.

When Adamine grows up she discovers she has the gift of 'warning': the power to both protect and terrify. But no one tells her that in England her prophecies of hurricanes and earthquakes will meet with a different kind of fear. Now

Adamine wants to tell her story. But she must wrestle for the truth with 'Mr Writer Man', for he is taking her words and twisting them.

Kei Miller was born in Jamaica in 1978. He currently teaches creative writing at the University of Glasgow. His collection of short stories *The Fear of Stones* was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book.

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet

by David Mitchell

Nominated by:

University Library of Bern, Switzerland
Tweebonnen Openbare Bibliotheek, Leuven, Belgium
Stedelijke Openbare Bibliotheek Gent, Belgium
Městská knihovna v Praze, Prague, Czech Republic
Tampere City Library, Finland
Bibliothèque Municipale de Strasbourg, France
Houston Public Library, USA
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, USA
Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA
Richland County Public Library, Columbia, USA
San Diego Public Library, USA
New Hampshire State Library, USA
Auckland Libraries and Information, New Zealand

Be transported to a place like no other: a tiny, man-made island in the bay of Nagasaki, for two hundred years the sole gateway between Japan and the West. Here, in the dying days of the 18th-century, a young Dutch clerk arrives to make his fortune. Instead he loses his heart.

Step onto the streets of Dejima and mingle with scheming traders, spies, interpreters, servants and concubines as two cultures converge. In a tale of integrity and corruption, passion and power, the key is control – of riches and minds, and over death itself.

David Mitchell's novels include *Ghostwritten*, *Number9dream*, *Cloud Atlas* and *Black Swan Green*, which was shortlisted for the Costa Novel Award and longlisted for the Man Booker. He grew up in Worcestershire and spent some years living in Japan.

The Book of Heroes

by Miyuki Miyabe

Translated from the original Japanese by Alexander O. Smith

Nominated by:

Osaka Municipal Library, Japan

When her brother Hiroki disappears after a violent altercation with bullies, Yuriko finds a magical book in his room. She learns that Hiroki has been possessed by The Book of Heroes, and that only she can save him. With the help of the monk Sky, the dictionary-mouse Aju, and the mysterious Man of Ash, Yuriko has to solve the mystery of her vanished brother and save the world from the evil King in Yellow.

Miyuki Miyabe's first novel was published in 1987, and since that time she has become one of Japan's most popular and best-selling authors. *Brave Story* won The Batchelder Award for best children's book in translation from the American Library Association. *The Book of Heroes* is her sixth novel to be translated into English.

The Extinction Club

by Jeffrey Moore

Nominated by:

Winnipeg Public Library, Canada

On the last stroke of November, as Nile Nightingale examines a church with a faded for-sale sign, he is startled by a gun-racked pickup barrelling down the country lane. With a sack roped to the roof, it veers past the church and comes to a spinning stop beside the cemetery. Silence, then a thud. With that sound ends the peace Nile expected to find when he fled the addictions, exhaustions, and legal problems of home by heading north, illegally, into Quebec's Laurentian Mountains. Inside the burlap sack is the bloodied body of a still breathing teenage girl. Against his better judgment, Nile resolves to treat her wounds and find those who left her for dead.

Jeffrey Moore studied applied linguistics and languages in North America and Europe. He works as a translator and lecturer in Montreal and Val Morin, Quebec. His novels have won several awards and have been published in 20 countries.

The Last Weekend

by Blake Morrison

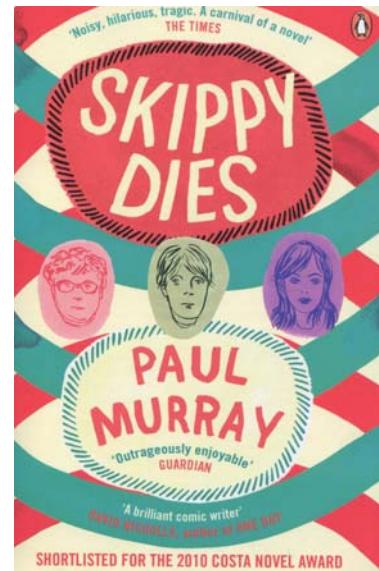
Nominated by:

Oslo Public Libraries, Norway

Set over a long weekend in East Anglia, Blake Morrison's new novel is the chilling story of a rivalrous friendship – as told with deceptive casualness by the narrator, Ian. It opens with a surprise phone call from an old university friend, inviting Ian and his wife, Em, for a few days by the sea. Their hosts, Ollie and Daisy, are a golden couple, and the scene is set for sunlit relaxation. But dangerous tensions quickly emerge.

The Last Weekend is a deftly crafted page-turner, where little can be taken for granted and nothing is quite as it seems. It offers a dark, haunting tale of friendship, sexual passion and jealousy – and confirms Blake Morrison's reputation as one of Britain's most talented writers.

Born in Yorkshire, **Blake Morrison** is the author of two bestselling memoirs, *and When Did You Last See Your Father?* *And Things My Mother Never Told Me*, and two novels *South of the River* and *The Last Weekend*. He lives in south London.



Skippy Dies

by Paul Murray

Nominated by:

Cork City Libraries, Ireland
Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland
Limerick City Library, Ireland
Waterford County Library, Ireland
New Hampshire State Library, Concord, USA
Seattle Public Library, USA

'Skippy and Ruprecht are having a doughnut-eating race one evening when Skippy turns purple and falls off his chair . . .'

And so begins *Skippy Dies* – an epic, tragic, comic, brilliant novel set in and around Dublin's Seabrook College for Boys. Principally concerning the lives, loves, mistakes and triumphs of overweight maths-whiz Ruprecht Van Doren and his roommate Daniel 'Skippy' Juster, it features a frisbee-throwing siren called Lori, the joys (and horrors) of first love, the use and blatant misuse of prescription drugs, Carl (the official school psychopath), various attempts to unravel string theory . . . while at the same time exploring the very deepest mysteries of the human heart.

Paul Murray was born in 1975. He studied English literature at Trinity College in Dublin. Paul was a former bookseller and his first novel, *An Evening of Long Goodbyes*, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Prize in 2003 and was nominated for the Kerry Irish Fiction Award.

The Gendarme

by Mark T. Mustian

Nominated by:

Multnomah County Library, Portland, USA

A haunting, deeply moving novel – an old man comes face-to-face with his past and sets out to find the love of his life and beg her forgiveness.

To those around him, Emmet Conn is a ninety-two-year-old man on the verge of senility. But what becomes frighteningly clear to Emmet is that the sudden, realistic dreams he is having are memories of events he, and many others, have denied or purposely forgotten. *The Gendarme* is a unique love story

that explores the power of memory – and the ability of people, individually and collectively, to forget. Depicting how love can transcend nationalities and politics, how racism creates divisions where none truly exist, and how the human spirit fights to survive even in the face of hopelessness, this is a transcendent novel.

Mark T. Mustian is an author, attorney, and city commissioner. He lives with his wife and three children in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Snowman

by Jo Nesbø

Translated from the original Norwegian by Don Bartlett

Nominated by:

Gateshead Library, UK

The night the first snow falls a young boy wakes to find his mother gone. He walks through the silent house, but finds only wet footprints on the stairs. In the garden looms a solitary figure: a snowman bathed in cold moonlight, its black eyes glaring up at the bedroom windows. Round its neck is his mother's pink scarf.

Inspector Harry Hole is convinced there is a link between the disappearance and a menacing letter he received some months earlier. When a second woman disappears Harry's suspicions are confirmed: he is a pawn in a deadly game. A brilliant thriller with a pace that never lets up, *The Snowman* confirms Jo Nesbø's position as an international star of crime fiction.

Jo Nesbø is a musician, songwriter, economist and bestselling author. His first crime novel featuring Harry Hole was published in Norway in 1997 and was an instant hit, winning the Glass Key Award for best Nordic crime novel.

Settler's Creek

by Carl Nixon

Nominated by:

Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand

Box Saxton just wants to bury his teenage stepson's body in the churchyard near the farm where Box grew up. What happens, though, when the boy's biological father, a Maori leader, unexpectedly turns up in the days before the funeral and forcibly takes the boy's body? According to Maori custom the boy must be buried in the tribe's ancestral cemetery at the small coastal town of Kaipuna. According to the law there is very little Box can do. With no plan and little hope, Box gets in his old truck and drives north, desperate and heartbroken.

Settler's Creek explores the claims of both indigenous people and more recent settlers to have a spiritual link to the land.

