

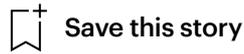
# THE 2023 NATIONAL BOOK AWARDS LONGLIST: TRANSLATED LITERATURE

By The New Yorker

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Illustration by Mathieu Larone



*This week, [The New Yorker](#) is announcing the longlists for the 2023 National Book Awards. This morning, we presented the ten contenders in the category of [Young People's Literature](#). Check back tomorrow morning for Poetry.*

Five titles on this year's longlist for Translated Literature are set in Latin American countries. Two novels, "Abyss," by Pilar Quintana, and "The Devil of the Provinces," by Juan Cárdenas, take place in Colombia. Astrid Roemer's "On a Woman's Madness" depicts a queer Black woman's romance with an older woman in the capital of Suriname. Stênio Gardel's "The Words That Remain" recounts its narrator's upbringing in Northern Brazil. The stories in "This Is Not Miami," by Fernanda Melchor, chronicle horrifying, quotidian violence in and around Veracruz, Mexico.

Other nominated works feature characters looking for personal freedom as their worlds collapse: in Khaled Khalifa's "No One Prayed Over Their Graves," two men, one Christian and one Muslim, reconstruct their lives after a flood destroys their Syrian village. "Kairos," by Jenny Erpenbeck, sets an affair between a young woman and a married writer in his fifties against the backdrop of the fading German Democratic Republic. The ten books being considered for the award were originally published in seven different languages. Six honorees have previously been recognized by the National Book Awards. The full list is below.

**Juan Cárdenas**, "[The Devil of the Provinces](#)"

Translated from the Spanish by **Lizzie Davis**

Coffee House Press

**Bora Chung**, "[Cursed Bunny](#)"

Translated from the Korean by **Anton Hur**

Algonquin Books / Hachette Book Group

**David Diop**, “Beyond the Door of No Return”

Translated from the French by **Sam Taylor**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux / Macmillan Publishers

**Jenny Erpenbeck**, “Kairos”

Translated from the German by **Michael Hofmann**

New Directions Publishing

**Stênio Gardel**, “The Words That Remain”

Translated from the Portuguese by **Bruna Dantas Lobato**

New Vessel Press

**Khaled Khalifa**, “No One Prayed Over Their Graves”

Translated from the Arabic by **Leri Price**

Farrar, Straus and Giroux / Macmillan Publishers

**Fernanda Melchor**, “This Is Not Miami”

Translated from the Spanish by **Sophie Hughes**

New Directions Publishing

**Pilar Quintana**, “Abyss”

Translated from the Spanish by **Lisa Dillman**

World Editions

**Astrid Roemer**, “On a Woman’s Madness”

Translated from the Dutch by **Lucy Scott**

Two Lines Press

**Mohamed Mbougar Sarr**, “The Most Secret Memory of Men”

Translated from the French by **Lara Vergnaud**

Other Press

The judges for the category this year are Geoffrey Brock, whose translation

of Giuseppe Ungaretti's "Allegria" received the National Translation Award in Poetry; Arthur Malcolm Dixon, the co-founder of the online journal Latin American Literature Today; Cristina Rodriguez, a former bookseller; T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting, a professor of humanities at Vanderbilt University; and Jeremy Tiang, who has translated more than twenty books from Chinese. ♦