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RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF LITERATURE TO PROMOTE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION.

DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE ANNOUNCES 2018 FINALISTS IN FICTION & NONFICTION

**Shortlist includes *Sing, ,Unburied,, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward,
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee, *We Were Eight Years in Power* by Ta-Nehisi Coates;
*Winners to be honored at gala ceremony on October 28th***

Dayton, OH (August 14, 2018) – Recognizing the power of literature to promote peace and reconciliation, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation today announced the finalists for the 2018 Dayton Literary Peace Prize in fiction and nonfiction.

Inspired by the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia, The Dayton Literary Peace Prize is the only international literary peace prize awarded in the United States. The Prize celebrates the power of literature to promote peace, justice, and global understanding. This year's winners will be honored at a gala ceremony in Dayton on October 28th.

Writer John Irving, whose novels champion outsiders and often explore the bigotry, intolerance, and hatred directed at sexual minorities, will receive the 2018 [The Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award](#), named in honor of the noted U.S. diplomat who helped negotiate the Dayton Peace Accords.

The full list of finalists can be found below and at www.daytonliterarypeaceprize.org.

"Many of this year's finalists explore the concept of 'home' at a time when more and more people find themselves forced to leave theirs, whether because of war, poverty, political turmoil, or dreams of new opportunities," said Sharon Rab, Chair of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation. "These books help the reader cultivate their ability to understand and empathize with people from very different backgrounds than their own – an ability that is becoming increasingly vital in today's turbulent world."

The 2018 Dayton Literary Peace Prize fiction finalists are

- [Exit West](#) by Mohsin Hamid (Riverhead): An astonishingly timely love story that brilliantly imagines the forces that transform ordinary people into refugees and the impossible choices that follow.
- [Go, Went, Gone](#) by Jenny Erpenbeck (New Directions): A scathing indictment of Western policy toward the European refugee crisis, but also a touching portrait of a Berlin man who finds he has more in common with his city's African refugees than he realizes.
- [Pachinko](#) by Min Jin Lee (Grand Central): Exiled from a homeland they never knew, four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family fight to control their destinies.
- [Salt Houses](#) by Hala Alyan (Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt): A heartbreaking story that follows three generations of a Palestinian family and asks us to confront that most devastating of all truths: you can't go home again.
- [Sing, Unburied, Sing](#) by Jesmyn Ward (Scribner): A family makes the trip from their Gulf Coast town to the Mississippi State Penitentiary, testing the strength of their emotional bonds and the pull of a collective history.
- [Spaceman of Bohemia](#) by Jaroslav Kalfař (Little, Brown): Raised in the Czech countryside by his doting grandparents, Jakub Procházka has risen from small-time scientist to become the country's first astronaut. A dangerous solo mission to Venus offers him the chance at heroism he's always dreamed of -- and a way to atone for his father's sins as a Communist informer.

The 2018 Dayton Literary Peace Prize nonfiction finalists are

- [Enduring Vietnam](#) by James Wright (St. Martin's Press): A recounting of the experiences of the young Americans who fought in Vietnam and of the families who mourned those who did not return.
- [Ghost of the Innocent Man](#) by Benjamin Rachlin (Little, Brown): This gripping account of one man's long road to freedom provides a picture of wrongful conviction and of the opportunity for meaningful reform, forever altering how we understand our criminal justice system.
- [Lolas' House](#) by M. Evelina Galang (Northwestern U. Press): The stories of sixteen Filipino "comfort women" are told in unprecedented detail in what is not only testimony and documentation, but a book of witness, of survival, and of the female body.
- [Reading with Patrick](#) by Michelle Kuo (Random House): In this stirring memoir, Kuo, the child of Taiwanese immigrants, shares the story of her complicated but rewarding mentorship of Patrick Browning, a teenaged student from one of the poorest counties in the U.S., and his remarkable literary and personal awakening.
- [The Newcomers](#) by Helen Thorpe (Scribner): Helen Thorpe's intensive, year-long reporting puts a human face on the U.S. refugee population through an intimate look at the lives of 22 teenagers

enrolled in a beginner-level English Language Acquisition class at South High School in Denver, Colorado.

- [We Were Eight Years in Power](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates (One World PRH): “Biting cultural and political analysis... reflects on race, Barack Obama’s presidency and its jarring aftermath, and [Coates’s] own evolution as a writer in eight stunningly incisive essays.” **Kirkus Reviews (starred review)**

A winner and runner-up in fiction and nonfiction will be announced on September 18. Winners receive a \$10,000 honorarium and runners-up receive \$2,500. Finalists will be reviewed by a [judging panel](#) of prominent writers including Lesley Nneka Arimah (*What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky*), Robin Hemley (*Reply All: Stories, Nola: A Memoir of Faith, Art, and Madness, Invented Eden: The Elusive, Disputed History of the Tasaday*), Susan Southard (*Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War*), and Alan Taylor (*William Cooper’s Town, The Internal Enemy*).

To be eligible for the 2018 awards, English-language books had to be published or translated into English in 2017 and address the theme of peace on a variety of levels, such as between individuals, among families and communities, or between nations, religions, or ethnic groups.

About the Dayton Literary Peace Prize

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize honors writers whose work uses the power of literature to foster peace, social justice, and global understanding. Launched in 2006, it has established itself as one of the world’s most prestigious literary honors, and is the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States. As an offshoot of the Dayton Peace Prize, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize awards a \$10,000 cash prize each year to one fiction and one nonfiction author whose work advances peace as a solution to conflict, and leads readers to a better understanding of other cultures, peoples, religions, and political points of view. Additionally, The Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award is bestowed upon a writer whose body of work reflects the Prize’s mission; previous honorees include Wendell Berry, Taylor Branch, Geraldine Brooks, Louise Erdrich, Barbara Kingsolver, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Tim O’Brien, Marilynne Robinson, Gloria Steinem, Studs Terkel, Colm Tóibín and Elie Wiesel. For more information visit the Dayton Literary Peace Prize media center at <http://daytonliterarypeaceprize.org/press.htm>.

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