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CROOK'S CORNER BOOK PRIZE ANNOUNCES LONGLIST
Prize Spotlights Debut Novelists

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, AUGUST 3, 2023—The Crook’s Corner Book Prize Foundation today announced its annual Longlist for best debut novel set in the American South. The \$5,000 prize winner will be announced in January 2024.

The Longlist is:

- [“The Gospel of Rot”](#) by Gregory Ariail (Mercer University Press)
- [“It Dies with You”](#) by Scott Blackburn (Crooked Lane Books, Penguin Random House)
- [“The Old Place”](#) by Bobby Finger (G.P. Putnam’s Sons, Penguin Random House)
- [“Hestia Strikes a Match”](#) by Christine Grillo (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Macmillan Publishers)
- [“In Circling Flight”](#) by Jane Harrington (Brighthorse Books)
- [“Indigo Field”](#) by Marjorie Hudson (Regal House Publishing)
- [“Traces”](#) by Patricia L. Hudson (Fireside Industries, The University Press of Kentucky)
- [“Moonrise Over New Jessup”](#) by Jamila Minnicks (Algonquin Books, Hachette Book Group)
- [“Night Wherever We Go”](#) by Tracey Rose Peyton (Ecco, HarperCollins Publishers)
- [“Memphis”](#) by Tara M. Stringfellow (The Dial Press, Penguin Random House)

Judging for this year’s Prize will be [Wiley Cash](#). Cash is an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of four novels and the founder of [This is Working](#). He has published widely on issues ranging from the environment to history to foodways to music. He serves as the Alumni Author-in-Residence at UNC-Asheville and lives in North Carolina.

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“Ten years ago Wiley Cash’s “A Land More Kind Than Home” won the first Crook’s Corner Book Prize for best debut novel set in the American South. This year, having become a *New York Times* best-selling novelist, he will be the judge who chooses our winner. We are proud to have been among the first to recognize the talent in his debut novel. This is the kind of career trajectory we have endeavored to foster for new writers over the past ten years!” said Anna Hayes, Foundation President.

The [Crook's Corner Book Prize](#) continues to highlight emerging fiction writers, who typically face some of the toughest obstacles in publishing. Although eligible books must be predominantly set in the South, authors may live anywhere, and all genres of fiction, except for Young Adult, are eligible. The 2023 Prize was awarded in January to Caroline Frost's "Shadows of Pecan Hollow" (Morrow, HarperCollins Publishers).

The Crook's Corner Book Prize Shortlist will be announced in September.

About the Crook's Corner Book Prize

Inspired by the literary prizes awarded by famous Parisian cafés such as the Deux Magots and the Café de Flore, the Crook's Corner Book Prize honors the iconic Crook's Corner, which for 40 years was a culinary, literary, and artistic beacon in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Sadly, Crook's Corner closed in 2021. However, the Crook's Corner Book Prize will continue its annual award, a fitting homage to the unforgettable restaurant. 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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