

Making the most of the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction in your library, bookstore, and reading group

The brand new Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction recognize the best fiction title and best nonfiction title for adults published the previous year in the U.S. The awards offer you programming opportunities, help you highlight outstanding titles, and can encourage your patrons to read books recognized for their excellence by a selection committee of library professionals.

There's huge general national interest in these new awards—ALA and Carnegie Corporation's initial announcement in March 2012 was picked up by more than 100,000 news, general media, and social media outlets, and the announcement by Nancy Pearl of the finalists was equally widely followed.

The two winners were picked by library professionals who work with adult readers from a shortlist of six titles, in turn picked from the previous year's [Booklist Editors' Choice](#) and [RUSA CODES Notable Books](#) lists. (Those lists in themselves offer a wealth of further reading suggestions.)

Generate Excitement In Your Community:

Use your social media channels, Web sites, newsletters, and other communications to share the news of the first-ever Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence in Fiction and Nonfiction, and have people tweet using #ala_carnegie to join the wider conversation. As well as your own information, it might be helpful to include a link to ala.org/carnegieadult where people can find background on the award as well as useful links.

The links to the publishers' Web sites and reading guides offer detailed information, discussion questions, and insights on each title.

Create Displays of the Winning and Finalist Titles:

Use the free downloadable poster and bookmark in the "Resources" tab where you found this overview to enhance your displays. You are also free to print out the annotations for each title as listed below and quotes from the *Booklist* reviews.

Award seals for the covers of any winning and finalist books you include in your display will be available from the [ALA online store](#) in mid-July; information is coming soon. For questions regarding other uses of the images of the seals or medals in displays, please contact permissions@ala.org or Mary Jo Bolduc, 312-280-5416.

The 2012 Winners and Finalists:

Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction 2012 Winner:

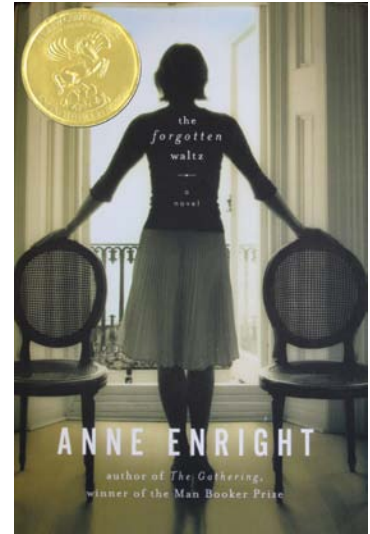
***The Forgotten Waltz*, by Anne Enright,**
published by W.W. Norton & Company.

The vicissitudes of extramarital love and the obstructions to its smooth flow—including spouses, children, and the necessary secrecy surrounding an affair—are charted in sharp yet supple prose.

[More information](#) about the author/book.

[Reading group guide](#) for *The Forgotten Waltz*.

Read the [Booklist review of *The Forgotten Waltz*](#).



Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction 2012 Finalists:

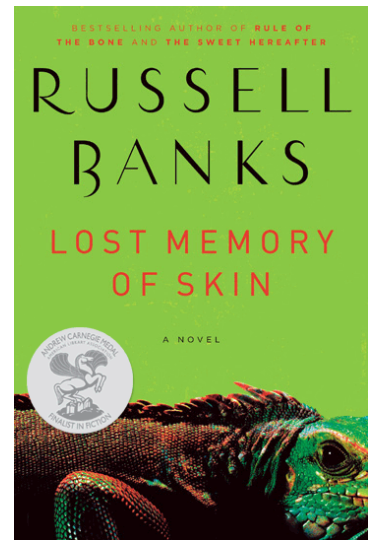
***Lost Memory of Skin*, by Russell Banks,**
published by Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers

An intelligent and fearlessly sympathetic portrait of a group of society's outsiders—sex offenders—that illuminates the moral complexities at the heart of our justice system

[More information](#) about the author/book.

[Reading group guide](#) for *Lost Memory of Skin*.

Read the [Booklist review of *Lost Memory of Skin*](#).



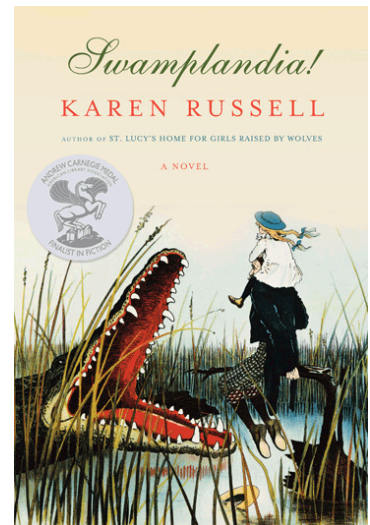
***Swamplandia!*, by Karen Russell,**
published by Alfred A. Knopf, a division of Random House, Inc.

