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CROOK'S CORNER BOOK PRIZE ANNOUNCES LONGLIST

Chapel Hill, NC—The Crook's Corner Book Prize Foundation announces its annual Longlist for best debut novel set in the American South. Now in its seventh year, the \$5000 prize will be presented in January 2020.

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. "Nothing is more thrilling than to discover a bright new talent," says Anna Hayes, president of the Foundation, "and this year's Longlist is bursting with new talent from established publishers and small, independent publishers alike."

The award is co-sponsored by the James Beard America's Classic restaurant in Chapel Hill, NC, Crook's Corner, and is modeled on the prestigious literary prizes given by famous Parisian cafés such as the Café de Flore and the Deux Magots. Although eligible books must be set in the South, authors may live anywhere, and all genres of fiction except for Young Adult are eligible.

The winner of the 2019 Award was Margaret Wilkerson Sexton's [*A Kind of Freedom*](#) (Counterpoint Press). This year's judge is North Carolina Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Charles Frazier. The Shortlist will be announced in September.

The Longlist is:

[*The Deeper the Water the Uglier the Fish*](#) by Katya Apekina (Two Dollar Radio)

[*The Gulf*](#) by Belle Boggs (Graywolf Press)

[*Hap and Hazard and the End of the World*](#) by Diane DeSanders (Bellevue Literary Press)

[*Confessions of an Innocent Man*](#) by David R. Dow (Dutton)

[*Treeborne*](#) by Caleb Johnson (Picador)

[*The Atlas of Reds and Blues*](#) by Devi S. Laskar (Counterpoint Press)

[*Where the Crawdads Sing*](#) by Delia Owens (Putnam)

[We Cast a Shadow](#) by Maurice Ruffin (One World)

[Sugar Land](#) by Tammy Lynne Stoner (Red Hen Press)

[Lot](#) by Bryan Washington (Riverhead Books)

For more information on the prize and submission guidelines, please visit www.crookscornerbookprize.com or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Booksellers and librarians: all of these titles are available for review and order in this [Edelweiss collection](#).