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DECEMBER 4, 2019 • TORONTO, ONTARIO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2020 LONGLIST REVEALED

The 2020 RBC Taylor Prize jury announces a dozen essential titles that should be on every Canadian's reading list this year

RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2020 JURORS MARGARET ATWOOD, CORAL ANN HOWELLS and PETER THEROUX today shared the longlist for the 20th anniversary, and final, edition of Canada's most prestigious non-fiction prize.

The jury commented: "Both new and veteran jury members among us were dazzled by the over 150 sterling RBC Taylor Prize submissions this year. Distilling these diverse riches, embracing the social, personal, political, and historical into a mere list of ten, was a profound but rewarding challenge — our list could have been much longer, and indeed it is slightly longer than we were asked for! Readers globally can be thankful for a year of such exceptional Canadian contributions."

THE LONGLIST BOOKS FOR THE 2019 RBC TAYLOR PRIZE ARE:

1. *Rush to Danger: Medics in the Line of Fire* by TED BARRIS, published by Harper Collins Canada
2. *Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson* by MARK BOURRIE, published by Biblioasis
3. *The Grandmaster: Magnus Carlsen and the Match That Made Chess Great Again* by BRIN-JONATHAN BUTLER, published by Simon & Schuster
4. *Had it Coming: What's Fair in the Age of #MeToo* by ROBYN DOOLITTLE, published by Allen Lane
5. *We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir* by SAMRA HABIB, published by Viking Canada
6. *In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience* by HELEN KNOTT, published by University of Regina Press
7. *Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls* by JESSICA M^CDIARMID, published by Doubleday Canada
8. *The Regency Years: During Which Jane Austen Writes, Napoleon Fights, Byron Makes Love and Britain Becomes Modern* by ROBERT MORRISON, published by W.W. Norton
9. *Overrun: Dispatches from the Asian Carp Crisis* by ANDREW REEVES, published by ECW Press
10. *The Mongolian Chronicles: A Story of Eagles, Demons and Empires* by ALLEN SMUTYLO, published by Goose Lane Editions
11. *The Reality Bubble: Blind Spots, Hidden Truths, and the Dangerous Illusions that Shape Our World* by ZIYA TONG, published by Allen Lane
12. *The Mosquito: A Human History of our Deadliest Predator* by TIMOTHY C. WINEGARD, published by Allen Lane

NOREEN TAYLOR, chair of the Charles Taylor Foundation and founder of the Prize,



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commented: “When we began this prize, it was in the hope that the books selected by the jury would reflect all kinds of Canadian stories as well as the issues that all Canadians are interested in and concerned about. This year’s exceptionally good jury has done just that. From 155 submissions, they have presented us with a stellar holiday reading list that covers histories, memoir, investigations, social justice and travel to far-off lands. This longlist has a category and a subject for every reader!”

VIJAY PARMAR, President of RBC PH&N Investment Counsel, added: “Over the last 20 years, the RBC Taylor Prize has helped to both promote and inspire Canada’s non-fiction literary landscape. Congratulations to the impressive group of authors who have rightfully earned their place on this year’s longlist.”

KEY DATES:

THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE SHORTLIST will be announced at a news conference on the morning of Wednesday, January 8, 2020, and the winner revealed at a special 20th Anniversary gala luncheon on Monday March 2, 2020.

ABOUT THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE

ESTABLISHED IN 1998 by the trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation and first awarded in 2000, the RBC Taylor Prize commemorates Charles Taylor’s pursuit of excellence in the field of literary non-fiction. Awarded 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 \$30,000 for the winner and \$5,000 for each of the remaining finalists. All authors are presented with a custom leather-bound version of their shortlisted book at the awards ceremony. All finalists receive promotional support for their nominated titles.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHARLES TAYLOR FOUNDATION are: Vijay Parmar, David Staines, Edward Taylor, Nadina Taylor, and Noreen Taylor. The Prize Manager is Sheila Kay.

