

Press Release

For immediate release, 10 March 2022



The 2022 International Booker Prize longlist announced

[International Booker Prize](#) | @TheBookerPrizes
#2022InternationalBooker #FinestFiction

- The 13 longlisted works are translated from 11 languages and originate from 12 countries across four continents - including Hindi for the first time
- Longlist is dominated by independent presses with a mission for bringing the world's fiction to English-speaking readers
- The list includes previous winners Olga Tokarczuk, Jennifer Croft, David Grossman and Jessica Cohen, alongside authors translated into English for the first time
- Tilted Axis, the publisher founded by Man Booker International Prize winner Deborah Smith, appears on the list for the first time with three titles

Today, 10 March, the judges of the 2022 International Booker Prize reveal the 13 novels longlisted for the prestigious award which celebrates the finest translated fiction from around the world.

Complementing The Booker Prize for Fiction, the prize is awarded every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland. It aims to encourage more publishing and reading of quality works of imagination from all over the world, and to give greater recognition to the role of translators. Novels and short story collections are eligible. The contribution of author and translator is given equal recognition, with the £50,000 prize split evenly between them. In addition, for the first time in 2022, the shortlisted authors and translators will each receive £2,500, increased from £1,000 in previous years - bringing the total value of the prize to £80,000.

This year the judges considered 135 books, with a record number of submissions received.

The full 2022 International Booker Prize longlist is:

Title	Author	Translator	Original language	Author residence	UK Publisher or Imprint
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<i>Cursed Bunny</i>	Bora Chung	Anton Hur	Korean	South Korean	Honford Star
<i>After The Sun</i>	Jonas Eika	Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg	Danish	Denmark	Lolli Editions
<i>A New Name: Septology VI-VII</i>	Jon Fosse	Damion Searls	Norwegian	Norway	Fitzcarraldo Editions
<i>More Than I Love My Life</i>	David Grossman	Jessica Cohen	Hebrew	Israel	Vintage, Jonathan Cape
<i>The Book of Mother</i>	Violaine Huisman	Leslie Camhi	French	France	Virago
<i>Heaven</i>	Mieko Kawakami	Samuel Bett and David Boyd	Japanese	Japan	Pan Macmillan, Picador
<i>Paradais</i>	Fernanda Melchor	Sophie Hughes	Spanish	Mexico	Fitzcarraldo Editions
<i>Love in the Big City</i>	Sang Young Park	Anton Hur	Korean	South Korea	Tilted Axis Press
<i>Happy Stories, Mostly</i>	Norman Erikson Pasaribu	Tiffany Tsao	Indonesian	Indonesia	Tilted Axis Press
<i>Elena Knows</i>	Claudia Piñeiro	Frances Riddle	Spanish	Argentina	Charco Press
<i>Phenotypes</i>	Paulo Scott	Daniel Hahn	Portuguese	Brazil	And Other Stories
<i>Tomb of Sand</i>	Geetanjali Shree	Daisy Rockwell	Hindi	India	Tilted Axis Press
<i>The Books of Jacob</i>	Olga Tokarczuk	Jennifer Croft	Polish	Poland	Fitzcarraldo Editions

The longlist was selected by the 2022 judging panel, which consists of: translator, **Frank**

Wynne (chair); author and academic **Merve Emre**; writer and lawyer **Petina Gappah**; writer, comedian and TV, radio and podcast presenter, **Viv Groskop**; and translator and author **Jeremy Tiang**. This is the first time a translator has chaired the panel.

Frank Wynne says:

‘Borges famously believed that paradise would be “a kind of library”, and spending the past year in the company of some of the world’s great writers and their equally gifted translators has been a kind of heaven. From the intimate to the epic, the numinous to the profane, the books make up a passionately-debated longlist that trace a ring around the world. These 13 titles from 12 countries and 11 languages explore the breadth and depth of human experience, and are a testament to the power of language and literature.’

The shortlist for the prize will be announced on 7 April 2022 at The London Book Fair and the winner on 26 May 2022 at a ceremony at One Marylebone in London.

For further information on the 2022 International Booker Prize, please visit <http://www.thebookerprizes.com/IBP2022>

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Please find images for authors, translators and book jackets [here](#).

Notes to Editors

- The International Booker Prize is awarded annually for the best single work of fiction translated into English and published in the UK. It was known until 2019 as the Man Booker International Prize when sponsored by Man Group. The £50,000 prize is divided equally between the author and the translator. From 2022, each shortlisted author and translator receives £2,500. The announcement of the 2021 winner, *At Night All Blood Is Black*, written by David Diop and translated by Anna Moschovakis was met with both public and critical acclaim, with the book’s publisher, Pushkin Press, ordering a five-figure reprint the day after the winner announcement. The week following the winner announcement, sales of *At Night All Blood Is Black* saw a 477% sale increase on the week before. President Barack Obama, a keen follower of both of The Booker Prizes, listed *At Night All Blood Is Black* at the top of his summer reading list.
- The Booker Prize for Fiction was first awarded in 1969 and was called The Man Booker Prize for Fiction when sponsored by Man Group from 2002 - 2018. The winner receives £50,000. The 2021 winner was Damon Galgut with *The Promise*. The

morning after the announcement, the book was number one on Amazon's bestseller chart. Two weeks after the win, Chatto & Windus announced that it had reprinted 153,000 copies of *The Promise*, having sold 23,878 copies in hardback, 14,622 of which sold in the two weeks following the news, a 1,925% jump in volume compared with the two weeks before.

