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### Library of Virginia Announces Finalists for the 15th Annual Literary Awards

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For immediate Release

Nine authors are the finalists for the Library of Virginia's 15th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards honoring Virginia authors or, in the case of nonfiction, works on a Virginia subject. Two additional authors will receive honorable mentions.

The finalists were chosen by an independent panel of judges from more than 130 books nominated for the awards. The winners in each category will be selected from among these finalists and announced at a gala celebration on October 20, 2012, at the Library of Virginia.

#### Poetry

- Henri Cole *Touch*
- Dave Smith *Hawks on Wires*
- David Wojahn *World Tree*

The judges also selected an honorable mention in the poetry category: *Nine Acres* by Nathaniel Perry.

#### Fiction

- Jabeen Akhtar *Welcome to Americastan*
- Chad Harbach *The Art of Fielding*
- David Huddle *Nothing Can Make Me Do This*

The judges also selected an honorable mention in the fiction category: *Mercy Creek* by Matt Matthews.

#### Nonfiction

- Tony Horwitz *Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War*
- Maurie D. McInnis *Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade*
- Jill Titus *Brown's Battleground: Students, Segregationists, and the Struggle for Justice in Prince Edward County, Virginia*

The Library of Virginia's annual literary awards were first given in 1998 to recognize the best books published the previous year by a Virginia author or, in the case of nonfiction, on a Virginia theme. The winners in each of the three categories receive a monetary prize of \$3,000.

This year's finalists include David Huddle, who previously has been a finalist in both the poetry and fiction categories, and poet David Wojahn, who won the Weinstein Poetry Prize in 2008. Nonfiction finalist Tony Horwitz won the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting and worked as a staff writer for *The New Yorker* before becoming a full-time author.

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The finalists for the 2012 awards include authors who have received numerous honors including the Charles C. Eldredge Prize; Guggenheim, NEA, and Lyndhurst fellowships; the Lenore Marshall Award; and inclusion in the Fellowship of Southern Writers

The winners of the fiction, nonfiction, and poetry awards will be announced on Saturday, October 20, 2012, at the 15th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends. This gala event, sponsored by Dominion, attracts authors, publishers, and those who enjoy the written word. Award-winning author Adriana Trigiani will again serve as host for this event. Tom Robbins will be honored this year as the recipient of the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award.

The winners of the People's Choice Award, the Weinstein Poetry Prize, and the Whitney & Scott Cardozo Award for Children's Literature also will be announced that evening. For ticket information, please call 804-356-1928.

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**August 8, 2012**