THE PRESENTING SPONSOR of the RBC Taylor Prize is RBC Wealth Management. Its media sponsors are *The Globe and Mail*, Cision, *Quill & Quire* magazine; its in-kind sponsors are Ben McNally Books, Event Source, Toronto International Festival of Authors and the Omni King Edward Hotel.

TO DOWNLOAD HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES of the longlisted authors and their book covers go to: www.rbctaylorprize.ca/2020/rbctp_2020_longlist_covers_and_authors.zip

TO DOWNLOAD HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES of the trustees and the jury please go to: www.rbctaylorprize.ca/2020/2020_trustees_and_jury.zip

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRIZE PLEASE GO TO: www.rbctaylorprize.ca. FOLLOW THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE ON TWITTER at www.twitter.com/taylorprize AND FACEBOOK AT www.facebook.com/RBCTaylorPrize

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

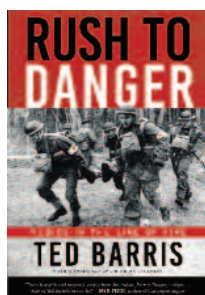
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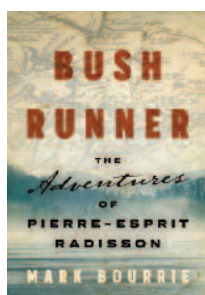


2020 RBC TAYLOR PRIZE LONGLIST BOOK SUMMARIES

Rush to Danger: Medics in the Line of Fire by TED BARRIS, published by Harper Collins Canada

Starting with his own father's experience as a front-line medic in WWII, Barris explores the stoic perseverance and service of the men and women, from the US Civil War through to Iraq, those wearing a Red Cross on their helmets or their sleeves, those who don't flee to safety but chose to rush to assist.

<https://www.harpercollins.ca/9781443447928/rush-to-danger/>



Bush Runner: The Adventures of Pierre-Esprit Radisson by MARK BOURRIE, published by Biblioasis

Radisson, known to some as the first European to explore the upper Mississippi is also "an eager hustler with no known scruples." He double-crossed the English, French, Dutch, as well as his adoptive Mohawk family, in dealings that ultimately led to the founding of the Hudson's Bay Company.

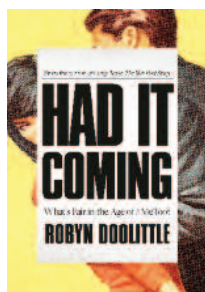
<http://biblioasis.com/shop/forthcoming/bush-runner-the-life-and-times-of-pierre-esprit-radisson-trade-paper/>



The Grandmaster: Magnus Carlsen and the Match That Made Chess Great Again by Brin-Jonathan Butler, published by Simon & Schuster

In November 2016 hundreds gathered in NYC's South Street Seaport to watch the World Chess Championship between Norway's Magnus Carlsen and Russia's Sergey Karjakin – which would soon become front page news and may go down in history as the greatest finish in chess history.

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Grandmaster/Brin-Jonathan-Butler/9781501172601>



Had It Coming: What's Fair in the Age of #MeToo by ROBYN DOOLITTLE, published by Allen Lane

Picking up from her award-winning series *Unfounded*, Doolittle brings a personal voice to the #MeToo movement and its aftermath. An illuminating and timely look at the changing landscape of sexual politics.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/592353/had-it-coming-by-robyn-doolittle/9780735236592>

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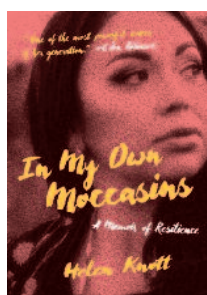


RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2020 LONGLIST BOOK SUMMARIES (CONTINUED)

We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir by SAMRA HABIB, published by Viking Canada

How do you find yourself when the world tells you that you don't exist? Habib's exploration of faith, art, love and queer sexuality is a triumphant memoir of forgiveness and family, both chosen and not.

