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## Prose Fiction

As generally unillustrated prose with few if any captions and nearly standard length, novels may not seem to present many design challenges. In fact, drawing attention to some single aspect brings the risk of overwhelming the text. The best one can say of a well-designed novel is that the calm, even flow of type in the text block—the physical characteristic that helps keep the reader going—is a unity without offsetting blemish. Such typography commends four of the award winners; the fifth, *Hard Core Logo*, is a deliberately rough-edged visual presentation of prose, poetry, and illustration, successful precisely because its content demands that the rule be broken.

A unifying treatment of the cover or dustwrapper, endpapers, preliminaries, and features carried through the text such as running heads, chapter openings, graphics, and pagination completes a satisfying presentation. This attention is evident in all five winners but most pleasingly so in the first, where a tiny appropriate illustration also opens each section. The presence of two ties shows that preferences expressed got rather subjective. The two second-prize winners are poles apart from each other in design! The designer of *Alias Grace* dealt nicely with the additional challenge of how to make a quite long novel seem manageable to both hand and eye. *Butterfly* exudes the charm of its oriental subject.

### First Prize (tie)

*Last Seen: A Novel* [by] Matt Cohen.  
Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf Canada.  
ISBN 0-394-28168-3 (212pp., hbk) \$28.95.  
Designer: Gordon Robertson (text);  
Paul Hodgson, Spencer Francey Peters (cover).  
Printer: R.R. Donnelley, USA (text);  
Phoenix Colour (cover).

### First Prize (tie)

*Hard Core Logo* [by] Michael Turner.  
2nd edition.  
Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press.  
ISBN 1-55152-033-8 (197pp., pbk) \$16.95.  
Designer: Patty Osborne (text);  
Dean Allen (cover).  
Printer: Kromar Printing

### Second Prize

*Slow Emergencies* [by] Nancy Huston.  
Toronto: Little, Brown & Co. (Canada) Ltd.  
ISBN 0-316-38009-1 (237pp., pbk) \$19.95.  
Designer: Michael P. Callaghan (text);  
Tania Craan (cover).  
Printer: Best Book Manufacturers

### Third Prize (tie)

*Alias Grace* [by] Margaret Atwood.  
Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.  
ISBN 0-7710-0835-x (470pp., hbk) \$32.50.  
Designer: Kong Njo  
Printer: Friesens

### Third Prize (tie)

*Butterfly lovers* [by] Charles Foran.  
Toronto: HarperCollins.  
ISBN 0-00-224390-3 (308pp., hbk) \$27.00.  
Designer: Counterpunch/Linda

