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

CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, AUGUST 20, 2024—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 2025.

The Longlist is:

- *The Peach Seed* by Anita Gail Jones (Henry Holt & Co.)
- *Banyan Moon* by Thao Thai (Mariner Books/HarperCollins)
- *Coleman Hill* by Kim Foote, SJP Lit
- *Late Bloomers* by Deepa Varadarajan (Random House)
- *Fireworks Every Night* by Beth Raymer (Penguin Random House)
- *Ours* by Phillip B. Williams (Viking/Penguin Publishing Group)
- *In the Shadow of the Greenbrier* by Emily Matchar (Penguin Random House)
- *Redwood Court* by DéLana R.A. Dameron (The Dial Press/Penguin Random House)
- *Colton Gentry's Third Act* by Jeff Zentner (Grand Central Publishing)
- *Dixon, Descending* by Karen Outen (Dutton, Penguin Random House)

Judging for this year's Prize is award-winning author Megan Mayhew Bergman. She currently teaches literature and environmental writing at Middlebury College, where she also serves as Director of the Bread Loaf Environmental Writers' Conference.

"It is always quite amazing how many debut novels set in the American South are published each year. We are proud and delighted to turn a spotlight on these exceptional new writers delving into various aspects of the South in 2024." 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 2024 Prize was awarded in January to Bobby Finger's "The Old Place" (G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Random House).

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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