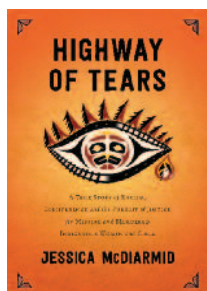
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/565780/we-have-always-been-here-by-samra-habib/9780735235007>



In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience by HELEN KNOTT, published by University of Regina Press

As a young Indigenous woman working through inter-generational trauma, writer & activist Knott must learn where she came from and where she is going. A harrowing and powerful memoir, she gives an honest portrayal of how she healed the deep wounds inflicted by sexual violence.

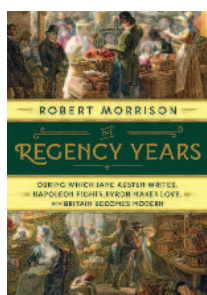
<https://uofrpress.ca/Books/I/In-My-Own-Moccasins>



Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls by JESSICA M^CDIARMID, published by Doubleday Canada

For decades, Indigenous women and girls have gone missing from Highway 16 in NW British Columbia. McDiarmid investigates the devastating effect these tragedies have had on families and communities, and how systemic racism has led society to fail them.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/548115/highway-of-tears-by-jessica-mcdiarmid/9780385687577>

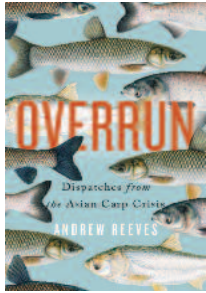


The Regency Years: During Which Jane Austen Writes, Napoleon Fights, Byron Makes Love and Britain Becomes Modern by ROBERT MORRISON, published by W.W. Norton

A surprising and lively history of an overlooked era that, perhaps more than the Victorian Era, brought the modern world of art, science and culture decisively into view, beginning with the ascension of the profligate Prince of Wales — the future George IV — replacing his mad father, George III as Britain's ruler.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/605410/the-regency-years-by-robert-morrison/9780393249057>

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RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2020 LONGLIST BOOK SUMMARIES (CONTINUED)

Overrun: Dispatches from the Asian Carp Crisis by ANDREW REEVES, published by ECW Press

Urgent and entertaining, *Overrun* traces the voracious carp's explosive spread throughout North America from an unknown import meant to tackle invasive water weeds to a continental scourge that bulldozes through everything in its path.

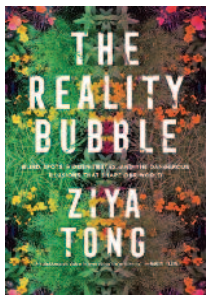
<https://ecwpress.com/products/overrun>



The Mongolian Chronicles: A Story of Eagles, Demons and Empires by ALLEN SMUTYLO, published by Goose Lane Editions

In this panoramic survey of the Kazakh nomads of western Mongolia, Smutylo looks at people who graze their herds on windswept steppes, keeping ancient customs alive by hunting on horseback with golden eagles, and practicing shamanistic beliefs in an increasingly urbanized life.

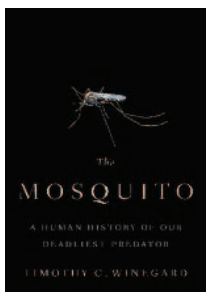
https://gooselane.com/products/the-mongolian-chronicles?_pos=1&_sid=28003fa61&_ss=r



The Reality Bubble: Blind Spots, Hidden Truths, and the Dangerous Illusions that Shape Our World by ZIYA TONG, published by Allen Lane

From one of the world's most engaging science journalists, a ground-breaking and wonder-filled look at the hidden things that shape our lives in unexpected and sometimes dangerous ways, showing how science can help civilization flourish by opening our eyes.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/568675/the-reality-bubble-by-ziya-tong/>



The Mosquito: A Human History of our Deadliest Predator by TIMOTHY C. WINEGARD, published by Allen Lane

A dramatic new perspective on the history of mankind, showing how through millennia, the mosquito has been the single most powerful force in determining the fate of humanity, steering the fates of empires, crippling economies and killing nearly half of humanity along the way.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/576149/the-mosquito-by-timothy-c-winegard/>