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What Is the Best Work of American Fiction of the Last 25 Years?

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From left: Sara Krulwich/The New York Times; Derek Shapton/The Associated Press; Sara Krulwich/The New York Times; The Associated Press; Don Hogan Charles/The New York Times

"Beloved," by Toni Morrison, center, was chosen as the best American fiction of the last 25 years. Runners-up were, from left: Philip Roth, Cormac McCarthy, John Updike and Don DeLillo.

By THE NEW YORK TIMES Published: May 21, 2006

Early this year, the Book Review's editor, Sam Tanenhaus, sent out a short letter to a couple of hundred prominent writers, critics, editors and other literary sages, asking them to please identify "the single best work of American fiction published in the last 25 years." [Read A. O. Scott's essay. See a list of the judges.] Following are the results.

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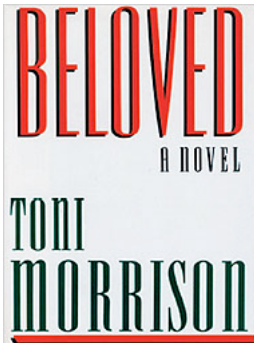
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