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The Book Club Insider
Monthly Newsletter

2015 Man Booker Prize For Fiction Winner
-A follow up to the October Book Club Insider article “2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction Nominees”

The 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction winner is *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James. James, who currently lives in Minneapolis, is the first Jamaican author to win the Man Booker Prize. He credits Charles Dickens as a major influence during his younger years. *A Brief History of Seven Killings* is a hefty read with 686 pages and over 75 different characters and voices. The novel is “a tale inspired by the 1976 attempted assassination of Bob Marley spans decades and continents to explore the experiences of journalists, drug dealers, killers and ghosts against a backdrop of period social and political turmoil” (from the publisher). *A Brief History of Seven Killings* was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and a New York Times notable book.

Michael Wood, Chair of the Judges has this to say about *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, “It is a crime novel that moves beyond the world of crime and takes us deep into a recent history we know far too little about. It moves at a terrific pace and will come to be seen as a classic of our times”.

Marlon James has two previous novels *John Crow’s Devil* and *The Book of Night Women*. James credits Charles Dickens as a major influence with respect to his storytelling.

The Man Booker Prize was established in 1969 to promote great fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the UK, The Commonwealth, The Republic of Ireland or Zimbabwe. Previous winners include *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan (2014), *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton (2013) and *Bring Up The Bodies* by Hilary Mantel (2012).

For additional information regarding the Man Booker Prize, please visit [www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com).

– Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian

“A mind needs books as a sword needs a whetstone, if it is to keep its edge.”
- George R. R. Martin
I think that one of the most arduous tasks for any book club is choosing a title that will appeal to a diverse group of readers. With the realization that this cannot be achieved all the time, it is still important that group members feel that their interests are intermittently represented. One way this may be achieved is by pairing historical fiction with non-fiction titles of the same topic. Historical fiction can offer the reader a more in-depth analysis when additional research on the theme is explored. Here are some suggested pairings your book club may be interested in reading:

**Hemingway in Love: His Own Story**
by A. E. Hotchner
(Non-Fiction)

Hemingway’s deeply reflective account of his destructive Paris affair and how it affected the legendary life he rebuilt as told to his best friend, the writer A. E. Hotchner.

**The Sun Also Rises**
by Ernest Hemingway
(Fiction)

A brilliant profile of the Lost Generation, Hemingway’s first bestseller captures life among the expatriates on Paris’ Left Bank during the 1920s, the brutality of bullfighting in Spain, and the moral and spiritual dissolution of a generation.

**Against Wind and Tide: Letters and Journals, 1947-1986**
by Anne Morrow Lindbergh
(Non-Fiction)

More than any previous books by or about Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Against Wind and Tide makes us privy to the demons that plagued this fairy-tale bride, and introduces us to some of the people, men as well as women, who provided solace as she braved the tides of time and aging, war and politics, birth and death.

**The Aviator’s Wife**
by Melanie Benjamin
(Fiction)

A story inspired by the marriage between Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh traces the romance between a handsome young aviator and a shy ambassador’s daughter whose relationship is marked by wild international acclaim.

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**A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara**

“A Moving to New York to pursue creative ambitions, four former classmates share decades marked by love, loss, addiction, and haunting elements from a brutal childhood.” *

*A Little Life*, a bestseller published by Doubleday in 2015 has been racking up book nominations and awards. This is Hanya Yanagihara’s sophomore novel. Her debut novel published just 18 months before, *People in the Trees* also received excellent reviews.

On October 15, 2015, *A Little Life* was awarded the Kirkus Prize for Fiction. This prize is sponsored by the Trade Publication Kirkus Reviews. Ms. Yanagihara received $50,000 for this award.

On November 18, 2015, the National Book Awards will be presented. *A Little Life* is a finalist in the fiction category. These awards are sponsored by National Book Foundation with a $10,000 prize.

The Andrew Carnegie Award for Excellence in Fiction will be presented on January 10, 2016. *A Little Life* is on the shortlist for fiction. This award is sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA). Winners receive a $5,000 cash award.

The Man Booker Award was handed out on October 13, 2015. *A Little Life* was on the shortlist for fiction but lost to *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James.

Based on the amount of accolades *A Little Life* has received, it could possibly be a finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. “Summary from the publisher

- Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian