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HUNTSVILLE LIBRARY FOUNDATION PRESENTS AMOR TOWLES AT VIVE LE LIVRE
Author of 'A Gentleman in Moscow' brings history to life at 31st annual fundraising gala

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (June 1, 2017) – Amor Towles' highly anticipated second novel, 'A Gentleman in Moscow,' draws an unforgettable historical portrait of a Russian aristocrat who is sentenced to house arrest inside the luxurious Hotel Metropol for 30 years during the first half of the 20th century. Towles is also the author of the breakout hit debut novel, 'Rules of Civility.' The Huntsville Library Foundation (HLF) proudly announces that Towles will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker at HLF's 31st annual Vive le Livre gala on Wednesday, September 27. Mrs. Linda Aikenhead and Mrs. Marcie Wingo are co-chairpersons for the event.

"We couldn't be more excited," said HLF Chair Betsy Estopinal. "Vive le Livre is an event we look forward to every year that supports programs and initiatives throughout the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library system, and we are excited to celebrate this achievement by bringing an amazing author like Mr. Towles to our fantastic community of library supporters."

Winning the hearts of critics and readers alike, Towles' debut novel, *Rules of Civility*, was one of 2011's biggest breakout literary bestsellers. In *Rules*, Towles marvelously evoked touchstones like F. Scott Fitzgerald and Edith Wharton, bringing late 1930s Manhattan to life with splendid atmosphere and a flawless command of style. In *A Gentleman in Moscow*, a novel about a 30-year-old Russian aristocrat who is sentenced to house arrest inside the luxurious and world-famous Hotel Metropol, Towles further establishes his reputation as one of contemporary literature's most exciting and singular writers.

"House arrest has never been so charming as in Towles's second novel, an engaging 30-year saga set almost entirely inside the Metropol, Moscow's most luxurious hotel . . . (It is) episodic, empathetic, and entertaining," said a review from 'Publishers Weekly.'

Vive le Livre will be held at the Jackson Center, 6001 Moquin Drive, in Cummings Research Park. The evening will begin with an author reception at 6 p.m. followed by a seated dinner at 7 and the speaker at 8. Tickets start at \$125 per person, and all proceeds benefit the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit HuntsvilleLibraryFoundation.org. Reservations are required by Sept. 15.

The Foundation's annual Vive le Livre ("Long live the book") gala has featured such literary celebrities as Erik Larson, Dave Barry, Garrison Keillor, Ann Patchett, Rick Bragg, Joshilyn Jackson, and Winston Groom. Amor Towles joins them in the long list of acclaimed authors to come to Huntsville in support of the Library.

Born and raised in the Boston area, Amor Towles graduated from Yale College and received an MA in English from Stanford University. He writes full-time and lives with his wife and two children in Manhattan. You can read more about Amor Towles at amortowles.com.

About the Huntsville Library Foundation

Founded in 1986, the Huntsville Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to advocate for the library and to acquire resources that enhance the value to the community. This team of dedicated individuals works year-round to raise funds for the 13 branches of HMCPL to better serve Madison County. The Foundation believes that a city cannot be great without a great library. For more information about the Foundation, please visit HuntsvilleLibraryFoundation.org.

About Huntsville-Madison County Public Library

This is the public's library. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit 13-branch system that serves all of Madison County, Ala. For nearly 200 years, the library has been dedicated to enriching the educational, recreational and cultural lives of communities in Madison County through materials, information and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning. In addition to the collection of over 500,000 items, HMCPL also provides outreach services, a BookMobile and Book Bike, online services, training, an extensive digital collection, public-use computers, free Wi-fi, meeting spaces and much more. For more information about HMCPL and its services, please visit www.hmcpl.org.

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