



The  
American  
Library  
in Paris

# Book Award 2023

Five titles have been selected as finalists for the 2023 American Library in Paris Book Award

# 2023 American Library in Paris Book Award

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The American Library's \$5,000 literary prize, now celebrating its eleventh year, is given to a title originally published in English that best realizes new and intellectually significant ideas about France, the French people, or encounters with French culture. Sixty-three titles were submitted this year by authors, publishers, and others across the English-speaking world. All sixty-three nominees for the 2023 Book Award are listed in these pages and are in the Library's circulating collection.

The winner, announced at an invitation-only ceremony in November 2023, will be selected by an independent jury, this year consisting of Lauren Groff (chair), Doan Bui, and Sudhir Hazareesingh.

The Book Award is supported by generous funding from the Florence Gould Foundation.

For questions or inquiries about the Book Award, please contact [bookaward@americanlibraryinparis.org](mailto:bookaward@americanlibraryinparis.org).

## Shortlist

***#You Know You're Black in France When...:  
The Fact of Everyday Antiracism***

Trica Keaton, MIT Press

A groundbreaking study about everyday antiracism in an officially race-blind France.

***Americans in Paris: Artists Working in Postwar France,  
1946–1962***

Debra Bricker Balken & Lynn Gumpert (eds), Grey Art Gallery, New York University, and Hirmer Publishers

Illuminating essays on the various circles of artists who lived in France following World War II, to accompany a forthcoming exhibition.

***The Curse of the Marquis de Sade: A Notorious Scoundrel,  
A Mythical Manuscript, and the Biggest Scandal in Literary History***

Joel Warner, Crown

The true story of how an infamous manuscript landed at the heart of one of the biggest scams in modern literary history.

***France on Trial: The Case of Marshal Pétain***

Julian Jackson, Allen Lane (UK) / Belknap Press (US)

A gripping analysis of how Pétain's three-week trial sheds light on one of the most controversial periods of twentieth-century French history.

***Joan: A Novel***

Katherine J. Chen, Random House (US) / Hodder & Stoughton (UK)

A thrilling, feminist reimagining of the life of Joan of Arc, from her childhood until her capture.

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## Longlist *(including the above listed titles)*

***Barnave: The Revolutionary Who Lost His Head for  
Marie-Antoinette***

John Hardman, Yale University Press

***Paris and her Cathedrals***

R. Howard Bloch, Liveright

***The French Resistance and its Legacy***

Rod Kedward, Bloomsbury Academic

***Unmaking Sex: The Gender Outlaws of  
Nineteenth-Century France***

Anne E. Linton, Cambridge University Press

***Kiki Man Ray: Art, Love, and Rivalry in 1920s Paris***

Mark Braude, W. W. Norton & Company

# Submissions

**1923: The Mystery of Lot 212 and a Tour de France Obsession**

Ned Boulting, Bloomsbury Sport

**After Paris**

Nicole Kennedy, Aria/Head of Zeus

**An Age to Work: Working-Class Childhood in Third Republic Paris**

Miranda Sachs, Oxford University Press

**Agent Josephine: American Beauty, French Hero, British Spy**

Damien Lewis, PublicAffairs

**Along a Breton Shore**

Arlem Hawks, Shadow Mountain

**Art Hiding in Paris: An Illustrated Guide to the Secret Masterpieces of the City of Light**

Lara Zimmer & Maria Krasinski (Illustrations), Running Press

**The Book of Goose**

Yiyun Li, Farrar, Straus & Giroux (US) / 4th Estate (UK)

**Café Society: Time Suspended:**

**The Cafés & Bistros of Paris**

Joanie Osburn, Goff Books

**Cassoulet Confessions: Food, France, Family and the Stew That Saved My Soul**

Sylvie Bigar, Hardie Grant

**The Chateau**

Jaclyn Goldis, Atria/Emily Bestler Books

**Defeat and Division: France at War, 1939–1942**

Douglas Porch, Cambridge University Press

**Diaghilev's Empire: How the Ballet Russes Enthralled the World**

Rupert Christiansen, Farrar, Straus & Giroux (US) / Faber & Faber (UK)

**Doctors at War: The Clandestine Battle Against the Nazi Occupation of France**

Ellen Hampton, Louisiana State University Press

**Elixir: A Parisian Perfume House and the Quest for the Secret of Life**

Theresa Levitt, Harvard University Press

**Empress of the Nile: The Daredevil Archaeologist Who Saved Egypt's Ancient Temples from Destruction**

Lynne Olson, Ballantine Books

**Essex Dogs**

Dan Jones, Viking (US) / Head of Zeus (UK)

**The French Art of Living Well: Finding Joie de Vivre in the Everyday World**

Cathy Yandell, St Martin's Press

**The French House**

Helen Fripp, Read Forever

**The Girl Who Built an Ocean: An Artist, an Argonaut, and the True Story of the World's First Aquarium**

Jess Keating, Knopf Books for Young Readers

**The Golden Doves**

Martha Hall Kelly, Ballantine Books (US) / Penguin (UK)