Carl Nixon is a short-story writer, novelist and playwright. *Fish 'n' Chip Shop Song* and other stories was a bestseller in New Zealand and was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize Best First Book. His debut novel *Rocking Horse Road* saw him described as 'a major talent' by North & South.

21 Immortals

by Rozlan Mohd Noor

Nominated by:

National Library of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

21 Immortals: Inspector Mislan and the Yee Sang Murders is an explosive debut from the quietly talented Rozlan Mohd Noor, an ex-police officer, which explains why he knows so much about police work and inside stories. This is a true Malaysian high-tech crime thriller with good cops, bad cops (and badder cops) and triad members, with insights into the workings of the local CSI, and forays into the world of hackers and their viruses, sleeper programs, trojans, ulat, spybots, hound dogs and their link to crime, including murder.

Rozlan Mohd Noor was an officer with the Royal Malaysian Police for 11 years. Even after leaving the force, the evolution of crime scene investigation (CSI) and the introduction of technology continued to fascinate him. He wrote crime stories to entertain friends, which led to working on his novels.

The Hand that First Held Mine

by Maggie O'Farrell

Nominated by:

Tweebonnen Openbare Bibliotheek,

Leuven, Belgium

London's Public Libraries, UK

Dunedin Public Libraries, New Zealand

When the sophisticated Innes Kent turns up on her doorstep, Lexie Sinclair realises she cannot wait any longer for her life to begin, and leaves for London. There, at the heart of the 1950s Soho art scene, she carves out a new life. In the present day, Elina and Ted are reeling from the difficult birth of their first child. Elina struggles to reconcile the demands of motherhood with sense of herself as an artist, and Ted is disturbed by memories of his own childhood that don't tally with his parents' version of events. As Ted begins to search for answers, an extraordinary portrait of two women is revealed, separated by fifty years, but connected in ways that neither could ever have expected.

Maggie O'Farrell's novels include *After You'd Gone*, *My Lover's Lover*, *The Distance Between Us*, and *The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox*. Born in Northern Ireland, Maggie grew up in Wales and Scotland. She lives in London with her husband and two children.

The News Where You Are

by Catherine O'Flynn

Nominated by:

Birmingham Libraries, UK

Set in Birmingham, *The News Where You Are* tells the funny, touching story of Frank, a local TV news presenter. Beneath his awkwardly corny screen persona, Frank is haunted by disappearances: the mysterious hit and run that killed his predecessor Phil Smethway; the demolition of his father's post-war brutalist

architecture; and the unmarked passing of those who die alone in the city. Frank struggles to make sense of these absences while having to report endless local news stories of holes opening up in people's gardens and trying to cope with his resolutely miserable mother.

The result is that rare thing: a page-turning novel which asks the big questions in an accessible way, and is laugh-out-loud funny, genuinely moving and ultimately uplifting.

Catherine O'Flynn's debut novel, *What Was Lost*, won the Costa First Novel Award, was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, and was longlisted for the Booker Prize and the Orange Prize. She lives in Birmingham with her husband and daughter.

Who Fears Death

by Nnedi Okorafor

Nominated by:

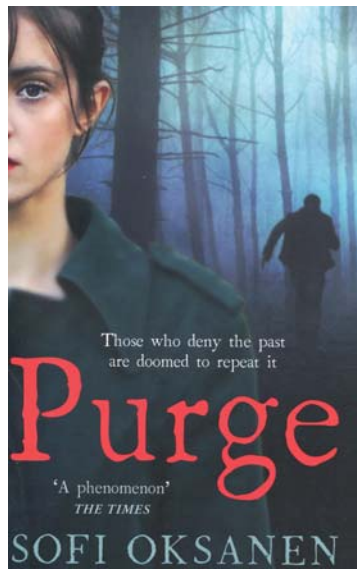
National Library & Information System

Authority, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

International award-winning author Nnedi Okorafor enters the world of magical realist literature with a powerful story of genocide in the far future and of the woman who reshapes her world.

In a post-apocalyptic Africa, the world has changed in many ways, yet in one region genocide between tribes still bloodies the land. After years of enslaving the Okeke people, the Nuru tribe has decided to follow the Great Book and exterminate the Okeke tribe for good. An Okeke woman who has survived the annihilation of her village and a terrible rape by an enemy general wanders into the desert hoping to die. Instead, she gives birth to an angry baby girl with hair and skin the colour of sand. Grippled by the certainty that her daughter is different – special – she names her child Onyesonwu, which means "Who Fears Death?" in an ancient tongue.

Nnedi Okorafor is a novelist of Nigerian descent. Her novels include *Zabrah the Windseeker*, *The Shadow Speaker* and *Long Juju Man*. Nnedi holds a PhD in English and currently is a professor of creative writing at Chicago State University.



Purge

by Sofi Oksanen

Translated from the original
Finnish by Lola Rogers

Nominated by:

Zentralbibliothek Zurich, Switzerland
Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu, Tallinn, Estonia
Helsingin Kaupunginkirjasto, Helsinki, Finland
Aarhus Kommunes Biblioteker, Denmark
Stockholm Public Library, Sweden
Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturhus, Norway
Serres Central Public Library, Greece
Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna
im Marszałka J. Piłsudskiego, Łódź, Poland

Those who deny history are doomed to repeat it...

Deep in an Estonian forest, two women, one young, one old, are hiding.

Zara is a prostitute and a murderer, on the run from brutal captors – men who know how to punish a woman. Aliide offers refuge but not safety: she has her own criminal secrets – traitorous crimes of passion and revenge committed long ago, during the country's brutal Soviet years.

Both women have survived lives of abuse. But this time their survival depends on revealing the one thing history has taught them to keep safely hidden: the truth.

A haunting, intimate and gripping story of suspicion, betrayal and retribution against a backdrop of Soviet oppression and European war.

Sofi Oksanen was born in Finland and a former graduate of the Finnish Theatre Academy. She is the author of three novels. *Purge* is her first novel to be published in English translation. She lives in Helsinki.

The Invisible Bridge

by Julie Orringer

Nominated by:

Laramie County Library System, Cheyenne, USA
San Francisco Public Library, USA
Milwaukee Public Library, USA
New York Public Library, USA

Paris, 1937. Andras Lévi, a Hungarian-Jewish architecture student, arrives from Budapest with a scholarship, a single suitcase, and a mysterious letter he promised to deliver. But when he falls into a complicated relationship with the letter's recipient, he becomes privy to a secret that will alter the course of his – and his family's – history. From the small Hungarian town of Konyár to the grand opera houses of Budapest and Paris, from the despair of Carpathian winter to an unimaginable life in labour camps, *The Invisible Bridge* tells the story of a family shattered and remade in history's darkest hour.

Julie Orringer is the author of the award-winning short-story collection *How to Breathe Underwater*, which was a New York Times Notable Book. She lives in Brooklyn, where she is researching a new novel.

The Attenbury Emeralds

by Jill Paton Walsh

Nominated by:

Chicago Public Library, USA

It was 1921 when Lord Peter Wimsey first encountered the Attenbury emeralds. The recovery of the magnificent gem in Lord Attenbury's most dazzling heirloom made headlines – and launched a shell-shocked young aristocrat on his career as a detective.

Now it is 1951: a happily married Lord Peter has just shared the secrets of that mystery with his wife, the detective novelist Harriet Vane. Then the new young Lord Attenbury – grandson of Lord Peter's first client – seeks his help again, this time to prove who owns the gigantic emerald that Wimsey last saw in 1921.

Since the publication of *A Presumption of Death*, which was set in 1941 in the wartime English countryside, readers have been eagerly asking for this story – a wholly original and utterly engrossing new detective adventure.

Jill Paton Walsh, born in 1937, is also the author of many non-crime novels for adults: the fourth of these, *Knowledge of Angels*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Before writing for adults she made a career as a writer of children's books and has won many literary prizes.

Landed

by Tim Pears

Nominated by:

Tweebronnen Openbare Bibliotheek,
Leuven, Belgium

Brought up in the Anglo-Welsh borders by an affectionate but alcoholic and feckless mother, Owen Ithell's sense of self is rooted in his long, vivid visits to his grandparents' small farm in the hills.

As an adult he moves to an English city where he builds a new life, working as a gardener. He meets Mel, they have children. He believes he has found happiness – and love – of a sort.

But a tragic accident changes the course of his life and the lives of those he loves are changed forever. Owen is haunted by suicidal thoughts. In his despair, he resolves to reconnect with both his past and the natural world, and with his children he embarks on a long, fateful journey, walking to the Welsh borders of his childhood.

Tim Pears was born in 1956. His novels include *In the Place of Fallen Leaves* and *In a Land of Plenty*, which has been adapted for television and is now a major BBC television series and *A Revolution of the Sun*.

