



National Book Foundation

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2013 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST FOR FICTION

NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES LAST OF FOUR LONGLISTS

New York, NY (September 19, 2013) – The National Book Foundation announces the Longlist for the 2013 National Book Award in Fiction. This is the first time in the history of the National Book Awards that the Foundation has presented Longlists for all four categories of its Awards. Finalists will be revealed on October 16.

Among this year's Longlist for Fiction are four National Book Award Winners and Finalists, and a Pulitzer Prize winner and finalist. Also included are recipients of a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. There are two story collections and a debut novelist.

2013 Longlist for Fiction:

Tom Drury, *Pacific*
Grove Press

Elizabeth Graver, *The End of the Point*
Harper/HarperCollinsPublishers

Rachel Kushner, *The Flamethrowers*
Scribner/Simon & Schuster

Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Lowland*
Alfred A. Knopf/Random House

Anthony Marra, *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*
Hogarth/Random House

James McBride, *The Good Lord Bird*
Riverhead Books/Penguin Group (USA)

Alice McDermott, *Someone*
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Thomas Pynchon, *Bleeding Edge*
The Penguin Press/Penguin Group (USA)

George Saunders, *Tenth of December*
Random House

Joan Silber, *Fools*
W.W. Norton & Company

Author biographies:

Tom Drury is the author of *Pacific*, *The End of Vandalism*, *Hunts in Dreams*, *The Driftless Area*, and *The Black Brook*. His fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and the *Mississippi Review*. Drury has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was included in *Granta's Best of Young American Novelists*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Elizabeth Graver is the author of three previous novels: *Awake*, *The Honey Thief*, and *Unravelling*. Her short story collection, *Have You Seen Me?*, won the 1991 Drue Heinz Literature Prize. Her work has been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories; Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards; The Pushcart Prize*; and *The Best American Essays*. She teaches English and creative writing at Boston College.

Rachel Kushner's debut novel, *Telex From Cuba*, was a Finalist for the 2008 National Book Award and a *New York Times* bestseller and Notable Book. It was named a best book of 2008 by

The Washington Post Book World, San Francisco Chronicle, The Seattle Times, Cleveland Plain Dealer, and The Christian Science Monitor. She lives in Los Angeles.

Jhumpa Lahiri is the author of three previous books. Her debut collection of stories, *Interpreter of Maladies*, won the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Hemingway Award. Her novel *The Namesake* was a *New York Times* Notable Book and was selected as one of the best books of the year by *USA Today* and *Entertainment Weekly*, among other publications. Her second book of short stories, *Unaccustomed Earth*, was named one of the ten best books of the year by *The New York Times Book Review*. *The Lowland* is shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. Lahiri lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Anthony Marra's *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* is his debut novel. He is the winner of a Whiting Writers' Award, a Pushcart Prize, *The Atlantic's* Student Writing Contest, and the Narrative Prize, and his work is anthologized in *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2012*. He was a Stegner fellow at Stanford University and lives in Oakland, California.

James McBride is the author of *The Color of Water*, which appeared on *The New York Times* bestsellers' list for two years. Earlier novels include *Miracle at St. Anna* and *Song Yet Sung*, which was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. McBride is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.

Alice McDermott won a National Book Award in 1998 for *Charming Billy*, and was a Finalist in 1987 for *That Night*. *That Night*, *At Weddings and Wakes*, and *After This* were all finalists for the Pulitzer Prize. McDermott lives outside of Washington, D.C.

Thomas Pynchon is the author of several novels and one short story collection. His first novel, *V.*, was a Finalist for the National Book Award in 1964 and, in 1974, Pynchon won the National Book Award for *Gravity's Rainbow*.

George Saunders, a MacArthur Fellow, is the author of several collections of short stories, including *Pastoralia* and *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*, which was a finalist for the

PEN/Hemingway Award. Saunders's writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, as well as *The O. Henry Awards Prize Stories*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and other anthologies. Saunders is a Professor of English at Syracuse University.

Joan Silber, the author of six previous works of fiction, was a National Book Award Finalist in 2004 for *Ideas of Heaven: A Ring of Stories* and won the PEN/Hemingway Award for *Household Words*. Silber teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and lives in New York City.

Publishers submitted a total of 408 books for the 2013 National Book Award in Fiction. Five distinguished Judges were given the charge of selecting what they deem to be the best books of the year. Their decisions are made independently of the National Book Foundation staff and Board of Directors; deliberations are strictly confidential. To be eligible for a 2013 National Book Award, a book must have been written by a US citizen and published in the United States between December 1, 2012 and November 30, 2013.

2013 Judges for Fiction:

Charles Baxter was a Finalist for the National Book Award in Fiction in 2000 for *The Feast of Love*. He has published five novels, six collections of short stories, three books of poetry, and nonfiction. He has also been a Guggenheim Fellow and received an Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His most recent book of fiction was *Gryphon*, a collection of stories published in 2011. charlesbaxter.com

Gish Jen is the author of four novels and a collection of stories. She has received a Lannan Award in Fiction, as well as a Harold and Mildred Strauss Living from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; she is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She delivered the Massey lectures in American Civilization at Harvard University last year. These have just been published as *Tiger Writing: Art, Culture, and the Interdependent Self*. gishjen.com

Charles McGrath is former editor of *The New York Times Book Review* and before that deputy editor at *The New Yorker*.

Rick Simonson has been a bookseller at Elliott Bay Book Company in Seattle, Washington for over 35 years, and is presently senior buyer and co-director of the store's literary program.

René Steinke was a 2005 National Book Award Finalist in Fiction for her novel *Holy Skirts*. She is director of the MFA program at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey and former editor-in-chief of *TLR*.

The entire Longlist of 40 books in four categories is now available on the Foundation's website. www.nationalbook.org

The National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature, Poetry, Nonfiction, and Fiction will be announced on October 16 and the Winners at the invitation-only National Book Awards Ceremony and Gala on November 20 in New York City.

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*The National Book Foundation's mission is to celebrate the best of American literature, to expand its audience, and to enhance the cultural value of good writing in America. In addition to the National Book Awards, for which it is best known, the Foundation's programs include **5 Under 35**, a celebration of emerging fiction writers selected by former National Book Award Finalists and Winners; the **National Book Awards Teen Press Conference**, an opportunity for New York City students to interview the current National Book Award Finalists in Young People's Literature; **NBA on Campus**, a partnership that brings current National Book Award authors to Concordia College in Moorhead, MN; the **Innovations in Reading Prize**, awarded to individuals and institutions that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading; and **BookUp**, a writer-led, after-school reading club for middle- and high-school students, run in New York City and Texas.*

The National Book Award is one of the nation's most prestigious literary prizes and has a stellar record of identifying and rewarding quality writing. In 1950, William Carlos Williams was the first Winner in Poetry, the following year William Faulkner was honored in Fiction, and so on through the years. Many previous Winners of a National Book Award are now firmly established in the canon of American literature, such as Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Jonathan Franzen, Denis Johnson, Joyce Carol Oates, and Adrienne Rich.