

5. Fiction

NIKOLSKI by Nicolas Dickner

Nikolski covers ten years in the lives of three young characters, born in three different places, thousands of kilometers apart, and seemingly different in every way, from their lifestyle and personal history to their existential outlook. Yet, unknowingly, the three characters belong to a single family whose missing link is the legendary Jonas Doucet, a sailor who could never stand to be ashore, as being on the ground inevitably made him landsick.

Over the course of the novel, the three characters converge on Montreal, where their paths will cross again and again without ever allowing them to guess what unites them. As it follows them along their meandering paths, the novel also turns to a variety of themes and questions: piracy, the place of refuse in past and present societies, family identity, fish migration, indigenism, and the nature of destiny and ambition. All these elements come together like the pieces of a puzzle whose meaning is revealed gradually, as all the pieces come to fit together. (Original work in French – English-language translation available)

PRIZES – WINNER: The New Face of Fiction 2008; Prix Printemps des lecteurs 2007; Prix des libraires 2006; Prix littéraire des collégiens 2006; Prix Anne-Hébert 2006 (Best first book) – **SHORTLIST:** Governor General Award 2005; Grand Prix littéraire Archambault; Prix Salon du livre de Montréal / La Presse – **LONGLIST:** Prix France-Québec

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