The Piano Cemetery

by José Luis Peixoto

Translated from the original
Portuguese by Daniel Hahn

Nominated by:

Biblioteka Główna Województwa
Mazowieckiego, Warsaw, Poland
Biblioteca Municipal Central de Lisboa, Portugal
Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal
Biblioteca Demonstrativa de Brasília, Brazil

Set in the working-class district of Benfica in Lisbon, *The Piano Cemetery* tells the story of a family, and especially of the hopes and fears of the fathers who pass the baton of the generations on to their sons.

The Lazaro family are cabinet-makers who would rather be piano-makers. They have a carpentry shop in the Benfica district of Lisbon and there at the back is the 'piano cemetery' piled high with broken-down pianos that provide the spare parts needed for repairing pianos all over the city. It is a mysterious and magical place, a place of solace, a dreaming place and, above all, a trysting place for lovers.

The Piano Cemetery is a wonderfully accomplished novel in which the true story of the Portuguese marathon-runner, Francisco Lazaro, is woven into a rich narrative of love, betrayal, domestic happiness and dashed hopes.

José Luis Peixoto was born in 1974 in the small Portuguese village of Alentejo. He teaches languages and contemporary literature and is also a journalist and literary critic. He is the author of seven works of fiction and poetry.

I Curse the River of Time

by Per Petterson

Translated from the original
Norwegian by Charlotte Barslund

Nominated by:

Cork City Libraries, Ireland
Dublin City Public Libraries, Ireland
Waterford County Library, Ireland
Gradska Knjižnica Rijeka, Croatia

A haunting literary masterpiece by the bestselling and prize-winning author of *Out Stealing Horses*.

It is 1989 and all over Europe Communism is crumbling. Arvid Jansen is in the throes of a divorce. At the same time, his mother is diagnosed with cancer. Over a few intense autumn days, we follow Arvid as he struggles to find a new footing in his life, while everything around him is changing at staggering speed. As he attempts to negotiate the present, he remembers holidays on the beach with his brothers, his early working life devoted to Communist ideals, courtship, and his relationship with his tough, independent mother – a relationship full of distance and unspoken pain that is central to Arvid's life.

Per Petterson was born in Oslo in 1952. He made his literary breakthrough in 2003 with the prize-winning novel *Out Stealing Horses*, which has been translated to 40 languages so far and won many prizes.

The Sea Captain's Wife

by Beth Powning

Nominated by:

Saint John Free Public Library,
New Brunswick, Canada

Azuba Galloway, daughter of a shipwright, sees ships leaving for foreign ports from her bustling town on the Bay of Fundy and dreams of seeing the world. When she marries Nathaniel Bradstock, a veteran sea captain, she believes she will sail at his side. But when she becomes pregnant she is forced to stay behind. When Azuba becomes embroiled in scandal, Nathaniel is forced to take her and their daughter, Carrie, aboard his ship. They set sail for London with bitter hearts.

Their voyage is ill-fated, beset with ferocious storms and unforeseen obstacles that test Azuba's compassion, courage and love. Alone in a male world, she must face her fears and fight to keep her family together.

Beth Powning is the author of several books, including *Seeds of Another Summer*, *The Hatbox Letters*, *Edge Seasons* and *Shadow Child*. She lives in an 1870 farmhouse near Sussex, New Brunswick, with her husband, artist Peter Powning.

Model Home

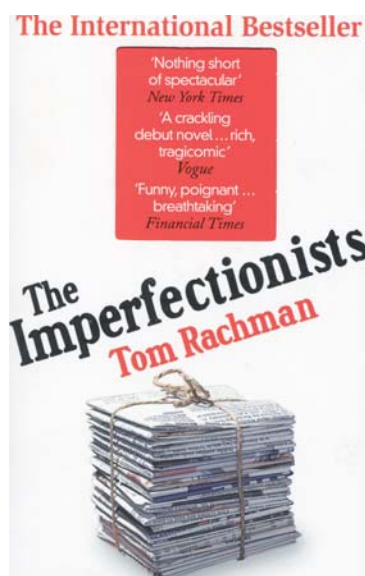
by Eric Puchner

Nominated by:

San Francisco Public Library, USA

Warren Ziller moved his family to Southern California in search of a charmed life: a gated community not far from the beach, amid the affluent splendor of the 1980s. But the Zillers' American dream is about to be rudely interrupted. Warren has squandered their savings on a bad real estate investment, which he conceals from his wife. Their children have grown as distant as satellites, too busy with their own betrayals and rebellions. When tragedy strikes, the Zillers are forced to move to Warren's abandoned housing development in the desert. In this comically bleak new home, each must reckon with what's led them there and who's to blame—and whether they can summon the forgiveness needed to hold the family together.

Eric Puchner is an assistant professor of literature at Claremont McKenna College. His short story collection, *Music Through the Floor*, was a finalist for the NY Public Library's Young Lions Award. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, novelist Katharine Noel, and their children.



The Imperfectionists

by Tom Rachman

Nominated by:

University Library of Bern, Switzerland
Milwaukee Public Library, USA
Free Library of Philadelphia, USA
Seattle Public Library, USA
San Francisco Public Library, USA
Vancouver Public Library, Canada

The newspaper was founded in Rome in the 1950s, a product of passion and a multi-millionaire's fancy. Over fifty years, its eccentricities earned a place in readers' hearts around the globe. But now, circulation is down, the paper lacks a website, and the future looks bleak. Still, those involved in the publication seem to barely notice. The obituary writer is too busy avoiding work. The editor-in-chief is pondering sleeping with an old flame. The obsessive reader is intent on

finishing every old edition, leaving her trapped in the past. And the publisher seems less interested in his struggling newspaper than in his magnificent basset hound, Schopenhauer. *The Imperfectionists* interweaves the stories of eleven unusual and endearing characters who depend on the paper.

Tom Rachman was born in London and raised in Vancouver. From 2006 to 2008, he worked as an editor at the International Herald Tribune in Paris. *The Imperfectionists* is his first novel and is being published in ten countries.

The Patience Stone

by Atiq Rahimi

Translated from the original
French by Polly McLean

Nominated by:

Katona József County Library,
Kecskemét, Hungary
Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon, France
Gradska Knjižnica Rijeka, Croatia
Stavanger Bibliotek og Kulturbus, Norway

In Persian folklore, Syngue Sabour is the name of a magical black stone, a patience stone, which absorbs the plight of those who confide in it. But here, the Syngue Sabour is not a stone but rather a man lying brain-dead with a bullet lodged in his neck. His wife is with him, sitting by his side. But she resents him for having sacrificed her to the war, for never being able to resist the call to arms, for being incapacitated in a small skirmish. Yet she cares, and she speaks to him, opening up her deepest desires, pains, and secrets. *The Patience Stone* captures with great courage and spare, poetic, prose the reality of everyday life for an intelligent woman under the oppressive weight of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Atiq Rahimi was born in Afghanistan in 1962, but fled to France in 1984. There he has become renowned as a maker of documentary and feature films, and as a writer. He lives in Paris.

The Lament of the Dhobi Woman

by Karen Roberts

Nominated by:

Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

Seelawathie, a young village girl is brought to the city to care for Cat, the daughter of a prominent Colombo family. With her parents involved with each other and their active social life, Cat soon comes to regard Seelawathie as her parent and best friend. They build their own happy microcosmic life within the large household and are relatively content until Seelawathie falls in love. Her forbidden relationship challenges the rigid boundaries of society and leads to a cataclysmic end of innocence. *The Lament of the Dhobi Woman* explores the issue of class in Colombo society and the fragile intricacies of love and forgiveness.

Born and raised in Sri Lanka, **Karen Roberts** now lives in California.

The Still Point

by Amy Sackville

Nominated by:

Tampere City Library, Finland

At the turn of the twentieth century, Arctic explorer Edward Mackley sets out to reach the North Pole and vanishes into the icy landscape. He leaves behind a young wife, Emily, who awaits his return for decades, her dreams and devotion gradually freezing into rigid widowhood. A hundred years later, Edward's great-grand-niece Julia moves through the old family house, attempting to impose some order on the clutter of inherited belongings and memories from that ill-fated expedition, and taking care to ignore the deepening cracks within her own marriage. But as afternoon turns into evening, Julia makes a discovery that splinters her long-held image of Edward and Emily's romance, and her husband Simon faces a precipitous choice that will decide the future of their relationship.

