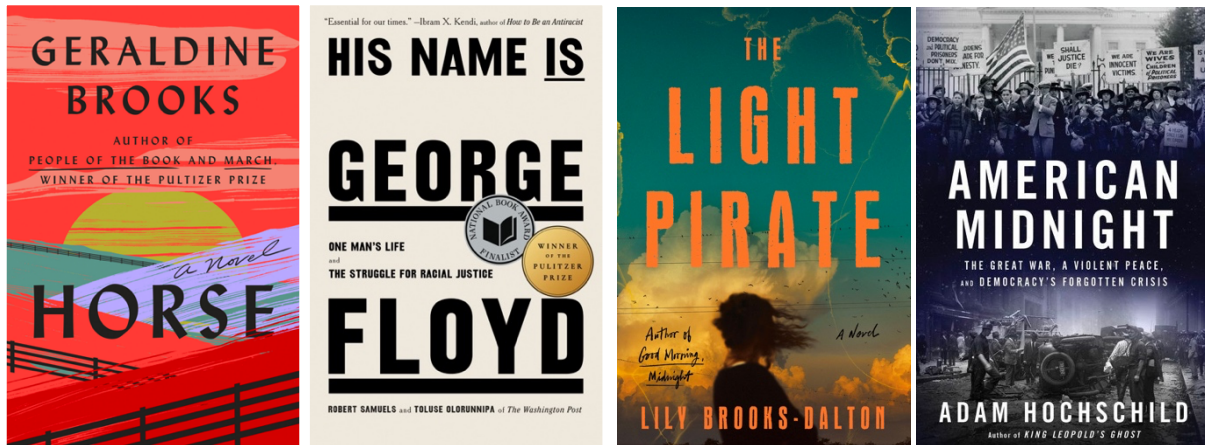


***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation Announces 2023 Award Winners

- ***Horse* by Geraldine Brooks** to Receive Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Fiction; ***The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton** runner-up
- ***His Name Is George Floyd* by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa** to Receive Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Nonfiction; ***American Midnight* by Adam Hochschild** runner-up



Dayton, OH (October 10, 2023)—The Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation, which honors writers whose work uses the power of literature to foster peace, social justice, and global understanding, is proud to announce ***Horse* by Geraldine Brooks** (Viking) as the winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Fiction and ***The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton** (Grand Central Publishing) as the runner-up. ***His Name is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice* by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa** (Viking) has been named the winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Nonfiction and ***American Midnight* by Adam Hochschild** (Mariner Books) as runner-up. The authors will be honored in an awards ceremony in Dayton, OH on November 12, 2023.

Nicholas A. Raines, Executive Director of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation, says, “This year’s honorees capture the full weight and breadth of what the Dayton Literary Peace Prize means by ‘peace.’ They deftly explore issues of race, class, and climate disaster with unparalleled clarity and urgency.”

Inspired by the Dayton Accords which ended the Bosnian War, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize is the first and only literary peace prize awarded in the United States. Every year, the DLPP honors one fiction and one nonfiction author whose work encourages understanding between cultures,

religions, communities, and political points of view. Previous recipients include Chanel Miller (2020), Ta-Nehisi Coates (2018), Patricia Engel (2017), Dave Eggers (2010), Edwidge Danticat (2008), among other distinguished honorees.



Photo Credit: Randi Baird

Horse is the seventh novel from Australian-born author and journalist Geraldine Brooks. Set in three different time periods, it tells the story of Lexington, one of the greatest racehorses in history, and the ongoing ramifications of race and injustice in the United States. In response to winning the award, Brooks says: "Fiction reveals the truth of human experience through an exercise of extreme empathy. Yet we are living in a moment when truth is vilified, empathy disparaged. So the novelist's work becomes more urgent now: to dismantle the pernicious myth of 'The Other' and illuminate our shared humanity."



Photo Credit: Bloomberg LP

His Name is George Floyd is the landmark biography from *New Yorker* staff writer Robert Samuels and *Washington Post* White House Bureau Chief Toluse Olorunnipa. Drawing from hundreds of interviews with George Floyd's closest friends and family, they examine the life and legacy of George Floyd within the context of institutional racism in the United States. In response to winning the award, Samuels says:



Photo Credit: Marvin Joseph

"Over the course of writing 'His Name is George Floyd,' there was a phrase I heard Philonise Floyd say again and again. He'd tell it to strangers when they approached him and apologized for the murder of his big brother. He'd utter it to himself, too, in his darkest moments, when the burdens felt unbearably heavy. It was an affirmation to keep going: 'Justice for George means freedom for all.'

