

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 17, 2018

CROOK'S CORNER BOOK PRIZE LONGLIST ANNOUNCED

Chapel Hill, NC—The Crook's Corner Book Prize Foundation announces its annual Longlist for best debut novels set in the American South. The \$5000 prize will be presented in January 2019.

The mission of the Crook's Corner Book Prize is to encourage emerging fiction writers, who typically face some of the toughest obstacles in today's publishing environment. "Getting published is hard enough," says Anna Hayes, president of the Crook's Corner Book Prize Foundation, "but it's even more difficult to capture attention for that first novel. With the prize, we can shine a spotlight on impressive and deserving new writers."

Modeled on the prestigious literary prizes given by famous Parisian cafés such as the Café de Flore and the Deux Magots, the award is co-sponsored by the iconic Southern restaurant, Crook's Corner Bar & Café in Chapel Hill, NC.

Although eligible books must be set in the South, authors may live anywhere, and all genres of fiction except for Young Adult are eligible. "We are always interested in fresh perspectives on the South, whether from a historical or modern point of view," says Hayes.

The Shortlist will be announced in the fall. This year's judge is Tayari Jones, whose book *An American Marriage* was named as an Oprah's Book Club selection in February 2018.

The Longlist is:

Maranatha Road, Heather Bell Adams (Vandalia Press)

The Floating World, C. Morgan Babst (Algonquin Books)

Whiskey & Ribbons, Leesa Cross-Smith (Hub City Press)

The Talented Ribkins, Ladee Hubbard (Melville House)

Panorama, Steve Kistulentz (Little, Brown and Company)

Fire Sermon, Jamie Quatro (Grove Atlantic)

Shadow of the Lions, Christopher Swann (Algonquin Books)

How to Survive a Summer, Nick White (Blue Rider Press)

A Kind of Freedom, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton (Counterpoint Press)

For background on the prize and submission guidelines, please visit

www.crookscornerbookprize.com. For other questions, contact Cindy Sellars

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