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CROOK'S CORNER BOOK PRIZE ANNOUNCES LONGLIST

Chapel Hill, North Carolina—The Crook's Corner Book Prize Foundation today announced its annual Longlist for best debut novel set in the American South. Now in its eighth year, the \$5,000 prize will be announced in January 2021.

The mission of the [Crook's Corner Book Prize](#) is to highlight emerging fiction writers, who typically face some of the toughest obstacles in publishing. "In this year of COVID-19, with bookstores closed, and book launch events and book tours canceled, it is deeply gratifying to be able to recognize these amazing debut novelists," says Anna Hayes, president of the Foundation.

Co-sponsored by [Crook's Corner](#), the James Beard America's Classic restaurant in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the award 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 2020 Award was Devi Laskar's [The Atlas of Reds and Blues](#) (Counterpoint Press). This year's judge is [Monique Truong](#), award-winning author of *The Book of Salt*, *Bitter in the Mouth*, and *The Sweetest Fruits*. The Shortlist will be announced in September.

The Longlist is:

- [Mostly Dead Things](#) by Kristen Arnett (Tin House Books)
- [Watershed](#) by Mark Barr (Hub City Press)
- [The Gone Dead](#) by Chanelle Benz (Ecco)
- [Shiner](#) by Amy Jo Burns (Riverhead Books)
- [As a River](#) by Sion Dayson (Jaded Ibis Press)
- [Confessions of an Innocent Man](#) by David Dow (Dutton)
- [Boys of Alabama](#) by Genevieve Hudson (Liveright Publishing)
- [Sugar Run](#) by Mesha Maren (Algonquin Books)
- [Valentine](#) by Elizabeth Wetmore (Harper Collins)
- [In West Mills](#) by De'Shawn Charles Winslow (Bloomsbury Publishing)

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

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