



National Book Foundation

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2014 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR FICTION

The ten contenders for the National Book Award for Fiction

New York, NY (September 18, 2014) – The National Book Foundation announces the Longlist for the 2014 National Book Award for Fiction. Finalists will be revealed on October 15.

The Fiction Longlist includes one book by a National Book Award Winner, two by former National Book Award Finalists, one by a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 author, two by Pulitzer Prize Winners, and one by an author best-known as the lyricist and musician for the band The Mountain Goats. The backdrop of war and imagined dystopia is a focus of five of the ten. Three are collections of short stories, two of which are by first-time authors.

2014 Longlist for Fiction:

Rabih Alameddine, *An Unnecessary Woman*, Grove Press/ Grove/Atlantic

Molly Antopol, *The UnAmericans*, W. W. Norton & Company

John Darnielle, *Wolf in White Van*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Anthony Doerr, *All the Light We Cannot See*, Scribner/ Simon & Schuster

Phil Klay, *Redeployment*, The Penguin Press/ Penguin Group (USA)

Emily St. John Mandel, *Station Eleven*, Alfred A. Knopf/ Random House

Elizabeth McCracken, *Thunderstruck & Other Stories*, The Dial Press/ Random House

Richard Powers, *Orfeo*, W.W. Norton & Company

Marilynne Robinson, *Lila*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Jane Smiley, *Some Luck*, Alfred A. Knopf/ Random House

Author biographies:

Rabih Alameddine is the author of the novels *Koolhaas, I, the Divine*, and *The Hakawati*, and the story collection *The Perv*. He divides his time between San Francisco and Beirut. <http://rabihalameddine.com/>

Molly Antopol teaches writing at Stanford University, where she was a recent Wallace Stegner Fellow. Selected in 2013 as a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Author, she holds an MFA from Columbia University and lives in San Francisco. <http://mollyantopol.com/>

John Darnielle is a writer, composer, guitarist, and vocalist for the band The Mountain Goats. He is the author of *Black Sabbath's Master of Reality (33 1/3)* and lives in Durham, North Carolina, with his wife and son.

Anthony Doerr is the author of the story collections *Memory Wall* and *The Shell Collector*, the novel *About Grace*, and the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. He has won four O. Henry Prizes, three Pushcart Prizes, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, and the Story Prize. He lives in Boise, Idaho. <http://www.anthonydoerr.com/>

Phil Klay served in the Marine Corps in Iraq. His writing has appeared in the *Granta*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, *Tin House*, and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2012*. *Redeployment* is his first book-length work of fiction. <http://www.philklay.com/>

Emily St. John Mandel was born in British Columbia, Canada. She is the author of three previous novels: *Last Night in Montreal*, *The Singer's Gun*, and *The Lola Quartet*. Her work has appeared in *The Best American Mystery Stories 2013* and *Venice Noir* and she is a staff writer for *The Millions*. <http://www.emilymandel.com/>

Elizabeth McCracken is the author of *An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination*, *The Giant's House*, which was a Finalist for the National Book Award, *Here's Your Hat What's Your Hurry*, and *Niagara Falls All Over Again*. A former public librarian, she currently holds the James Michener Chair in Fiction at the University of Texas, Austin. She has received grants and awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, and the American Academy in Berlin. <http://elizabethmccracken.com/>

Richard Powers is the author of eleven novels. He has been awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, the Lannan Literary Award, and two Pushcart Prizes. In 2006, his novel *The Echo Maker* won the National Book Award for Fiction; in 1993, his novel *Operation Wandering Soul* was a National Book Award Finalist. <http://www.richardpowers.net/>

Marilynne Robinson is the author of the novels *Home*, which was a Finalist for the National Book Award, *Gilead*, which won the Pulitzer Prize, and *Housekeeping*, which was also a Finalist for the National Book Award, and four books of nonfiction, *When I Was a Child I Read Books*, *Mother Country*, *The Death of Adam*, and *Absence of Mind*. She teaches at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. <https://www.facebook.com/MarilynneRobinson>

Jane Smiley is the author of thirteen previous novels, two collections of short stories, five works of nonfiction, and five novels for young adults. Her novel *A Thousand Acres* won the 1992 Pulitzer Prize. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. <http://www.therealjanesmiley.com/>

Publishers submitted a total of 417 books for the 2014 National Book Award for Fiction. Five distinguished Judges were given the charge of selecting what they deem to be the best books of the year. Their decisions are made independently of the National Book Foundation staff and Board of Directors; deliberations are strictly confidential. To be eligible for a 2014 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2013 and November 30, 2014.

2014 Judges for Fiction:

Geraldine Brooks won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her novel, *March*. A former foreign correspondent, she has reported from more than fifteen countries and wrote two works of nonfiction before turning to novels, which include *Year of Wonders*, *People of the Book*, and *Caleb's Crossing*. Born and raised in Sydney, she now lives on Martha's Vineyard.

Sheryl Cotleur holds a B.A. from Case Western Reserve University and an M.F.A. from Kent State University. She has been a bookseller for the past 28 years and is currently the frontlist and backlist buyer for Copperfield's, a chain of seven stores in northern California.

Michael Gorra's *Portrait of a Novel: Henry James and the Making of an American Masterpiece* was a finalist for both the 2013 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award in Biography. A long-time faculty member at Smith College, he reviews new fiction regularly in both the US and the UK; earlier books include, among others, *The Bells in Their Silence: Travels Through Germany*.

Adam Johnson is the author of *Emporium*, a story collection, and the novels *Parasites Like Us* and *The Orphan Master's Son*, winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize. He teaches creative writing at Stanford University and lives in San Francisco with his wife and their three children.

Lily Tuck is the author of five novels, *Interviewing Matisse* or *The Woman Who Died Standing Up*, *The Woman Who Walked on Water*, *Siam: Or The Woman Who Shot A Man*, a PEN/Faulkner Award finalist, *The News from Paraguay*, winner of the 2004 National Book Award, and *I Married You For Happiness*; two collections of stories, *Limbo*, and *Other Places I Have Lived* and *The House at Belle Fontaine*; and a biography, *Woman of Rome, A Life of Elsa Morante*.

The National Book Award Finalists will be announced exclusively on NPR's *Morning Edition* on October 15, and the Winners at the invitation only National Book Awards Ceremony and Benefit Dinner on November 19 in New York City.

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The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings National Book Award authors to colleges and universities across the country; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading program.

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, such as Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, James McBride, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich.