

Reminiscent of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Author Joseph Howse is awarded Distinguished Favorite by the NYC Big Book Award

Canadian author receives international recognition through the NYC Big Book Award®

BROOKLYN, NY, UNITED STATES,
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The NYC Big Book Award recognized
The Girl in the Water as Distinguished
Favorite in the Literary Fiction
category.

The competition is judged by experts from different aspects of the book industry, including publishers, writers, editors, book cover designers and professional copywriters. Selected award winners and distinguished favorites are based on overall excellence.

[The Girl in the Water by Joseph Howse](#)

The Girl in the Water is a novel about a group of young friends coming of age in Estonia and Ukraine in the last days of the Soviet Union. The novel explores the themes of life, choice, and trauma in the aftermath of the Afghan War, the Chernobyl disaster, and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The novel is set against the backdrop of a failing civilization that sees non-cooperation and unhappiness as a disease. The young characters search for themselves within this society, often through acts of rebellion and nonconformity.



Distinguished Favorite: The Girl in the Water

At the center of the novel is Nadia, a Soviet girl who witnesses her friend drowning on a remote beach. Nadia is an abstract thinker who is coming to terms with the harsh realities of the world around her. She is a bookworm, a prankster, a wanderer, and a note-taker. She sees people gambling with their lives and souls for little apparent gain, and she wonders what she can do to make a difference.

The *Girl in the Water* is a tragicomedy that explores the beauty and futility of everyday life. It is a call for compassion and humor in a cruel world.

“Howse evokes the literary styles of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky ... Howse’s novel feels Russian, from its ornate structure to its social commentary to its wry humor. The author has composed a book like Tchaikovsky would a symphony; tight, disciplined, yet bubbling with unspoken passion and near-magical allegory.” —Rob Errera, IndieReader



NYC Big Book Award 2023 Distinguished Favorite

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Rob Errera

Synopsis: The *Girl in the Water* is the story of a multiethnic group of young friends, coming of age in Estonia and Ukraine in the last days of the Soviet Union. Their lives are shaped by an Afghan war, the Chernobyl disaster, and the collapse and legacy of a suffocating society.

“A resilient coming-of-age story ... The author includes emotional, compelling scenes with every character, as each one has been dealt a vastly different hand of cards. ... It feels very down-to-Earth and includes necessary comical

moments throughout.” —Audrey Davis, Independent Book Review

Having won the [Independent Press Award](#) in Literary Fiction in the spring of 2023, Howse expressed his gratitude to the award program, citing a distinct relationship of recognition, acceptance and sales as a result. With small, but global, sales and libraries now consuming *The Girl in the Water*, Howse looks forward to his next book, releasing late in 2024.

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NYC Big Book Award

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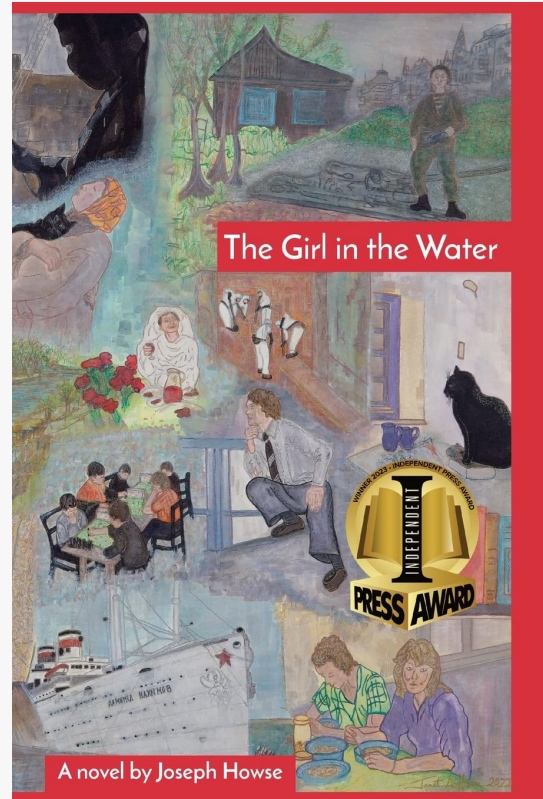
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