

JANUARY 10, 2012 • TORONTO, ONTARIO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION ANNOUNCES 2012 SHORTLIST

THIS MORNING, Noreen Taylor, chair of the Charles Taylor Foundation and founder of The Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction, announced that the 2012 prize jury, composed of authors Allan M. Brandt and Stevie Cameron and non-fiction publishing consultant Susan Renouf, read 115 books, submitted by 35 publishers from around the world. Mrs. Taylor went on to introduce Ms Cameron and Ms Renouf, who announced the 2012 prize shortlist, as follows:

THE FINALISTS FOR THE 2012 CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION ARE:

WADE DAVIS for *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest*, published by Alfred A. Knopf Canada

The jury notes: “In this monumental volume, Wade Davis narrates explorer George Mallory’s heroic attempt to scale Everest following the Great War. With remarkable new research in previously unexplored British archives and in the Himalayas, *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest* powerfully links the devastating carnage and demoralization of the War to the transcendent aspiration of Mallory and his compatriots to ascend Everest. With skill and insight, Davis explores the meaning of this valorous yet tragic climb for post-war Britain and the world.”

CHARLOTTE GILL for *Eating Dirt: Deep Forests, Big Timber, and Life with the Tree-Planting Tribe*, published by Greystone Books in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation

The jury notes: “Only a writer as skilled as Charlotte Gill could make the back-breaking work of planting more than a million seedlings sound like one of life’s essential adventures. In a carefully balanced story of science, business and friendship, and one that is surprisingly unsentimental, Gill shares her love for Canada’s boreal forests, the tragedy of their disappearances and the grueling work involved in replacing them. Reader, you might finish this book feeling relieved you don’t plant trees — but you will be wishing you could.”

JJ LEE for *The Measure of a Man: The Story of a Father, a Son, and a Suit*, published by McClelland & Stewart

The jury notes: “As an experienced radio current affairs producer, JJ Lee knew what it took to make a good story though he never expected his own life to end up in a book. *The Measure of a Man*, Lee’s account of trying to remake one of his late father’s old suits into one for himself, began as a CBC Radio documentary. An editor suggested it would

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make a good book. She was right. Beautifully crafted, Lee's memoir is a heartbreaking page-turner about a family, an abusive father, and men's fashion. Who could have thought these themes could work together? In his first book, Lee has shown us how."

MADELINE SONIK for *Afflictions & Departures: Essays*, published by Anvil Press

The jury notes: "Startlingly original, Madeline Sonik's moving story of her childhood defies all our expectations of memoir. She captures crystalline moments of childhood memory and links them in a daisy-chain with corresponding events of the tumultuous societal change taking place outside her home. It is North America in the 1960s and 70s and her letter-perfect, child's-eye view of the world brings back that time with such intensity that the reader can almost smell and taste it. Droll, tragic, and absolutely compelling, *Afflictions and Departures* is a visceral portrayal of a family imploding."

ANDREW WESTOLL for *The Chimps of Fauna Sanctuary: A Canadian Story of Resilience and Recovery*, published by HarperCollins Publishers

The jury notes: "Brilliantly blending science and storytelling, primatologist and author Andrew Westoll takes us deep into the world of the haunted and haunting rescued research chimps of Fauna Sanctuary. Pulled from decades of horrific lab conditions, rescued chimps live out the balance of their long lives in sanctuaries such as Fauna, cared for and loved by an extraordinary group of people. Westoll deftly draws the reader into the wild day-to-day ride of life with the Fauna chimps and soon their Otherness falls away. Through his lens, the chimps are revealed as the individuals they are, with all their foibles, damage, and possibility – and the reader's world view shifts on its axis. Heartrending and heart-warming, this is a stunning and important work of art and documentary and science."

THE PRESTIGIOUS CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE for Literary Non-Fiction recognizes excellence in Canadian non-fiction writing and emphasizes the development of the careers of the authors it celebrates. Since its inception, the prize has fostered a growing interest in non-fiction, engaged Canadians in the genre of literary non-fiction, and boosted sales of the winning authors' books. Awarded annually to the author whose book best combines a superb command of the English language, an elegance of style, and a subtlety of thought and perception, the prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author and \$2,000 for the runners-up, in addition to extensive promotion and publicity to help all books stand out in the national media, bookstores, and libraries.

THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto). They established The Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction to commemorate the life and work of the late Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community. Charles Taylor was a foreign correspondent with *The Globe and Mail* and the author of four books: *Radical Tories*; *Reporter in Red China*; *Six Journeys: A Canadian Pattern*; and *Snow Job*.

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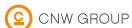


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THE JURORS for The 2012 Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction are Allan M. Brandt, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, award-winning author Stevie Cameron, and well-respected editor and consultant Susan Renouf. Full biographies of the jurors can be found here: http://www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca/2012/jury_12.asp

THE 2012 PRIZE FINALISTS will speak at Ben McNally's Authors Brunch on Sunday, March 4, 2012. For tickets, please visit www.benmcnallybooks.com. The prize winner will be announced at a Gala Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Monday, March 5 at Le Meridien King Edward Hotel. The winner will be featured at the International Festival of Authors in October, 2012.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHARLES TAYLOR FOUNDATION gratefully acknowledge the support of their partners. The Presenting Sponsor of The Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction is RBC Wealth Management; the Major Sponsor is Windfields Farm; the Media Sponsors are CNW Group, CBC Books, *The Globe and Mail*, *Maclean's* magazine and *Quill & Quire* magazine; and the In-Kind Sponsors are Ben McNally Books, Event Source, Indigo Books and Music, Kobo Inc., The International Festival of Authors, Le Meridien King Edward Hotel, and the Toronto Review of Books.

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MEDIA CONTACT: Stephen Weir & Associates

Stephen Weir: Direct: 416.489.5868 | cell: 416.801.3101 | stephen@stephenweir.com

Linda Crane: Direct: 905.257.6033 | cell: 416.727.0112 | cranepr@cogeco.ca

TO DOWNLOAD high-resolution images of the jury, finalists, and shortlisted titles, please go to: http://www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca/2012/photogallery_12.asp

FOR INFORMATION on the authors and their shortlisted titles, click on or key in the publishers' website addresses noted below each book.

INTO THE SILENCE: THE GREAT WAR, MALLORY, AND THE CONQUEST OF EVEREST by Wade Davis, published by Knopf Canada

<http://www.randomhouse.ca/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307944108>

EATING DIRT: DEEP FORESTS, BIG TIMBER, AND LIFE WITH THE TREE-PLANTING TRIBE by Charlotte Gill, published by Greystone Books

<http://www.dmpibooks.com/book/eating-dirt>

THE MEASURE OF A MAN: THE STORY OF A FATHER, A SON, AND A SUIT by J. J. Lee, published by McClelland & Stewart



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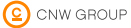


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<http://www.mcclelland.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780771046476>

AFFLICTIONS AND DEPARTURES: ESSAYS by Madeline Sonik, published by Anvil Press

<http://www.anvilpress.com/Books/afflictions-departures>

THE CHIMPS OF FAUNA SANCTUARY: A CANADIAN STORY OF RESILIENCE

AND RECOVERY by Andrew Westoll, published by HarperCollins

http://www.harpercollins.ca/books/The-Chimps-of-Fauna-Sanctuary-Andrew-Westoll?isbn=9781554686490&HCHP=TB_The+Chimps+of+Fauna+Sanctuary

FOR MORE INFORMATION please visit: www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca

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