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CONTACT: Cindy Sellars, cindyhsellars@gmail.com or April Starling, april@getlinkcommunications.com

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. The \$5,000 literary prize winner will be announced in January 2022.

The Longlist is:

[CONJURE WOMEN](#) by Afia Atakora (Random House)

[LIFELIKE CREATURES](#) by Rebecca Baum (Regal House Publishing)

[EVERY BONE A PRAYER](#) by Ashley Blooms (Sourcebooks Landmark)

[OF WOMEN AND SALT](#) by Gabriela Garcia (Flatiron Books)

[F*CKFACE: AND OTHER STORIES](#) by Leah Hampton (Henry Holt and Co.)

[THE PROPHETS](#) by Robert Jones, Jr. (G.P. Putnam's Sons)

[THE GIRLS IN THE STILT HOUSE](#) by Kelly Mustian (Sourcebooks Landmark)

[THINGS WE LOST TO THE WATER](#) by Eric Nguyen (Alfred A. Knopf)

[LORD THE ONE YOU LOVE IS SICK](#) by Kasey Thornton (IG Publishing)

This year's Crook's Corner Book Prize judge is Ron Rash. Ron Rash is the author of the 2009 PEN/Faulkner finalist and New York Times bestseller *Serena* and *Above the Waterfall*, in addition to four prizewinning novels, four collections of poems, and six collections of stories.

The mission of the [Crook's Corner Book Prize](#), now in its ninth year, is to highlight emerging fiction writers, who typically face some of the toughest obstacles in publishing. Although eligible books must be set in the South, authors may live anywhere, and all genres of fiction except for Young Adult are eligible.

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.

The Shortlist will be announced in September.

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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