Amy Sackville was born in 1981. She studied English and Theatre Studies at Leeds, and went on to an MPhil in English at Exeter College, Oxford, and last year completed the MA in Creative & Life Writing at Goldsmiths. Her short stories have been published in anthologies and literary journals.

Heartstone

by C.J. Sansom

Nominated by:

Sheffield Libraries, Archives and Information Services, UK

Summer, 1545. England is at war. Henry VIII's invasion of France has gone badly wrong, and a massive French fleet is preparing to sail across the Channel . . .

Meanwhile, Matthew Shardlake is given an intriguing legal case by an old servant of Queen Catherine Parr. Asked to investigate claims of 'monstrous wrongs' committed against his young ward, Hugh Curteys, by Sir Nicholas Hobbey, Shardlake and his assistant Barak journey to Portsmouth.

The mysteries surrounding the Hobbey family involve Shardlake in reunions with an old friend and an old enemy close to the throne. Soon events will converge on board one of the king's great warships gathered in Portsmouth harbour, waiting to sail out and confront the approaching French fleet. . .

C. J. Sansom was educated at Birmingham University, where he took a BA and then a Ph.D. in history. After working in a variety of jobs, he retrained as a solicitor and practised in Sussex, until becoming a full-time writer. He lives in Sussex.

Limassol

by Yishai Sarid

Translated from the original Hebrew by Barbara Harshav

Nominated by:

Stadtbibliothek Bremen, Germany

A high-ranking official in the Israeli secret service is handed a new brief: go undercover as an aspiring novelist to befriend Daphna, an Israeli writer, and her friend Hani, a renowned Palestinian poet. The target is Hani's son Yotam, a wanted terrorist leader. As the undercover agent becomes ingrained in Daphna and Hani's lives, his own well-entrenched sense of right and wrong is clouded. The writers have awoken feelings he thought were long dead. Yet his sense of duty and the habits of a lifetime in the military propel the agent to go ahead with his deceptions and lay a trap for Yotam.

A spellbinding novel that takes the reader on a tumultuous journey through the conflicted Israeli mind.

Yishai Sarid studied law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and received a graduate degree in public administration from Harvard University. He works as an attorney and contributes articles to the Hebrew press. *Limassol* is his second novel.

The Three Weissmanns of Westport

by Cathleen Schine

Nominated by:

New York Public Library, USA

A New York Times Best Seller. A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice.

Betty Weissmann has just been dumped by her husband of forty-eight years. Exiled from her elegant New York apartment by her husband's mistress, she and her two middle-aged daughters, Miranda and Annie, regroup in a run-down Westport, Connecticut, beach cottage. In Schine's playful and devoted homage to Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, the impulsive sister is Miranda, a literary agent entangled in a series of scandals, and the more pragmatic sister is Annie, a library director, who feels compelled to move in and watch over her capricious mother and sister.

Cathleen Schine is the author of *To the Birdhouse*, *The New Yorkers*, and *The Love Letter*, among other novels. She grew up in Westport, Connecticut, and lives in New York City and Venice, California.

The Weekend

by Bernhard Schlink

Translated from the original German by Shaun Whiteside

Nominated by:

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

Old friends and lovers reunite for a weekend in a secluded country home after spending decades apart.

They excavate old memories and pass clandestine judgments on the wildly divergent paths they've taken since their youth. But this isn't just any reunion, and their conversations about the old days aren't your typical reminiscences: After twenty-four years, Jörg, a convicted murderer and terrorist, has been released from prison. The announcement of his pardon will send shock waves through the country, but before the announcement, his friends – some of whom were Baader-Meinhof sympathizers or those who clung to them – gather for his first weekend of freedom. They have been summoned by Jörg's devoted sister, Christiane, whose concern for her brother's safety is matched only by the unrelenting zeal of Marko, a young man intent on having Jörg continue to fight for the cause.

Bernhard Schlink was born in Germany. He is the author of the internationally bestselling novels *The Reader* and *Homecoming*, as well as the collection of short stories *Flights of Love* and four prize-winning crime novels. He lives in Berlin and New York.

That Deadman Dance

by Kim Scott

Nominated by:

The National Library of Australia, Canberra
The State Library of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
The State Library of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

Set in the first decades of the 19th century in the area around what is now Albany, Western Australia; *That Deadman Dance* explores the early contact between the Aboriginal Noongar people and the first European settlers.

The novel's hero is a young Noongar man named Bobby Wabalanginy. Clever, resourceful and eager to please, Bobby befriends the new arrivals, joining them hunting whales, tilling the land, exploring the hinterland and establishing the fledgling colony. He is even welcomed into a prosperous local white family where he falls for the daughter, Christine, a beautiful young woman who sees no harm in a liaison with a native.

But slowly – by design and by accident – things begin to change.

Kim Scott grew up on the South Coast of Western Australia. His second novel, *'Benang: From the Heart'*, won the 1999 WA Premier's Book Award, the 2000 Miles Franklin Literary Award and the 2001 Kate Challis RAKA Award. Kim lives in Coolbellup, Western Australia.

Chilli, Chicks & Heart Attacks

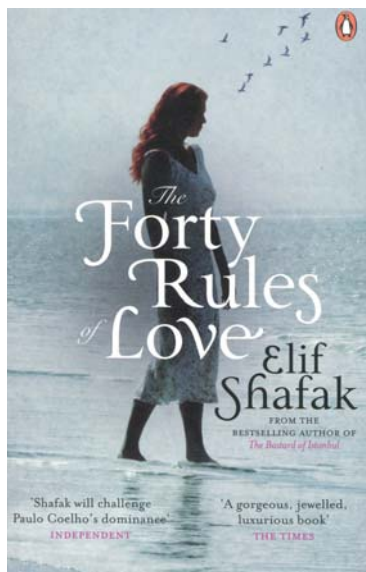
by Sanjaya Senanayake

Nominated by:

Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

This is a hilarious and light-hearted novel relating the mis-adventures of a medical intern in the prestigious St. Ivanhoe hospital. The book follows the exploits of Dr. Manju Mendis, a Sri Lankan living in Australia who having come through medical school with first class honours is starting off his year as a medical intern in the much vaunted St. Ivanhoe Hospital. But right from the word go, author Dr. Sanjaya Senanayake leaves the reader in no doubt that this is no mere diary of hospital life. Manju's escapades, all told with great candour right from the opening chapter are alternately salacious and mind-boggling. Dr. Mendis straddles cultural norms & takes a pragmatic approach to life when it threatens his conservative views.

Sanjaya Senanayake grew up in New Zealand and Australia. A Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases and Senior Lecturer at the Australian National University Medical School, he is also the author of two medical books.



The Forty Rules of Love

by Elif Shafak

Translated from the original Turkish by Elif Shafak

Nominated by:

The National Library of Turkey, Ankara

Ella Rubinstein has a husband, three teenage children, and a pleasant home. Everything that should make her confident and fulfilled. Yet there is an emptiness at the heart of Ella's life – an emptiness once filled by love.

So when Ella reads a manuscript about the thirteenth-century Sufi poet Rumi and Shams of Tabriz, and his forty rules of life and love, she is shocked out of herself. Turning her back on her family she embarks on a journey to meet the mysterious author of this work.

It is a quest infused with Sufi mysticism and verse, taking Ella and us into an exotic world where faith and love are heartbreakingly explored...

Elif Shafak is an award-winning novelist and the most widely read female writer in Turkey. Her novels include *The Bastard of Istanbul* and her recent memoir, *Black Milk*. Her books have been translated into more than 30 languages. She divides her time between London and Istanbul.

Inheritance

by Nicholas Shakespeare

Nominated by:

The State Library of South Australia, Adelaide

What would you do if you suddenly and unexpectedly inherited £17,000,000?

This is what happens to Andy Larkham, recently jilted lover, and resentfully underpaid publishing minion. Arriving late to the funeral of his favourite schoolteacher, he ends up in the wrong chapel with one other mourner, too embarrassed to leave. Pressured to sign the register, little does he realise what effect that signature will have upon his life.

The extraordinary story that follows tells of one man's failed love, the temptations of unanticipated wealth, the secrets of damaged families and the price of being true to oneself. It is a romance for our times.

Nicholas Shakespeare was born in 1957. His novels have been translated into 20 languages. They include *The Vision of Elena Silves*, *Snowleg* and *The Dancer Upstairs*. His last novel, *Secrets of the Sea*, was a best-seller in Germany. He is married with two small boys and currently lives in Oxford.

Happy Now?

by Katherine Shonk

Nominated by:

Cape Breton Regional Library, Sydney, Canada

After many lonely years and alarming Internet dates, Claire Kessler believed she had found the perfect man, Jay. Less than two years later, Jay killed himself.

