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NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION

National Reading Group Month Announces Great Group Reads 2016 Program

NEW YORK – FEBRUARY 15, 2016 – The organizers of National Reading Group Month invite publishers to participate in the Great Group Reads 2016 program. Now in its eighth year, Great Group Reads is a highly regarded and anticipated resource for book clubs, reading groups, and individual facilitators to choose books – and likewise, for bookstores and libraries to recommend books.

Titles for Great Group Reads are selected on the basis of their appeal to reading groups for whom they are certain to open up lively conversations about an array of timely and provocative topics, from the intimate dynamics of family and personal to major cultural and global issues. The Selection Committee also make a conscious resolve to focus its attention on under-represented books from independent presses and lesser-known mid-list releases from larger houses. All should be books with strong narratives people by fully realized characters; books which perhaps have flown under the radar of reviewers, bloggers, and reading groups overwhelmed by the vast number of new releases each year.

Preliminary submission guidelines:

- 1) Genre: literary fiction (novels, novellas, short stories) and memoir, including books in translation published in the U.S. between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016;
- 2) Submissions: titles for consideration must be submitted by publishers; limited to two titles per publisher or imprint; titles must be readily available through customary distribution channels;
- 3) Format: all eligible, including trade-paper reprints published within the designated time frame; exception: original e-books.
- 4) Restrictions: previously submitted titles are ineligible; self-published books are ineligible.

The Selection Committee timeline is as follows: reading period will range from April through July; final decision to be made early August; formal announcement will be made to media outlets early September.

Submissions on or before Friday, April 15, 2016. Publishers are asked to contact Kristen Knox, Great Group Reads Co-manager via email at KKnox.NatlReadingGrpMonth@gmail.com (subject line tagged: Great Group Reads 2016).

Great Group Reads 2015 Selections:

All My Puny Sorrows by Miriam Toews (McSweeney's)
All Who Go Do Not Return: A Memoir by Shulem Deen (Graywolf Press)
The Book of Strange New Things by Michel Faber (Hogarth)
Call Me Home by Megan Kruse (Hawthorne Books)
Delicious Foods by James Hannaham (Little, Brown and Company)
Did You Ever Have a Family by Bill Clegg (Gallery Books/Scout Press)
Dietland by Sarai Walker (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
Etta and Otto and Russell and James by Emma Hooper (Simon & Schuster)
Henna House by Nomi Eve (Scribner)
Landfall by Ellen Urbani (Forest Avenue Press)
Make Your Home Among Strangers by Jennine Capó Crucet (St. Martin's Press)
Man Alive: A True Story of Violence, Forgiveness and Becoming a Man by Thomas Page McBee (City Lights Publishers)
Miss Hazel and the Rosa Parks League by Jonathan Odell (Maiden Lane Press)
No. 4 Imperial Lane by Jonathan Weisman (Twelve)
Orphan #8 by Kim van Alkemade (William Morrow Paperbacks)
A Perfect Crime by A Yi (Oneworld Publications)
The Secret Wisdom of the Earth by Christopher Scotton (Grand Central Publishing)
A Sister to Honor by Lucy Ferriss (Berkley)
Without You, There Is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite by Suki Kim (Crown)
The Wonder Garden by Lauren Acampora (Grove Press)

(Great Group Reads 2015 Selections http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org/ggr_selections.html)

Great Group Reads marketing campaigns from 2009-2015 have included an array of professionally designed display materials such as shelf-talkers and table-top posters on the National Reading Group Month Web site for anyone to download and use in promoting Great Group Reads titles. These and other promotional materials are made available to independent bookstores through the ABA September Red Box mailing. In addition, Great Group Reads authors are extended invitations to participate in nation-wide WNBA 12-chapter National Reading Group Month programming during October.

Sponsors of National Reading Group Month: Crown, Hogarth—An Imprint of The Crown Publishing Group, Oneworld Publications, and *Sourcebooks—An Independent Vision, as well as Friends of National Reading Group Month: American Booksellers Association (ABA), Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction & Nonfiction, Baker & Taylor, The Booklist Reader (*Booklist*, American Library Association), Edelweiss (Above the Treeline, Inc.), Ingram Content Group, Net Galley—Feed Your Readers, Reading Group Choices—Selections for Lively Book Discussions, Reading Group Guides—The Online Community for Reading Groups, and the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA). * Premier Sponsor

National Reading Group Month is an initiative of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA). The Women's National Book Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization promoting the value of books and reading and championing the role of women in the community of the book since 1917.

Further information is available at: [NationalReadingGroupMonth .org](http://NationalReadingGroupMonth.org)
Women's National Book Association, P.O. Box 237, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-0231; www.wnba-books.org.

Press release prepared on February 15, 2016,
by Jill A. Tardiff, National Reading Group Month Chair
Visit National Reading Group Month on Twitter (WNBA_NRGM) and Facebook.