**Goodnight from Paris**

Jane Healey, Lake Union Publishing

**The House in the Rue Saint-Fiacre: A Social History of Property in Revolutionary Paris**

H.B. Callaway, Harvard University Press

**I Always Think It's Forever: A Love Story Set in Paris as Told by an Unreliable but Earnest Narrator**

Timothy Goodman, Simon Element

**La Duchesse: The Life of Marie de Vignerot—Cardinal Richelieu's Forgotten Heiress Who Shaped the Fate of France**

Bronwen McShea, Pegasus

**The Last Hours in Paris**

Ruth Druart, Grand Central Publishing (US) / Headline (UK)

**Liberty in their Names: The Women Philosophers of the French Revolution**

Sandrine Bergès, Bloomsbury Academic

**Liberty-Loving Lafayette: How 'America's Favorite Fighting Frenchman' Helped Win Our Independence**

Dorothea Jensen, Past Times Press

**The Librarian of Burned Books**

Bianna Labuskes, William Morrow Paperbacks

**Lost in Paris**

Betty Webb, Poisoned Pen Press

**The Lost Paratroopers of Normandy: A Story of Resistance, Courage, and Solidarity in a French Village**

Stephen G. Rabe, Cambridge University Press

**Magnificent Rebel: Nancy Cunard in Jazz Age Paris**

Anne de Courcy, St Martin's Press

**Major Jake Fortina and the Tier One Threat**

Ralph Richard Steinke, Koehler Books

**Marvelous**

Molly Greeley, William Morrow

**The Messenger**

Megan Davis, Zaffre (UK) / Pegasus Crime (US)

**Midnight on the Marne**

Sarah Adlakha, Forge Books

***Napoleon: The Decline and Fall of an Empire: 1811–1821***

Michael Broers, Pegasus

***Night Flight to Paris***

Cara Black, Soho Crime

***One Place de l’Eglise:***

***A Year in Provence for the 21st Century***

Trevor Dolby, Penguin Michael Joseph

***Paradise Now: The Extraordinary Life of Karl Lagerfeld***

William Middleton, Harper (US) / Ebury (UK)

***The Paris Daughter***

Kristin Harmel, Gallery Books

***The Paris Deception***

Bryn Turnbull, MIRA (US) / Headline (UK)

***Paul***

Daisy Lafarge, Riverhead Books (US) / Granta Publications (UK)

***The Perfumist of Paris***

Alka Joshi, MIRA

***Plus-Size in Paris***

Erin Zhurkin, Dépaysement

***The Ruins***

Phoebe Wynne, St Martin’s Press

***Switchboard Soldiers***

Jennifer Chiaverini, William Morris

***The Tiffany Girls***

Shelley Noble, William Morris

***Travels With Tocqueville Beyond America***

Jeremy Jennings, Harvard University Press

***Two Houses, Two Kingdoms:***

***A History of France and England, 1100–1300***

Catherine Hanley, Yale University Press

***Vincent’s Arles: As It Is and As It Was***

Linda Seidel, University of Chicago Press

***The Voice of Virtue:***

***Moral Song and the Practice of French Stoicism, 1574–1652***

Melinda Latour, Oxford University Press

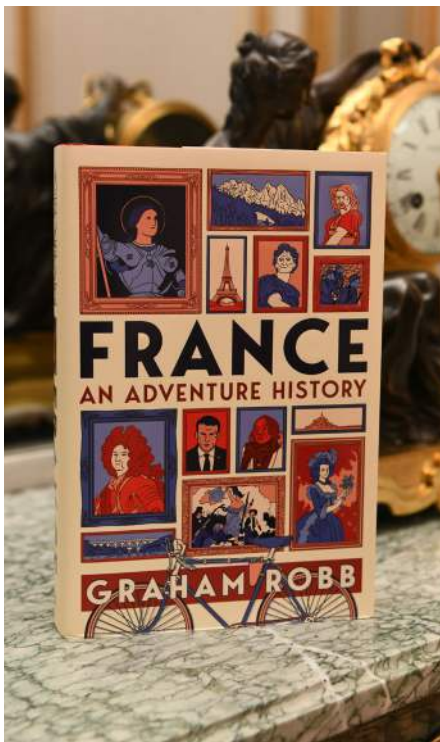
***Winning French Minds:***

***Radio Propaganda in Occupied France, 1940–42***

Denis Courtois, Casemate

***The World According to Proust***

Joshua Landy, Oxford University Press



2022 Book Award Ceremony celebrating the winning title, *France: An Adventure History* by Graham Robb, at the Hôtel de Talleyrand on the Place de la Concorde. Photo © Krystal Kenney