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Bobby Finger Wins \$5000 Crook's Corner Book Prize for *The Old Place*

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, JANUARY 8, 2024—*The Old Place* by Bobby Finger (Penguin Random House) is the winner of the eleventh annual Crook's Corner Book Prize for the best debut novel set in the American South.

Selected by this year's judge Wiley Cash, *The Old Place* is a bighearted and moving debut about a wry retired schoolteacher whose decade-old secret threatens to come to light and send shockwaves through her small Texas town. Cash says:

Bobby Finger's novel might be titled *The Old Place*, but its themes of family, forgiveness, and acceptance are as timely as ever. Like truly timeless literature, Finger's novel is populated with small-town characters we all know. In this novel, Billington, Texas is its own distinct place, but thanks to Finger's talented rendering, it quickly becomes a place for all of us to understand ourselves and one another better.

The winner was chosen from the Shortlist announced in September 2023. The three shortlisted titles also included *Hestia Strikes a Match* by Christine Grillo, (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Macmillan Publishers) and *Indigo Field* by Marjorie Hudson (Regal House Publishing).

Bobby Finger graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2008 before moving to New York City, where he worked as a copywriter at an advertising agency before becoming a full-time pop culture writer and podcaster. His bylines have appeared in *New York* magazine, *The New York Times*, and *Vanity Fair*. *The Old Place* was selected by *Vanity Fair* as one of the best books of 2022. His next novel, *Four Squares*, is forthcoming from Penguin Random House in June 2024.

The Crook's Corner Book Prize, established as a collaboration between the iconic Southern restaurant Crook's Corner, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the Crook's Corner Book Prize Foundation, was inspired by the prestigious book awards long given by famous "literary cafés" in Paris. Submissions are now open for next year's prize. 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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