



PRESS RELEASE
29 November 2018

***The Shop at Hoopers Bend* wins inaugural Goodest Prize**

The winner of the inaugural Goodest Prize, a literary award for the best book about a dog, has been announced. Featuring Pirate the Dog alongside fellow protagonists Jonquil and Bailey, Emily Rodda's *The Shop at Hoopers Bend* (HarperCollins, 2017) is Australian magical realism for kids. The Goodest judging committee described *Hoopers Bend* as 'a magical pastiche of Australiana' and 'a very cute found family book', while Pirate 'plays the role of saviour, both emotional and physical, within the narrative', 'displays good doggish intuition, knowing who the bad characters are before the reader does', and also displays 'openness, even to people in gorilla suits'.

Recognising the wealth of representations of Good Doggish life among submissions, the committee have also highly commended two titles. Rachel Leary's *Bridget Crack* (Allen & Unwin, 2017) is a stark, fast-paced historical thriller set in colonial Tasmania. The titular protagonist finds rare comfort in hunting dog Bury: his pragmatism and profound loyalty mean that he is undoubtedly a Good Dog. *Change of Address*, by Jordan Brock (Riptide, 2016) is a quieter story, tracing the slow, gentle romance of Michael and Josh, who first meet at Josh's bagel shop in fictional Hartsbridge Island, New Hampshire. Michael's service dog, German Shepherd Kaylee, provides kind, comforting support for his anxiety: another very Good Dog.

The Goodest Prize is awarded to a book of any genre written in English featuring a dog as a central character. The dog must remain alive throughout the entirety of the work. The Goodest was inaugurated in 2018 to celebrate the many wonderful representations of dogs in contemporary literature, and to promote further growth in the important genre of doggish books. Details of the 2019 award, for titles published in 2018, will be announced shortly.

<https://thegoodestprize.com/>

<https://twitter.com/TheGoodestPrize>