Happy Now? follows Claire's chaotic and often tragicomic journey through the weeks that follow her husband's suicide. Nomie, Claire's pregnant younger sister, welcomes Claire into her guesthouse and abandons her own husband in solidarity. Claire's father turns into a concerned stalker. Encounters with well-meaning therapists go horribly awry, and Jay's abandoned cat goes on a hunger strike. All the while, Jay's suicide note lurks on the coffee table, waiting for Claire to gather the courage to read it. As she struggles to confront the truth about her marriage, Claire also struggles to negotiate life as a young widow.

Katherine Shonk is the author of *The Red Passport*, a Chicago Tribune Best Book of the Year. She works as an editor and writer for Harvard University and lives in Chicago with her husband.

So Much for That

by Lionel Shriver

Nominated by:

The State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Shepherd Knacker has been saving all his working life for a one way ticket away from the daily grind. When he sells his handyman business for \$1million, 'The Afterlife' seems tantalisingly within reach. Yet his wife has concocted one reason after another why now isn't the time to go. Determined to take the plunge, Shep announces that he is leaving for an island off the coast of Tanzania: with or without her. However, Glynis has an announcement of her own – she needs his health insurance.

Illustrating how a marriage is both stressed and strengthened by medical crisis, *So Much for That* puts the uncomfortable fiscal question: how much is one life worth? Surely, the funniest and most entertaining novel about illness and death one's ever likely to read.

Lionel Shriver is the author of nine novels, including the international bestseller, *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, and a journalist for the Guardian, the New York Times, and the Daily Telegraph, among many other publications. She lives in London and New York City.

Super Sad True Love Story

by Gary Shteyngart

Nominated by:

Biblioteques de Barcelona, Spain
Limerick City Libraries, Ireland
Cleveland Public Library, USA
San José Public Library, USA

Named one of the best books of the year by: The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, The Seattle Times, The Oprah Magazine "O", The Globe and Mail, Vancouver Sun and The Montreal Gazette.

In the near future, America is crushed by a financial crisis and our patient Chinese creditors may just be ready to foreclose on the whole mess. Then Lenny Abramov, son of an Russian immigrant janitor and ardent fan of "printed, bound media artifacts" (aka books), meets Eunice Park, an impossibly cute Korean American woman with a major in Images and a minor in Assertiveness. Could falling in love redeem a planet falling apart?

Gary Shteyngart was born in Leningrad in 1972 and came to the United States seven years later. His works include *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, and *Absurdistan*. His books have been translated into more than 20 languages. He lives in New York City.

The Rembrandt Affair

by Daniel Silva

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto, Portugal

Determined to sever his ties with the Office, Gabriel Allon has retreated to the windswept cliffs of Cornwall with his beautiful Venetian-born wife Chiara. But once again his seclusion is interrupted by a visitor from his tangled past: the endearingly eccentric London art dealer, Julian Isherwood. As usual, Isherwood has a problem.

In the ancient English city of Glastonbury, an art restorer has been brutally murdered and a long-lost portrait by Rembrandt mysteriously stolen. Despite his reluctance, Gabriel is persuaded to use his unique skills to search for the painting and those responsible for the crime. But as he painstakingly follows a trail of clues leading from Amsterdam to Buenos Aires and, finally, to a villa on the graceful shores of Lake Geneva, Gabriel discovers there are deadly secrets connected to the painting.

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*.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

by Helen Simonson

Nominated by:

*Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs, USA
Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries, Canada*

In the small village of Edgecombe St. Mary in the English countryside lives Major Ernest Pettigrew (retired). Wry, courtly, opinionated, and completely endearing, the Major leads a quiet life valuing the proper things that Englishmen have lived by for generations: honour, duty, decorum, and a properly brewed cup of tea. But then his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by their shared love of literature and the loss of their spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship blossoming. But village society insists on embracing him as the quintessential local and regarding her as the permanent foreigner. Can their relationship survive the risks one takes when pursuing happiness in the face of culture and tradition?

Helen Simonson was born in England and spent her teenage years in a small village in East Sussex. A longtime resident of Brooklyn, she now lives with her husband and two sons in the Washington, D.C., area. *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* is her first novel.

Birdbrain

by Johanna Sinisalo

Translated from the original Finnish by David Hackston

Nominated by:

Helsingin Kaupunginkirjasto, Finland

Birdbrain is a skilful portrait of the unquenchable desire of Westerners for the pure and the primitive. A young Finnish couple goes on the hiking trip of a lifetime in Australasia with Heart of Darkness as reading material. The trip gradually turns into a tortuous thriller with belongings disappearing and, even more mysteriously, reappearing. The travelers come to be at the mercy of untamed nature. *Birdbrain* reveals the dark side of the explorer's desire: the insatiable need to control, to invade and leave one's mark on the landscape. But what happens when nature starts to fight back?

Johanna Sinisalo studied comparative literature and drama, amongst other subjects, at the University of Tampere. Sinisalo was awarded the Finlandia Prize for literature in 2000 for her first novel, *Ennen päivänlaskua ei voi*, translated as *Not Before Sundown* in 2003 and again as *Troll — A Love Story* in 2004 for the American market

Dry Season

by Dan Smith

Nominated by:

Newcastle City Libraries, UK

On the banks of a sprawling Brazilian river lies Sao Tiago – forsaken by its people and by God – the perfect place for a fallen priest to escape his past. Sam whiles away his time drinking and fishing, but when one bloody night he helps a dying stranger, he feels a change is coming.

Soon Sam catches the attention of the dead man's employer, the formidable Catarina Da Silva whose hypnotic gaze he has trouble resisting. But little does he know that in a place where life is cheap, love can be deadly. Trapped in Da Silva's dangerous web, Sam finds himself plummeting towards Sao Tiago's dark heart. And as the heavens finally open, he must face his past if he is to find redemption...

Dan Smith grew up following his parents across the world to Africa, Indonesia and Brazil. He has been writing short stories for as long as he can remember and has been published in the anthology MATTER 4. He lives in Newcastle with his family.

Constantine's Crossing

by Dejan Stojiljković

Translated from the original Serbian by Randall A. Major

Nominated by:

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

World War II, the sleepy little town of Niš in southern Serbia, occupied by the Nazis. Field Commander Otto von Fehn has to cope with one headache after another: too many troops and not enough support or supplies.

Few people know that Naissus (modern day Niš) is the birthplace of Constantine the Great, or that he constructed a mighty armoury there. Major Heinrich Kahn of the SS certainly did not. He is sent to the backwaters of the Balkans on a mission by the Fuehrer himself. He must find Constantine's Crossing beneath the town and capture the final relic – the battle sword of Constantine – that will give Hitler the ultimate power he needs to complete his plan to master the world.

Dejan Stojiljković was born in 1976 in Niš. He published a collection of urban stories *Leva strana druma* (*Left Side of the Road*, 2007) and a collection of stories inspired by the myths and legends of rock-n-roll entitled *Low Life* (2008). He lives in Niš where he works as the editor-in-chief of "Pressing" magazine and the informative internet portal NišKafe.

The Eternal Son

by Cristovão Tezza

Translated from the original Portuguese by Alison Entrekin

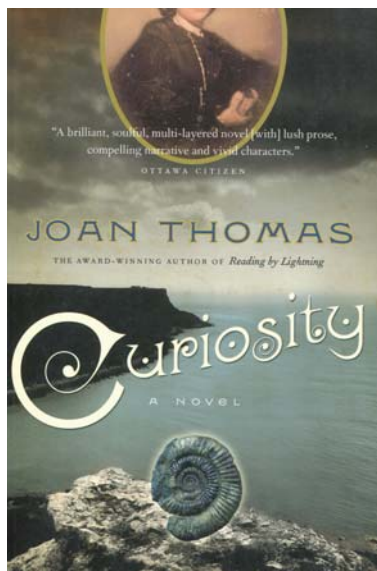
Nominated by:

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

In this multi-award-winning autobiographical novel, Cristovão Tezza draws his readers into the mind of a young father whose son, Felipe, is born with Down Syndrome. From the initial shock of diagnosis, and through his growing understanding of the world of hospitals and therapies, Tezza threads the story of his son's life with his own.

Felipe, who lives in an eternal present, becomes a remarkable young man; for Tezza, however, the story is a settling of accounts with himself and his own limitations and, ultimately, a coming to terms with the sublime ironies and arbitrariness of life. He struggles with the phantom of shame, as if his son's condition was an indication of his own worth, and yearns for a 'normal' world that is always out of reach.

