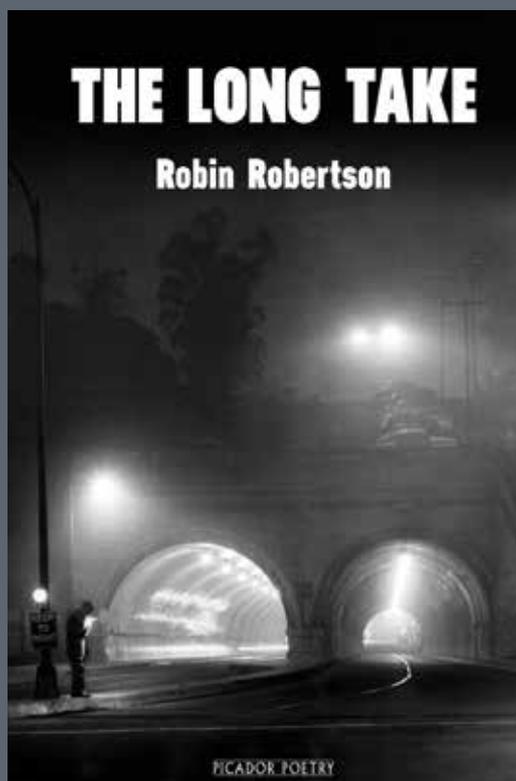




# Readers' Guide



Other novels by Robin Robertson  
*Sailing the Forest* (2014)  
*Hill of Doors* (2013)  
*The Wrecking Light* (2010)  
*Swithering* (2006)  
*A Painted Field* (2004)  
*Slow Air* (2003)

## The Long Take Robin Robertson

Picador

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About the author	<p>Robin Robertson was brought up on the north-east coast of Scotland and now lives in London. A fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, he has published five collections of poetry and has received a number of honours, including the Petrarca-Preis, the E.M. Forster Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and all three Forward Prizes.</p> <p>His selected poems, <i>Sailing the Forest</i>, was published in 2014 and <i>The Long Take</i> was published in February 2018.</p>
About the book	<p>Walker is a D-Day veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder; he can't return home to rural Nova Scotia, and looks instead to the city for freedom, anonymity and repair. As he moves from New York to Los Angeles and San Francisco we witness a crucial period of fracture in American history, one that also allowed film noir to flourish. The Dream had gone sour but – as those dark, classic movies made clear – the country needed outsiders to study and dramatise its new anxieties.</p> <p>While Walker tries to piece his life together, America is beginning to come apart: deeply paranoid, doubting its own certainties, riven by social and racial division, spiralling corruption and the collapse of the inner cities. <i>The Long Take</i> is about a good man, brutalised by war, haunted by violence and apparently doomed to return to it – yet resolved to find kindness again, in the world and in himself.</p>
What the judges thought	<p>“<i>The Long Take</i> is like a film noir on the page. A book about a man and a city in shock, it's an extraordinary evocation of the debris and the ongoing destruction of war even in times of peace. In taking a scenario we think we know from the movies but offering a completely different perspective, Robin Robertson shows the flexibility a poet can bring to form and style.”</p>
Discussion points	<p>How is the past used to help us understand the present?</p> <p>What impact does the use of different writing styles have? How do you think it would be different if it were all written in prose?</p> <p>How do films play into the narrative?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Stewart O’Nan <i>West of Sunset</i>  Luis J. Rodriguez <i>The Concrete River</i>  Philip Roth <i>American Pastoral</i></p>
Useful links	<p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/mar/24/long-take-robin-robertson-poetry-review">https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/mar/24/long-take-robin-robertson-poetry-review</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/books/book-review-the-long-take-by-robin-robertson-1-4693340">https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/books/book-review-the-long-take-by-robin-robertson-1-4693340</a></p> <p><a href="https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/dreams-from-bunker-hill-on-robin-robertsons-the-long-take">https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/dreams-from-bunker-hill-on-robin-robertsons-the-long-take</a></p>