



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2015

## Crook's Corner Book Prize Longlist

*"A list of exceptional debut novels set in the American South"* —***Publisher's Weekly***

*"Crook's Corner took a cue from the Bohemian cafés of Paris for a concept well suited to Southern soil—the Crook's Corner Book Prize."* —***Garden & Gun***

*"The idea makes sense, for Crook's Corner Café & Bar in Chapel Hill, NC, has a rich history of supporting artists. This idea is splendid."* —**Southern Foodways Alliance**



Chapel Hill, NC—The Crook's Corner Book Prize has announced its annual Longlist for best debut novel set in the American South.

Now in its third year, the prize is open to first-time novelists, whether self-published or backed by major publishing houses. "The Crook's Corner Book Prize Longlist is a great example of what independent booksellers have been doing for years: identifying top-quality reading experiences, regardless of the book's origin," said Jamie Fiocco of Flyleaf Books in Chapel Hill, NC.

The prize is named for Crook's Corner, an iconic Southern restaurant with a rich history of supporting the arts. Inspired by the prestigious writers' prizes awarded for many years by such famous Parisian literary cafés as the Deux Magots and the Café de Flore, the Crook's Corner Book Prize seeks to highlight new novelists enriching the literary tradition of the American South.

"At a time when attention has been focused on the South, for better or worse," noted Anna Hayes, president of the Crook's Corner Book Prize Foundation, "contemporary authors contribute fresh ways of looking at the region, past and present.



“This new crop of novelists defies doomsday predictions regarding the future of books,” Hayes continued. “This year we had an exceptionally strong pool of entries, resulting in the selection of 18 exciting debut novels for the Longlist.”

*To Do the Deal*, by Cathy Baker (Demitasse Press)  
*Jam on the Vine*, by LaShonda Katrice Barnett (Grove Press)  
*Slim and the Beast*, by Samuel L. Barrantes (Inkshares)  
*Ruby*, by Cynthia Bond (Hogarth)  
*The Marauders*, by Tom Cooper (Crown)  
*The Last Days of Video*, by Jeremy Hawkins (Soft Skull Press)  
*Where All Light Tends to Go*, by David Joy (G.P. Putnam’s Sons)  
*The Late Matthew Brown*, by Paul Ketzle (Apprentice House)  
*Soil*, by Jamie Kornegay (Simon & Schuster)  
*Minnow*, by James McTeer (Hub City Press)  
*Against the Country*, by Ben Metcalf (Random House)  
*The Sweetheart*, by Angelina Mirabella (Simon & Schuster)  
*The Quaker Café*, by Brenda Bevan Remmes (Lake Union Publishing)  
*Unbecoming*, by Rebecca Scherm (Viking)  
*The Story of Land & Sea*, by Kate Simpson Smith (Harper Collins)  
*Migratory Animals*, by Mary Helen Specht (Harper Perennial)  
*Charleston*, by Margaret Bradham Thornton (Ecco)  
*My Sunshine Away*, by M.O. Walsh (G.P. Putnam’s Sons)

The finalists will be announced in October. This year’s judge, author Lee Smith, will select the winner, to be announced in January 2016 at Crook’s Corner. The winner will receive not only a cash prize of \$1000 but also, in a nod to the literary cafés of Paris that inspired the prize, a free glass of wine at Crook’s Corner every day of the prize year.

Past winners are *A Land More Kind Than Home* by Wiley Cash (selected by Jill McCorkle) and *Byrd* by Kim Church (selected by Randall Kenan).

For more information about each of the titles on the Longlist, please contact Katharine Walton at [info@KatharineWaltonRepresents.com](mailto:info@KatharineWaltonRepresents.com) 919-357-4400 or Cindy Hamel at [cindyhsellers@gmail.com](mailto:cindyhsellers@gmail.com) 917-544-1793.

Submission guidelines and news articles are posted on the Crook’s Corner Book Prize website: <http://crookscornerbookprize.com>.