Cristovão Tezza, one of Brazil's foremost contemporary novelists, was born in 1952. He has published thirteen novels, including *O Filho Eterno* (*The Eternal Son*), which won every major literary prize in Brazil in 2008 and has been translated into seven languages. Tezza lives in Curitiba, in the south of Brazil.



Curiosity

by Joan Thomas

Nominated by:

Ottawa Public Library, Canada

More than 40 years before the publication of *The Origin of Species*, 12-year-old Mary Anning, a cabinet-maker's daughter, found the first intact skeleton of a prehistoric dolphin-like creature, and spent a year chipping it from the soft cliffs near Lyme Regis. This was only the first of many important discoveries made by this incredible woman, perhaps the most important paleontologist of her day.

As an adolescent, Henry de la Beche ran away from military college, and soon found himself living with his elegant, cynical mother in Lyme Regis, where he pursued his passion for drawing and painting the landscapes and fossils of the area. One morning on an expedition to see an extraordinary discovery — a giant fossil — he meets a young woman unlike anyone he has ever met...

Joan Thomas's debut novel *Reading by Lightning* (2008), won the Commonwealth Prize for Best First Book (Canada/Caribbean) and the Amazon.ca First Novel Award. She lives in Winnipeg.

The Lonely Polygamist

by Brady Udall

Nominated by:

National Library Service of
Barbados, Bridgetown
Jacksonville Public Library, USA

Golden Richards, husband to four wives, father to twenty-eight children, is having the mother of all midlife crises. His construction business is failing, his family has grown into an overpopulated mini-dukedom beset with insurrection and rivalry, and he is done in with grief due to the accidental death of a daughter and the stillbirth of a son. He has come to doubt the capacity of his own heart. Brady Udall tells a tragicomic story of a deeply faithful man who, crippled by grief

and the demands of work and family, becomes entangled in an affair that threatens to destroy his family's future.

Beautifully written, keenly observed, and ultimately redemptive, *The Lonely Polygamist* is an unforgettable story of an American family with its inevitable dysfunctionality, heartbreak, and comedy-pushed to its outer limits.

Brady Udall is the author of *Letting Loose the Hounds*, *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint*, and *The Lonely Polygamist*. His work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Esquire*, *Playboy*, and elsewhere. He lives in Boise, Idaho.

Goodnight Father

by Chike Uzoma

Nominated by:

Oyo State Library Board, Nigeria

Nnadi Uzomba, a native of Amoka, declined to abide by native customs, especially female circumcision. His resistance to this was due to the death of several of his childhood mates, including his elder sister as a result of injuries sustained from the knife of circumcision.

As Amoka people do not mix miracle with logic, the gods would be angry if the community reneged on the circumcision of girls. Consequently, Nnadi was cast into slavery but was, in the course of his voyage to the Americans, rescued by a British anti-slave naval vessel; and brought to Clabar where he met Meryl a pioneer missionary. He was to form part of the early effort in proselytising the hinterland including his native Amoka land by which he was re-united with his beleaguered family.

Chike Uzoma, is a practising lawyer based in Abuja and hails from Amaigo, Imo State, Nigeria.

Bride Flight

by Marieke Van Der Pol

Translated from the original
Dutch by Colleen Higgins

Nominated by:

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

1953, and a KLM flight leaves London, bound for Christchurch, New Zealand. Of its sixty emigrating passengers, many are brides-to-be flying out to join their fiancés on the other side of the world. Among them are Ada, Marjorie and Esther, each of them with their own reasons for wanting to leave behind the hardships of post-war life at home. During the trip they meet Frank, a charismatic bachelor, who will come to have a dramatic influence on each of their lives. Years later, at Frank's funeral, the three women — now 'brides in black' — get to hear each other's stories for the

first time and realize just how closely their lives have been bound together by what happened on the bride flight.

Marieke Van Der Pol is the author of the prize-winning script for the international hit film *The Twin Girls*. *Bride Flight*, her debut novel, has also been made into a film in The Netherlands.

The Secret History of Costaguana

by Juan Gabriel Vásquez

Translated from the original
Spanish by Anne McLean

Nominated by:

Zentralbibliothek Zurich, Switzerland
Biblioteca Daniel Costo Villegas de
El Colegio de México, Mexico

London, 1903. Joseph Conrad is struggling with his new novel. Progress is slow and the great writer needs help from a native of the Caribbean coast of South America. José Altamirano, Colombian at birth, who has just arrived in London, answers the great writer's advertisement and tells him his life story. José has been witness to the most horrible things that a person or a country could suffer, and drags with him not just a guilty conscience but a story that has almost destroyed him.

The Secret History of Costaguana, is José Altamirano's riposte to Joseph Conrad. It is a big novel, tragic and despairing, comic and insightful by turns, told by a bumptious narrator with a score to settle. It is Latin America's post-modern answer to Europe's modernist vision.

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

The Russian Window

by Dragan Velikić

Translated from the original
Serbian by Randall A. Major

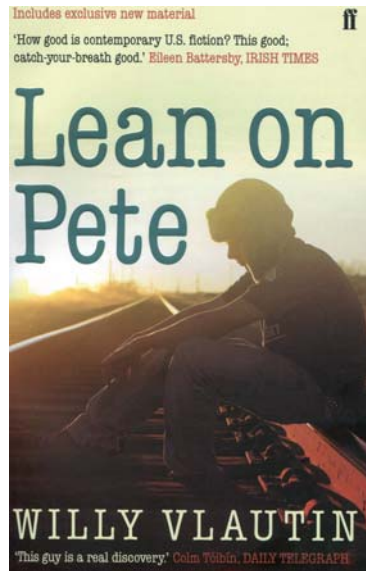
Nominated by:

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

In this sweet and sour image of European history at the end of the 20th century, the writer offers us an omnibus novel in three parts, with two main characters (an elderly man and a young man) and many accompanying portraits. Using various narrative techniques, intelligent humour and subtle irony, the protagonists summarize the chances they have missed and talk about their premonitions of the new ones to come. In doing so, they live out their stories and those of other people, looking for meaning in the past in order to understand the present. We read about the main character leaving his bombed out country, dabbling in a variety of odd jobs thorough Europe, composing

and decomposing his own personality which becomes clearest in the gap between the things expected and the things done.

Dragan Velikić was born in 1953 in Belgrade. He grew up in the Croatian town of Pula on the Adriatic coast. He has published eight novels and his books have been translated into twelve European languages. He now lives in Belgrade as a freelancer.



Lean on Pete

by Willy Vlautin

Nominated by:

Bibliotheek Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Waterford County Library, Ireland

Fifteen-year-old Charley Thompson wants a home. Food on the table and in the cupboard; a high school he can attend for more than part of a year; and some structure to his life. But as the son of a single father working at warehouses across the Pacific Northwest, Charley's been pretty much on his own for sometime.

Lean on Pete opens as Charley and his father arrive in Portland, Oregon and Charley takes a stables job, illegally, at the local race track. Once part of a vibrant racing network, Portland Meadows is now seemingly the last haven for washed up jockeys and knackered horses, but it's there that Charley meets Pete, an old horse who becomes his companion as he's forced to try and make his own way in the world.

Willy Vlautin is the author of two highly acclaimed novels, *The Motel Life* (2005) and *Northline* (2007). He is also an avid fan of horseracing; he can often be found writing behind a closed circuit monitor at Portland Meadows racetrack.

Cool Water

by Dianne Warren

Nominated by:

Calgary Public Library, Canada
Ottawa Public Library, Canada

Juliet, Saskatchewan, is a blink-of-an-eye kind of town – the welcome sign announces a population of 1,011 people – and it's easy to imagine that nothing happens on its hot and dusty streets.

But the heart of the town beats in the rich and overlapping stories of its people: the foundling who now owns the farm his adoptive family left him; the pregnant teenager and her mother, planning a fairytale wedding; a shy couple, well beyond middle age, struggling with the recognition of their feelings for one another; a camel named Antoinette; and the ubiquitous wind and sand that forever shift the landscape. Their stories bring the prairie desert and the town of Juliet to vivid and enduring life.

Dianne Warren is the author of three books of short fiction and three plays. Her most recent collection, *A Reckless Moon*, was a Globe and Mail Best Book of 2002, and in 2004 she won the Marian Engel Award for a woman writer in mid-career.

Weeping Underwater Looks a Lot Like Laughter

by Michael J. White

Nominated by:

Cleveland Public Library, USA

George Flynn is the new nobody at St. Pius High School, until he falls in with the enchanting Schell sisters. Emily, an aspiring actress, is the object of his infatuation. But there's something special about her quirky younger sister, Katie, who has her own crush on George, not to mention a scathing deadpan sense of humour in the face of multiple sclerosis.