Tolu and I watched the Floyds struggle with what 'justice' means over the months we worked with them. Nothing—neither a guilty verdict nor a payout from the city nor the largest protest movement this country had ever seen—seemed to be able to deliver it, especially when there was still so much trouble in the world. The family's definition of 'freedom,' though, hardly wavered. Freedom was the ability to live in a country that consistently lived up to its ideals, one in which people did not have to worry that a sudden, heinous act could disrupt one's personal ecosystem and destroy their sense of peace.

The family had learned reviving their old sense of peace could not happen in a vacuum. It couldn't because George Floyd's death exposed so many systems of inequity, prejudice and bias that imprison each one of us. There is no true freedom for anyone unless freedom is realized for all. And there could not be true justice for George Floyd unless there was justice for all. In reporting on their journey, I learned that these American ideals—freedom, justice—were intertwined with our communal sense of responsibility, our shared desire to experience oneness, shalom, peace."

Photo credit: Lily-Brooks Dalton



The Light Pirate, the second novel from **Lily Brooks-Dalton**, is a near-future survival story about a young woman born during a hurricane who must navigate an apocalyptic landscape. Upon being named runner-up, Brooks-Dalton reflects:

“My understanding of peace is that it never arrives alone. Without the company of chaos or conflict, peace is only an abstraction, thin and vaporous. Peace exists most fully in the center of the storm, wrapped in furious winds, held together by discord, and made tangible in terrible, beautiful contrast. I don’t know that there is another way to experience peace, or to write about it.

But this is the task. Of living, of writing. Of making a home in an environment that is changing so rapidly our speculative climate fiction is becoming realism. We undertake righteous action, we lean into the battles that need fighting, we endure that which seems unendurable, and inside this honest struggle of existence, at its very center, we learn to find peace—to beat peace—and then return to the fray.”

Photo credit: Barbi Reed



The nonfiction runner-up ***American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy’s Forgotten Crisis*** by **Adam Hochschild** is an exploration of the tumultuous period between World War I and the Roaring Twenties. Adam says:

“Both of the books that have brought me to Dayton concern the First World War. The historian Simon Schama called that conflict ‘the original sin of the twentieth century.’ Not only did it kill more than 9 million soldiers and an even greater number of civilians, but it left a legacy of bitterness and resentment that guaranteed the coming of a still more deadly world war. I would love to roll back history to 1914 and find an alternative, more peaceful way forward. Not being able to do that, writers of both fiction and nonfiction need to look hard at that war — and at all wars — to examine carefully the wounds that supposedly victorious countries inflict on themselves, as well as on their enemies.”

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize will also honor **Sandra Cisneros**, author of the *The House on Mango Street*. Cisneros is set to receive the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award. On Saturday, November 11th, **Carla Hayden**, the 14th Librarian of Congress, will join Cisneros in conversation at Victoria Theatre in Dayton, OH. Hayden says, “I’m thrilled to honor Sandra Cisneros for her body of work that brings to life Mexican American life in my hometown of Chicago. Sandra launched her career with a memoir of her childhood challenges of trying to be a writer. This classic launched her illustrious career comprising many more titles, proving that you can find your voice—and be heard—even in an unsupportive environment.”

To purchase tickets for the conversation between Ms. Cisneros and Ms. Hayden, please **[INSERT INFO HERE]**. To purchase tickets for the gala on November 12th, please contact info@daytonliterarypeaceprize.org or visit the [DLPP website](#).



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The Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation is dedicated to celebrating the power of the written word to forge peace. The DLPP offers programming to high schools, colleges & universities, and libraries, such as the Student Author Series. A primarily volunteer organization since its inception, the DLPP is funded in part through donations from individuals, corporations, universities and local government to sustain its efforts. Learn more about how you can get involved via the [DLPP website](#).

About the Dayton Literary Peace Prize

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize honors writers whose work uses the power of literature to foster peace, social justice, and global understanding. Launched in 2006, it is recognized as one of the world's most prestigious literary honors and is the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States. An offshoot of the Dayton Peace Prize, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize awards a \$10,000 cash prize each year to one fiction and one nonfiction author whose work advances peace as a solution to conflict and leads readers to a better understanding of other cultures, peoples, religions, and political points of view. Additionally, the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award is bestowed upon a writer whose body of work reflects the Prize's mission. Previous honorees include Margaret Atwood, Wendell Berry, Taylor Branch, Geraldine Brooks, Wil Haygood, Louise Erdrich, John Irving, Barbara Kingsolver, Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, N. Scott Momaday, Tim O'Brien, Marilynne Robinson, Gloria Steinem, Studs Terkel, Colm Tóibín, and Elie Wiesel.

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