

# Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction



## Making the most of the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction in your library, bookstore, and reading group

The Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction recognize the best fiction title and best nonfiction title for adults published the previous year in the U.S. The awards offer you programming opportunities, help you highlight outstanding titles, and can encourage your patrons to read books recognized for their excellence by a selection committee of library professionals.

There's huge general national interest in these awards—ALA and Carnegie Corporation's initial announcement in March 2012 was picked up by more than 100,000 news, general media, and social media outlets, and the awards garnered over 451,000 web mentions in 2014.

The two winners are picked by library professionals who work with adult readers from a shortlist of six titles, in turn picked from the previous year's [Booklist Editors' Choice](#) and [RUSA's Collection Development and Evaluation Section's Notable Books List](#). These lists in themselves offer a wealth of further reading suggestions to keep you busy!



## Generate excitement in your community:

Use your social media channels, websites, newsletters, and other communications to share the news of the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction, and have people tweet using the **#ala\_carnegie** hashtag to join the wider conversation. As well as your own information, it might be helpful to include a link to [ala.org/carnegieadult](http://ala.org/carnegieadult) where people can find background on the award as well as useful links.

The links to the publishers' web sites (often including reading guides) offer detailed information, discussion questions, and insights on each title.



#ala\_carnegie  
[ala.org/carnegieadult](http://ala.org/carnegieadult)

## Create displays of the winning and finalist titles in your library:

Use the free [bookmark](#), [postcard](#) and [display handout](#) in the “Resources” tab where you found this overview to enhance your displays. You can also use the annotations for each title as listed below and quotes from the *Booklist* reviews.

Want to enhance your summer reading program? Our experts have compiled a [list of read alikes](#) for the 2015 shortlist for readers to enjoy! Not enough time to read? Don't forget the audiobook editions!

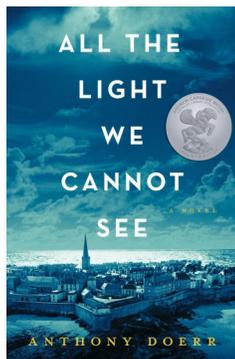
The 2015 shortlist read alikes were selected by the Reference and User Services Association's (RUSA) Notable Books Council, which is comprised of expert readers' advisors and librarians that work closely with adult readers.

Award seals for the covers of any winning and finalist books you include in your display are available from the [ALA online store](#). For questions regarding other uses of the images of the seals or medals in displays, please contact [permissions@ala.org](mailto:permissions@ala.org) or Mary Jo Bolduc, 312-280-5416.

# Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction



## Fiction Finalists

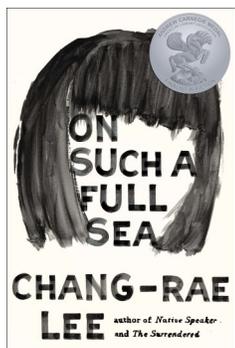


Through the intertwined stories of a sightless French girl and a German soldier, Doerr masterfully and imaginatively re-creates the harsh conditions in WWII-torn France and the strictly controlled lives of the military occupiers.

[More information about the author/book.](#) Read the [Booklist review.](#)

If you liked *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr (Scribner), you may also like...

- *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson (Back Bay Books, 2014)
- *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena* by Anthony Marra (Hogarth, 2014)
- *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese (Vintage Books, 2010)
- *Tamar* by Mal Peet (Candlewick, 2008)
- *The Invisible Bridge* by Julia Orringer (Vintage Books, 2011)
- *In the Wolf's Mouth* by Adam Foulds (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014)
- *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks (Vintage Books, 1997)
- *Lisette's List : A Novel* by Susan Vreeland (Random House, 2014)

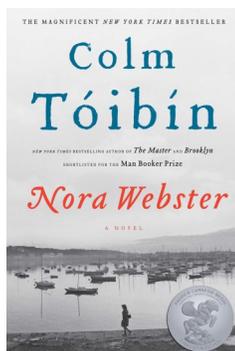


As young Fan searches for her missing boyfriend in an America devastated by climate change and a pandemic, Lee brilliantly imagines extreme survival tactics, psychological trauma, and the resurrection of art and its solace.

[More information about the author/book.](#) Read the [Booklist review.](#)

If you liked *On Such a Full Sea* by Chang-rae Lee (Riverhead Books), you may also like...

- *IQ84* by Haruki Murakami (Vintage Books, 2013)
- *Everything is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer (Harper Perennial, 2003)
- *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood (Anchor, 2004)
- *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell (Random House, 2004)
- *In the Country of Last Things* by Paul Auster (Penguin, 1988)
- *Blindness* by José Saramago (Harvest Books, 1999)



In Tóibín's remarkably subtle, witty, and affirming story, the Ireland of four decades ago and the conundrums women faced are beautifully evoked through events in the three-year widowhood of forty-something Nora Webster.

[More information about the author/book.](#) Read the [Booklist review.](#)

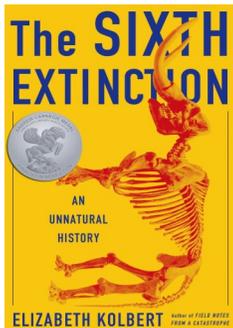
If you liked *Nora Webster* by Colm Tóibín (Scribner), you may also like...