When an accident destroys their delicate balance, George and Emily find themselves searching for forgiveness yet losing each other.

With no-holds-barred honesty and razor-sharp wit, Michael J. White's debut novel explores friendship, first love, and a young man's need to come of age without coming undone.

Michael J. White was born and raised in St. Louis, though he also spent several years in Chicago and Des Moines. He has taught English in South Korea, Peru, Poland, and New York City. A Columbia MFA graduate, he lives in Denver.

In the Same Boat

by Channa Wickremesekera

Nominated by:

Colombo Public Library, Sri Lanka

Writing with keen insight into the psyche of the displaced, Channa Wickremesekera, author of *Distant Warriors* and *Walls*, brings his characters into the close confines of a

boat escaping a conflict zone. Will a series of unfortunate events precipitate disaster on them before nature unleashes a savage storm? Only time will tell as they race inexorably towards their destiny.

Channa Wickremesekera was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1967. He obtained a PhD at Monash University, Australia in Asian History. He has published four books so far, *Walls*, *Distant Warriors* (fiction), *Best Black Troops In The World*, and *Kandy At War* (non fiction).

Luke and Jon

by Robert Williams

Nominated by:

Bergen Offentlige Bibliotek, Norway

Luke's mum is dead. He finds himself in a small, scruffy northern hill town, with a near silent father, who he fears might be trying to drink himself to death. Then he meets Jon.

Jon is strange. He wears 1950s clothes, has a side-parting and a twitch. The kids at school call him 'Slackjaw'. When Luke discovers Jon's secret, both their lives are changed for good.

The winner of the National Book Tokens' Not-Yet-Published Prize, *Luke and Jon* is an arresting debut about friendship, grief and how lives can change forever in a single second. Written with great power, warmth and humour, it signals a hugely engaging and original new voice

Robert Williams grew up in Clitheroe, Lancashire and currently lives in Manchester. He worked in a secondary school library before working as a bookseller with Waterstone's. *Luke and Jon* is his first novel.

A Death in Panama

by Ronald A. Williams

Nominated by:

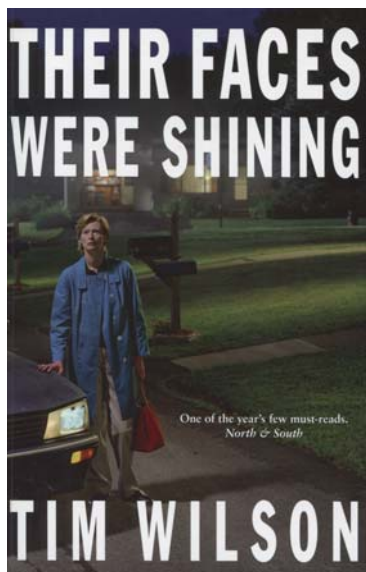
National Library Service of
Barbados, Bridgetown

Set in Panama, Barbados and the U.S., *A Death in Panama* presents us with the mysterious and frightening world of the Panama of the first decade of the 20th century when the canal was being built and fortunes were being made, many in highly unlawful ways.

Now, in 1976, a decision is on the verge of being made to return the canal to Panama. Many corporations, descendants of companies formed when the 20th century was young, are terrified that the horrific secrets of that period will become known upon the return. At the centre of this drama are two men, Rupert Barnes and Octavius Bryant, both survivors of the lawless period. They are now old men, but they are hardly incapacitated. As the American government moves toward return of the canal, both men find themselves drawn into a conflict that had begun in the jungles of Panama.

Dr. Ronald A. Williams was born in Barbados. He now resides in Maryland and is a vice president of the College Board in

Washington, D.C. He has a Ph.D. in English and enjoys reading and golfing. He and his wife have two daughters.



Their Faces were Shining

by Tim Wilson

Nominated by:

Christchurch City Libraries, New Zealand

When Hope Paterson plunges into a construction hole at her local mall and saves a child from drowning, she believes this is a sign from God. Maybe her marriage, her relationship with her daughter – even her diet – will be revitalized. Days later, a car crashes outside Hope's office. The young passenger is dead but the driver has mysteriously disappeared, leaving just her clothes. Then her daughter calls unexpectedly. She is weeping. Kids floated up through the roof in calculus class, their faces glowing with unearthly light. She sobs: "Mom, it's the Rapture."

"The Rapture?" thinks Hope, "on a Monday?"

The world ends; the world carries on. The Dalai Lama is seen floating above a duplex on Fifth Avenue, laughing uproariously. As anarchy descends, Hope must fight for those she has loved so poorly, and then for herself.

Tim Wilson has written for numerous New Zealand publications as well as the Guardian and Newsweek.com. His short fiction has appeared in Sport, Metro, the Listener and Open City (New York). *Their Faces Were Shining* is his first book.

Annabel

by Kathleen Winter

Nominated by:

Calgary Public Library, Canada
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Public Libraries, Canada
Saint John Free Public Library,
New Brunswick, Canada
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Vancouver Public Library, Canada

In 1968, into the beautiful, spare environment of remote coastal Labrador, a mysterious child is born: a baby who appears to be neither fully boy nor girl, but both at once. Only three people are privy to the secret – the baby's parents, Jacinta and Treadway, and a trusted neighbour, Thomasina. Together the adults make a difficult decision: to raise the child as a boy named Wayne. But as Wayne grows to adulthood within the hyper-masculine hunting culture of his father, his shadow-self – a girl he thinks of as Annabel – is never entirely extinguished, and indeed is secretly nurtured by the women in his life.

Annabel is a compelling debut novel about one person's struggle to discover the truth in a culture that shuns contradiction.

Kathleen Winter's first collection of short stories, *boYs*, was the winner of both the Winterset Award and the 2006 Metcalfe-Rooke Award. A long-time resident of St. John's, Newfoundland, she now lives in Montreal.

Bereft

by Chris Womersley

Nominated by:

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

It is 1919. The Great War has ended, but the Spanish flu epidemic is raging across Australia. Schools are closed, state borders are guarded by armed men, and train travel is severely restricted. There are rumours it is the end of the world.

In the NSW town of Flint, Quinn Walker returns to the home he fled ten years earlier when he was accused of an unspeakable crime. Aware that his father and uncle would surely hang him, Quinn hides in the hills surrounding Flint. There, he meets the orphan Sadie Fox – a mysterious young girl who seems to know more about the crime than she should.

A searing gothic novel of love, longing and justice, *Bereft* is about the suffering endured by those who go to war and those who are forever left behind.

Chris Womersley's debut novel, *The Low Road*, won the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Book in 2008. His fiction and reviews have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. In 2007 one of his short stories won the Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize.

The Private Lives of Trees

by Alejandro Zambra

Translated from the original
Spanish by Megan McDowell

Nominated by:

Biblioteca Daniel Cosío Villegas de
El Colegio de México, México

The Private Lives of Trees tells the story of a single night: a young professor of literature named Julián is reading to his step-daughter Daniela and nervously waiting for his wife Verónica to return from her art class. Each night, Julián has been improvising a story about trees to tell Daniela before she goes to sleep, and each Sunday he works on a novel about a man tending to his bonsai, but something about this night is different. As Julián becomes increasingly concerned that Verónica won't return, he reflects on their life together in minute detail, and imagines what Daniela—at twenty, at twenty-five, at thirty years old, without a mother—will think of his novel.

Alejandro Zambra is acclaimed as the greatest writer of Chile's younger generation. His first novel, *Bonsai*, was awarded Chile's Literary Critics' Award for Best Novel, and the English translation by Carolina De Robertis (*Melville House*, 2008) was a finalist for the Best Translated Book Award.

The Sandbox

by David Zimmerman

Nominated by:

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public
Library, Tallahassee, USA

Operating Base Cornucopia. A three-hundred-year-old fortress in the remote Iraqi desert where a few dozen soldiers wait for their next assignment, among them Private Toby Durrant, a self-described "broke nobody." Then a deadly ambush touches off events that put Durrant in the middle of a far-reaching conspiracy. Insurgents massing in the nearby hills, a secretive member of military intelligence, an abandoned toy factory and a mysterious, half-feral child—Durrant must figure out the links between them if he's to survive. This blistering look at military life in "the sandbox" of Iraq marks the debut of a major new talent.

David Zimmerman was raised in Atlanta, Georgia, by an Army Nurse and an Army JAG officer. After receiving his MFA in creative writing from the University of Alabama, he spent several years living and working in Brazil and Ethiopia. He now teaches at Iowa State University. *The Sandbox* is his first novel.

