American Library in Paris
Est. 1920

Press Release
5 November 2026

HOTEL EXILE: PARIS IN THE SHADOW OF WAR BY JANE ROGOYSKA WINS THE 2026 AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS BOOK AWARD

PARIS, FRANCE. On 5 November, the American Library in Paris announced *Hotel Exile: Paris in the Shadow of War* by Jane Rogoyska as the winner of the 2026 Book Award, at a ceremony held at the very hotel at the center of the story: the Mandarin Oriental Lutetia, Paris. Rogoyska's book traces the dramatic history of the legendary Parisian landmark between 1933 and 1945, from its beginnings as a meeting place for artists to its occupation by the German military intelligence service during World War II, and its subsequent role as a reception center for survivors returning from concentration camps.

The jury, composed of last year's laureate Sue Prideaux, Molly Ringwald, and Dan Jones, said: "The book is a tremendous piece of original research but scholarship never gets in the way of the human story: a story set in a real place, with real people shaped by the weight of history, demonstrating the courage of human belief in the enduring principle of goodness during the darkest days of adversity, and the resilience of the human spirit. We are very proud to have been given the opportunity to honour this wonderful book." *Hotel Exile* was also a finalist for the 2026 Woman's Prize for Non-Fiction and longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize.

The award was presented to Rogoyska at the Mandarin Oriental Lutetia, Paris, the historic hotel at the heart of her book. She said: "The American Library Book Award means a lot to me for many reasons, but the fact that it is given by a library is especially significant. Many of the people I write about in *Hotel Exile* were scholars who found rare moments of solace and escape in the libraries of Paris. And what more appropriate place to celebrate this award than at the Hotel Lutetia, the Paris institution that lies at the heart of my book?"

Rogoyska received one of two bespoke, hand-bound editions of *Hotel Exile: Paris in the Shadow of War*, commissioned by the Library to mark each new laureate and crafted by Parisian artisans at the atelier Bourgogne Reliure. The second copy will join the Library's Special Collections. Created in a custom design found nowhere else, the Book Award Special Editions celebrate the winning book as both a work of literature and a lasting object of craftsmanship. Rogoyska also received a $5,000 prize, generously funded by the Florence Gould Foundation.

The American Library in Paris Book Award celebrates works of literature, both fiction and nonfiction, that draw on France as a timeless source of inspiration. Created in 2013, the Book Award builds on the Library's century-long tradition of bringing France, its culture, and its history into dialogue with the wider world. It is open to books in all genres, originally published in English.

About the American Library in Paris

The American Library in Paris is the largest English-language lending library on the European continent, with a print collection of over 100,000 volumes. Since its establishment in 1920, the Library has been a meeting place for internationals and locals alike seeking to broaden their horizons and nurture their imagination. Every year, hundreds of events, lectures, and workshops bring together leaders in literature, arts, politics, and philosophy at the Library. Through its fellowships and social impact programs, the Library also supports emerging artists and young writers in their creative pursuits.