- *The Spinning Heart* by Donal Ryan (Steerforth, 2014)
- *Instructions for a Heatwave* by Maggie O'Farrell (Vintage Books, 2014)
- *The Green Road* by Anne Enright (W. W. Norton & Co., 2015)
- *The Love Object: Selected Stories* by Edna O'Brien (Little, Brown and Company, 2015)
- *The Story of Lucy Gault* by William Trevor (Penguin, 2003)

# Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction



## Nonfiction finalists

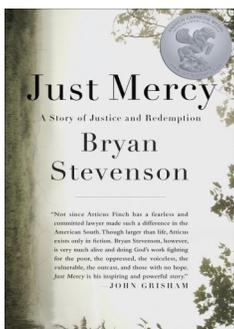


Kolbert combines travel adventures, lucid science, and informed and awe-struck descriptions of natural wonders, from rainforests to the Great Barrier Reef, to forthrightly address the deleterious impact our use of fossil fuels is having on the very fabric of life.

[More information about the author/book.](#) Read the [Booklist review.](#)

If you liked *The Sixth Extinction* by Elizabeth Kolbert (Henry Holt), you may also like...

- *The Human Age: The World Shaped By Us* by Diane Ackerman (W. W. Norton, 2014)
- *Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History* by Stephen Jay Gould (W. W. Norton, 1990)
- *The Fate of the Elephant* by Douglas Chadwick (Sierra Club Books, 1994)
- *The Song of the Dodo* by David Quammen (Scribner, 1997)
- *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded* by Simon Winchester (Harper Perennial, 2005)
- *Darwin's Ghosts: The Secret History of Evolution* by Rebecca Stott (Spiegel & Grau, 2012)
- *The Next Species: The Future of Evolution in the Aftermath of Man* by Michael Tennesen (Simon & Schuster, 2015)
- *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet* by Bill McKibben (St. Martin's Griffin, 2011)

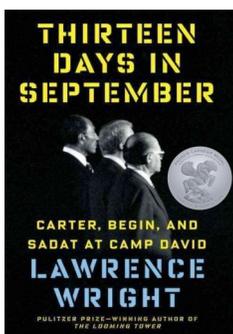


Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Institute in Montgomery, Alabama, delivers a passionate account of the ways our nation thwarts justice and inhumanely punishes the poor and disadvantaged.

[More information about the author/book.](#) Read the [Booklist review.](#)

If you liked *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (Spiegel & Grau) you may also like...

- *Manifest Injustice: The True Story of a Convicted Murderer and the Lawyers Who Fought for His Freedom* by Barry Siegel (Henry Holt and Co., 2013)
- *Dead Man Walking* by Helen Prejean (Vintage Books, 1994)
- *America on Trial* by Alan Dershowitz (Grand Central Publishing, 2005)
- *Surviving Justice: America's Wrongfully Convicted and Exonerated* by Dave Eggers (McSweeney's, 2005)
- *I am Troy Davis* by Jen Marlowe and Martina Davis-Correia; with Troy Anthony Davis (Haymarket Books, 2013)
- *Actual Innocence: Five Days to Execution and Other Dispatches From the Wrongly Convicted* by Jim Dwyer, Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck (New American Library, 2003)
- *The Wrong Carlos: Anatomy of a Wrongful Execution* by James S. Liebman (Columbia University Press, 2014)
- *Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America* by Jill Leovy (Spiegel & Grau, 2015)



Pulitzer-winning journalist Wright presents a riveting blow-by-blow analysis of the historic 1978 meeting between Egypt and Israel brokered by then-president Jimmy Carter. A moving testament to the art of diplomacy that almost invites optimism, even as prospects for peace in today's Middle East dim.

[More information about the author/book.](#) Read the [Booklist review.](#)

If you liked *Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David* by Lawrence Wright (Alfred A. Knopf) you may also like...

- *Summits: Six Meetings that Shaped the Twentieth Century* by David Reynolds (Basic Books, 2009)
- *King's Counsel: A Memoir of War, Espionage, and Diplomacy in the Middle East* by Jack O'Connell (W. W. Norton & Co., 2011)
- *1967: Israel, the War and the Year that Transformed the Middle East* by Tom Segev (Picador, 2008)
- *Menachem Begin: A Life* by Avi Shilon (Yale University Press, 2012)
- *Blood of Abraham* by Jimmy Carter (University of Arkansas Press, 2007)
- *The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace* by Aaron David Miller (Bantam, 2008)
- *America's Great Game: The CIA's Secret Arabists and the Shaping of the Modern Middle East* by Hugh Wilford (Basic Books, 2013)

# Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction



## About the awards

Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence Web site: [ala.org/carnegieadult](http://ala.org/carnegieadult)

These awards were established in 2012 to recognize the best fiction and nonfiction books for adult readers published in the U.S. the previous year, and are ALA's first single-book awards for adult trade fiction and nonfiction. Just as the Newbery, Caldecott, and Printz awards are uniquely respected in youth literature, the strong library connection sets these awards apart. The finalists and eventual winners reflect the expert judgment and insight of the seven-member selection committee of library professionals who work closely with adult readers. Nancy Pearl has been chair of the selection committee for the first three years of the award.

The awards are co-sponsored by [Booklist](#) and [RUSA](#) (ALA's Reference and User Services Association), who provide the longlists of selected titles from the previous year's RUSA CODES Notable Books and *Booklist's* Editors' Choice. The awards are funded through a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York in recognition of Andrew Carnegie's deep belief in the power of books and learning to change the world.