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 Hobart, *The State Library of Tasmania*
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 Newcastle, *Newcastle City Libraries*
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Mike McCormack

Born in 1965, **Mike McCormack** grew up in the West of Ireland. He has published a collection of short stories *Getting it in the Head* and two novels – *Crowe's Requiem* and *Notes from a Coma*. In 1996, McCormack was awarded the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and in 1998, *Getting it in the Head* was chosen as a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. McCormack's current novel *Notes from a Coma* was short-listed for the Irish Book of the Year Award and John Waters from The Irish Times described it as 'the greatest Irish novel of the decade just ended'. McCormack lives in Galway city.

photo: Regine Hendrich



Evelyn Schlag

Evelyn Schlag was born in 1952 in Waidhofen/Ybbs (Lower Austria). She studied German and English Language and Literature at the University of Vienna. She is an award-winning poet and novelist, listed for the European Aristeion Prize in 1998. Evelyn is also translator of contemporary English and American poetry and has done readings all over Europe (including Hay Festival of Literature 1992, Hay Festival Segovia 2011), the USA (incl. PEN World Voices Festival 2008), Canada (including Harborfront Festival of Literature Toronto 1987), Russia. Evelyn has given poetry lectures at Graz and Klagenfurt Universities and was writer-in-residence in Carlisle, PA. She was also lecturer for poetry at the Institut für Sprachkunst (University of Applied Arts Vienna) 2010-2011. Evelyn lives in Waidhofen/Ybbs.

photo: Leonid Knizhnik



Elizabeth Nunez

Elizabeth Nunez emigrated from Trinidad to the US after completing high school. She received her Ph.D. in English from New York University and is a Distinguished Professor of English at Hunter College, CUNY. She is the author of eight novels: *Boundaries*; *Anna In-Between* (2010 PEN Oakland Literary Award); *Prospero's Daughter* (Trinidad and Tobago One Book, One Community selection, and 2006 Novel of the Year Black Issues Book Review); *Grace*; *Discretion* (short-listed for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award); *Bruised Hibiscus* (American Book Award); *Beyond the Limbo Silence* (Independent Publishers Book Award); and *When Rocks Dance*. Nunez is co-editor of the anthology *Stories from Blue Latitudes: Caribbean Women Writers at Home and Abroad*. She is the co-founder of the National Black Writers Conference and executive producer of the 2004 NY Emmy-nominated CUNY TV series *Black Writers in America*.



Dubravka Ugresic

Dubravka Ugresic is the author of several novels, short story collections and essays. Her books – *Baba Yaga Laid An Egg*, *Nobody's Home*, *The Ministry of Pain*, *Lend Me Your Character*, *Thank You For Not Reading*, *The Museum of Unconditional Surrender*, *The Culture of Lies*, *Have A Nice Day*, *In the Jaws of Life* and *Other Stories*, *Fording the Stream of Consciousness* – have been translated into many European languages and received several international literary awards. Her latest book of essays *Karaoke Culture* will appear in English later this year. Dubravka Ugresic lives as a free lance writer. She is based in Amsterdam.



Tim Parks

Born in Manchester in 1954, Tim Parks studied at Cambridge and Harvard before moving permanently to Italy in 1981. Author of three bestselling books on Italy, plus a dozen novels, including the Booker short-listed *Europa*, he has translated works by Moravia, Calvino, Calasso and, most recently, Machiavelli. While running a post-graduate degree course in translation at IULM University, Milan, he writes regularly for the LRB and the NYRB. His non-fiction works include, *Translating Style*, a literary approach to translation problems, *Medici Money*, an account of the relation between banking, the Church and art in the 15th century, and, most recently, *Teach Us to Sit Still*, which was described by David Lodge as: "A searingly honest, viscerally vivid, darkly comic self-examination of the connections between writing, personality and health."



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. His first novel, *The Majority Rules*, was published in 2005. The second novel of his political thriller trilogy, *The Report to the Judiciary*, was published in 2008. When not recalled to the Federal Bench, Judge Sullivan is a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Freeh, Sporkin & Sullivan, LLP.

The Award Committee



Jason Clarke Photography

(L-R) Alastair Smeaton, Divisional Librarian; Alan Breen, Press Officer, Dublin City Council; Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian; Jane Alger, Director Dublin UNESCO City of Literature; Veronica Ryan, Dublin City Libraries and Cathy McKenna, Award Administrator, Dublin City Libraries.



Jason Clarke Photography

Alastair Smeaton, Master of Ceremonies, Dublin, June 2011.



Jason Clarke Photography

Colum McCann, Jane Alger, Director, Dublin UNESCO City of Literature pictured in the Mansion House.



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Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian and Chair of the Award Committee.

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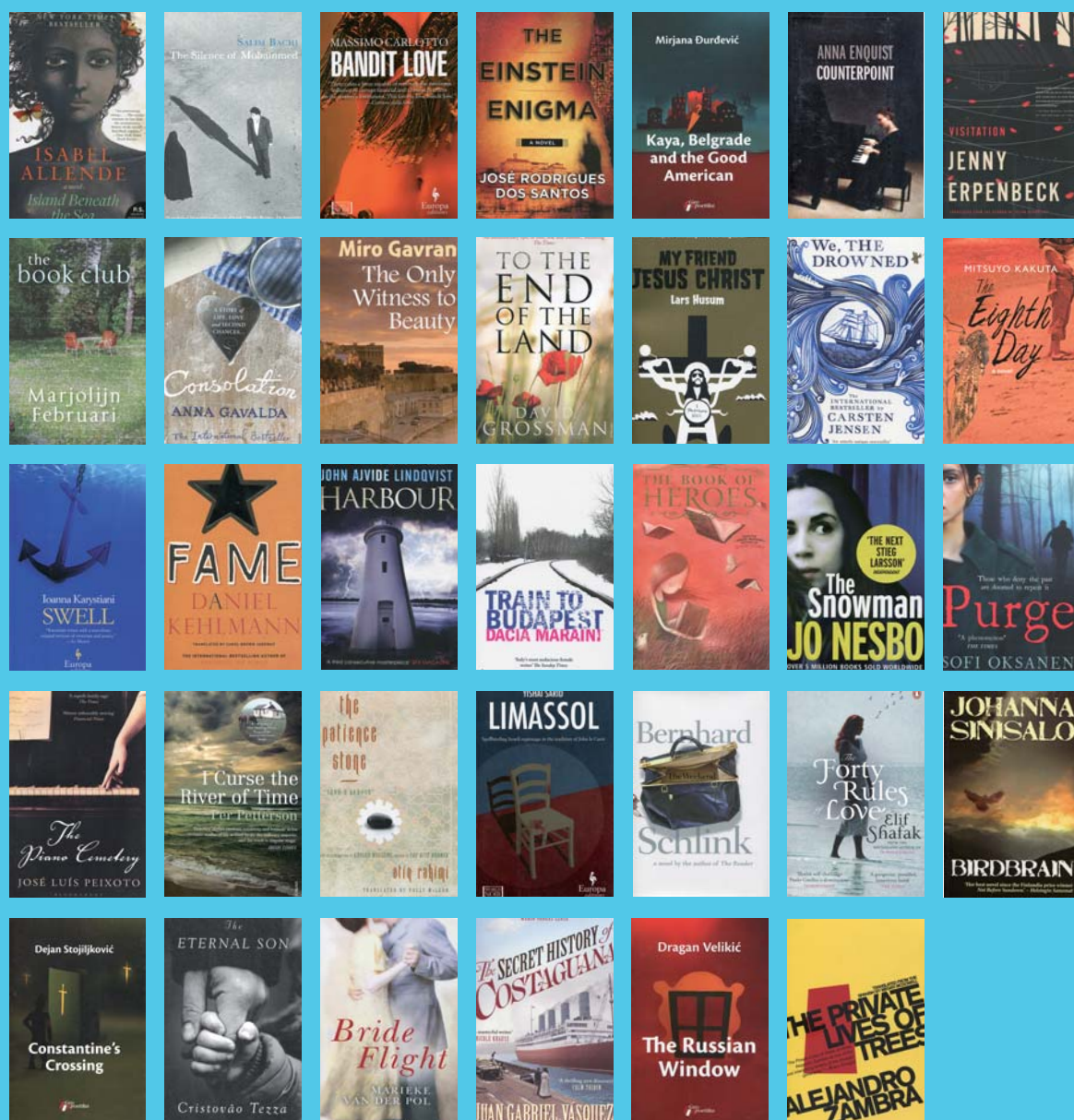
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