

# The National Book Award: Fiction and Non-Fiction

6/14 EP, Updated 3/17



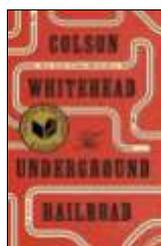
Mission Statement: To celebrate the best of American literature, expand its audience and enhance the cultural value of good writing in



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## Fiction Winners

### The Underground Railroad, 2016



By Colson Whitehead

After Cora, a slave in pre-Civil War Georgia, escapes with another slave, Caesar, they seek the help of the Underground Railroad as they flee from state to state and try to evade a slave catcher, Ridgeway, who is determined to return them to the South.

### Fortune Smiles, 2015



By Adam Johnson

A collection of stories explores themes of love, loss, and the consequences of decisions made in the face of tragedy.

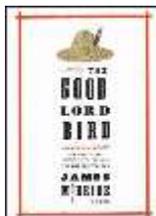
### Redeployment, 2014



By Phil Klay

A collection of short stories by a former Marine captain and Iraq veteran focuses on the complexities of life for soldiers on the front lines and after, exploring themes ranging from brutality and faith to guilt and survival.

### The Good Lord Bird, 2013



By James McBride

Young slave Henry Shackleford, mistaken for a girl, is on the run with abolitionist John Brown and finds himself at the raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859.

### The Round House, 2012



By Louise Erdrich

A 14-year-old boy sets out to find the person who brutally attacked his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist on a reservation in North Dakota.

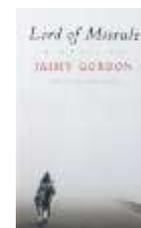
### Salvage the Bones, 2011



By Jesmyn Ward

The days leading up to Hurricane Katrina as experienced by a pregnant, 14-year-old girl and her impoverished family in Mississippi.

### Lord of Misrule, 2010



By Jaimy Gordon

A darkly realistic novel about a young woman living at a horse racing track in West Virginia where everyone else's schemes go brutally wrong.

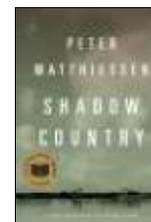
### Let the Great World Spin, 2009



By Colum McCann

Disparate 1970s New Yorkers are drawn together as they witness a mysterious tightrope walker dancing between the Twin Towers.

### Shadow Country, 2008



By Peter Matthiessen

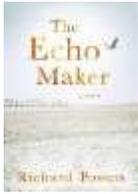
A reworking of the author's trilogy chronicles the legacy of E.J. Watson, a notorious desperado gunned down by his neighbors along the lawless nineteenth-century frontier of the Florida Everglades.

### Tree of Smoke, 2007



By Denis Johnson

Skip Sands is a spy in training, working against the Vietcong. Texan brothers Bill and James drift into the war. These characters all learn of the loneliness and delusion of war.



### **The Echo Maker, 2006**

By Richard Powers

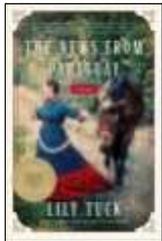
On a remote Nebraska road, a 27-year-old man flips his truck in a near-fatal accident. His mysterious diagnosis and the circumstances of his accident threaten to change his life and the lives of the people who care for him.



### **Europe Central, 2005**

By William Vollmann

A mesmerizing series of intertwined, paired stories that contrast the moral decisions made by various figures, some famous, some unknown, associated with the warring authoritarian cultures of Germany and the USSR.



### **The News from Paraguay, 2004**

Pursued by the future dictator of Paraguay, Irish courtesan Ella Lynch struggles with isolation in spite of her power as his mistress, and witnesses the nation's victimization due to her

lover's arrogant ambitions

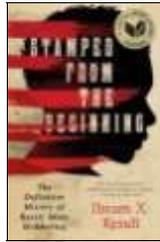


### **The Great Fire, 2003**

By Shirley Hazzard

In war-torn Asia and stricken Europe, men and women who have experienced harsh conditions must reinvent their lives and expectations in order to dream again.

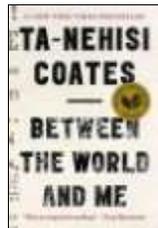
## **Non-Fiction Winners**



### **Stamped from the Beginning, 2016**

By Ibram X. Kendi

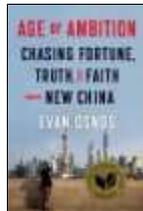
A comprehensive history of anti-black racism focuses on the lives of five major players in American history and highlights the debates that took place between assimilationists and segregationists and between racists and anti-racists.



### **Between the World and Me, 2015**

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

The author presents a history of racial discrimination in the United States and a narrative of his own personal experiences of contemporary race relations, offering possible resolutions for the future.



### **Age of Ambition, 2014**

By Evan Osnos

Documents the political, economic, and cultural changes occurring in China, examining a transition from Communist to personal power while addressing questions about freedom, generational identity, and the influence of the West.



### **The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America, 2013**

By George Packer

A riveting examination of a nation in crisis, from one of the finest political journalists of our generation



### **Behind the Beautiful Forevers, 2012**

By Katherine Boo

Profiles life in Annawadi as experienced by a Muslim teen, a rural mother, and a scrap metal thief challenged by religious, caste, and economic tensions.



### **The Swerve: How the World Became Modern, 2011**

By Stephen Greenblatt

A work of history and discovery in which one manuscript, neglected for a thousand years, changed the course of human thought and the world as we know it.



### **Just Kids, 2010**

By Patti Smith

Smith, a singer-songwriter, author and visual artist, gained recognition in the 1970s for her revolutionary merger of poetry and rock.



### **First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt, 2009**

By T. J. Stiles

Biography of Vanderbilt, whose genius and force of will created modern capitalism and the modern corporation.



### **The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family, 2008**

By Annette Gordon-Reed

The story of an American slave family with direct blood ties to President Thomas Jefferson.