This dazzlingly inventive first novel introduces 12-year-old gator-wrestling Ava Bigtree and her eccentric family, whose lives (and the Florida theme park they run) straddle the boundaries between the real and the surreal.

[More information](#) about the author/book.

[Reading group guide](#) for *Swamplandia!*.

Read the [Booklist review of *Swamplandia!*](#).



Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction 2012 Winner:

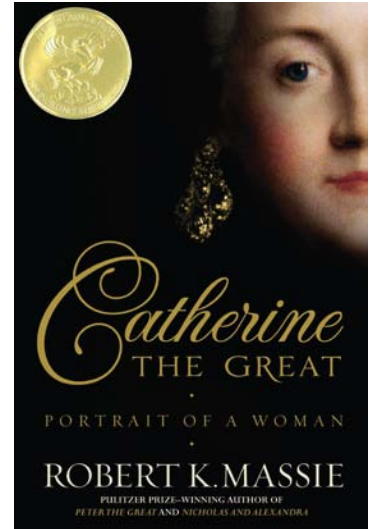
***Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman*, by Robert K. Massie,**
published by Random House, an imprint of the Random House Publishing Group

A compulsively readable biography of the fascinating woman who, through a combination of luck, personality, and a fine mind, rose from her birth as a minor German princess to become the Empress of all the Russias.

[More information](#) about the author/book.

[Reading group guide](#) for *Catherine the Great*.

Read the [Booklist review of *Catherine the Great*](#).



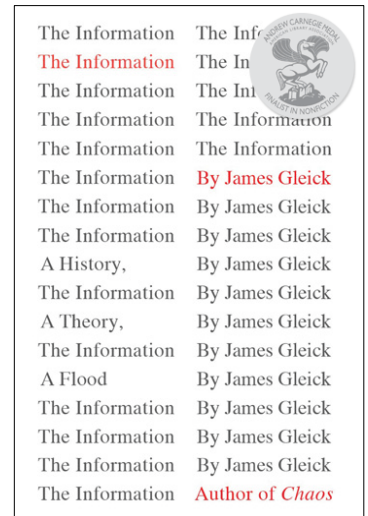
Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction 2012 Finalists:

***The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood*, by James Gleick,**
published by Pantheon Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

A comprehensive study describing the melodious interplay between science and literature documents the transmission of human knowledge from talking drums to the Internet.

[More information](#) about the author/book.

Read the [Booklist review of *The Information*](#).

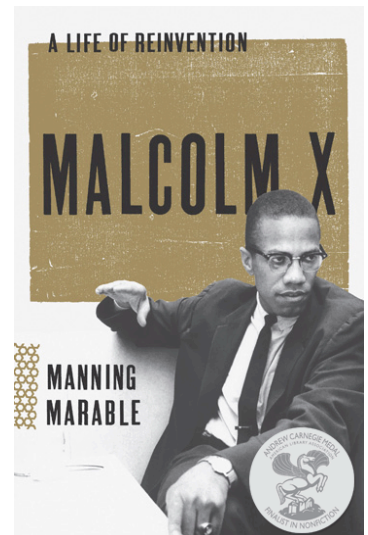


***Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, by Manning Marable,**
published by Viking Penguin, a member of Penguin Group (USA)

This definitive work on the life of Malcolm X corrects previous misconceptions and offers new information about the charismatic leader's life and death during the turbulent years of the civil rights era.

[More information](#) about the author/book.

Read the [Booklist review of *Malcolm X*](#).



About the awards

Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence Web site: ala.org/carnegieadult

These new awards have been established in 2012 to recognize the best fiction and nonfiction books for adult readers published in the U.S. the previous year, and are ALA's first single-book awards for adult trade fiction and nonfiction. Just as the Newbery, Caldecott, and Printz awards are uniquely respected in youth literature, the strong library connection sets these awards apart. The finalists and eventual winners reflect the expert judgment and insight of the seven-member selection committee of library professionals who work closely with adult readers. Nancy Pearl is chair of the selection committee for the first three years of the award.

The awards are co-sponsored by *Booklist* and RUSA (ALA's Reference and User Services Association), who provide the longlists of selected titles from the previous year's RUSA CODES Notable Books and *Booklist's* Editors' Choice. The awards are made possible by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York on the occasion of the foundation's centennial and in recognition of Andrew Carnegie, one of the greatest benefactors of libraries both in the United States and around the globe, who recognized libraries as indispensable to the progress of society.