- The 2022 Booker Prize judging panel is chaired by cultural historian, writer and broadcaster Neil MacGregor, and consists of: academic and broadcaster Shahidha Bari; historian Helen Castor; novelist and critic M John Harrison; and novelist, poet and professor Alain Mabanckou.
- [Thebookerprizes.com](https://www.thebookerprizes.com), the home of the Booker Prizes past and present, was relaunched in 2021. It has a full history of the prize including previous winners, shortlisted authors and judges. It is a hub for year-round editorial content designed to engage readers with both prizes and to foster a lifelong love of reading.
- The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity (no 1090049) established in 2002. It is responsible for the award of The Booker Prize for Fiction and for The International Booker Prize. The trustees of the Booker Prize Foundation are: Mark Damazer (chair) - freelance journalist and former broadcast executive; Tony Damer (treasurer) - member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants; Nick Barley - director, Edinburgh International Book Festival; Carol Lake - President of the JPMorgan Chase Foundation; Ben Okri - poet and author; MT Rainey - strategist, agency founder and social entrepreneur; Professor Louise Richardson - vice chancellor of the University of Oxford; Nicki Sheard - chief marketing officer, BBC Studios; The Rt Hon. Lord David Willetts - writer, ex-minister and advocate of fairness between the generations.
- The Booker Prize Foundation Advisory Committee, which advises on any changes to the rules and on the selection of the judges, represents all aspects of the book world. Its members are: Nic Bottomley - co-founder, Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights; Jamie Byng - publisher, Canongate Books; James Daunt - managing director of Waterstones; Jonathan Douglas CBE - director of the National Literacy Trust; Adam Freudenheim - publisher, Pushkin Press; Daniel Hahn OBE - writer and translator; Sharmaine Lovegrove - publisher, Dialogue Books; Emma Paterson - agent, Aitken Alexander Associates; Fiammetta Rocco - senior editor and culture correspondent, *The Economist* and The International Booker Prize Administrator; Eve Smith - Secretary, Booker Prize Foundation; Boyd Tonkin - writer and critic; Helen Williams - Legal Counsel of Booker Group plc. It is chaired by Gaby Wood - Director, Booker Prize Foundation.
- Crankstart, a charitable foundation, is the exclusive funder of The Booker Prize and The International Booker Prize.
- The Director of the Booker Prize Foundation is Gaby Wood. The Administrator of The International Booker Prize is Fiammetta Rocco - senior editor and culture correspondent, *The Economist*.

- Four Culture handles PR, comms and event management for the prizes and provides all events and administrative back-up.
- Booker Group is the UK's leading food & drink wholesaler with branches nationwide and a delivery network. It serves over 400,000 catering customers and 100,000 independent retailers.
- The Booker Prize Foundation has a longstanding partnership with RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People). The Foundation funds the production of the Booker Prize shortlisted titles in braille, giant print and audio, which the RNIB produces by the date the winner is announced. It also funds the production of the winner of the International Booker Prize in these formats. The accessible versions are then made available to the tens of thousands of blind and partially sighted members of the RNIB Library. People with sight loss have a limited choice of books in accessible formats and often have to wait much longer than their sighted peers for titles to be made available to them - and there are many more books that they will never have the chance to read. The Foundation is working with RNIB to change this story. For further information contact the RNIB PR Team on 020 7391 2223 or pressoffice@rnib.org.uk
- The Booker Prize Foundation has partnered with the National Literacy Trust since 2012 to deliver Books Unlocked. The Foundation funds the programme, which has transformed the lives of prisoners and young offenders in the UK by helping them develop a love of reading. Prisoners are able to engage with high-quality writing as copies of Booker Prize and International Booker Prize shortlisted titles are sent out to prison reading groups. These same titles are also serialised as audiobooks on National Prison Radio, which is broadcast into c.80,000 cells, enabling still more prisoners to experience these exceptional stories. Authors go into prisons to discuss their writing directly with reading groups and many also record interviews on National Prison Radio. The shared vision for Books Unlocked is to bring about positive change in prisoners' life chances. Since 1993, the National Literacy Trust has led the campaign to transform the future of the UK's most disadvantaged young people by improving their literacy levels: literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/books-unlocked/
- The Booker Prize Archive was given on loan in 2003 to Oxford Brookes University, where it now resides.

2022 International Booker Prize longlist: Book synopses and biographies

Cursed Bunny

By Bora Chung

Translated by Anton Hur from Korean

Published by Honford Star

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/cursed-bunny>

Publisher's synopsis:

Cursed Bunny is a genre-defying collection of short stories by the Korean author Bora Chung. Blurring the lines between magical realism, horror and science fiction, Chung uses elements of the fantastic and surreal to address the very real horrors and cruelties of patriarchy and capitalism in modern society. Anton Hur's translation skilfully captures the way Chung's prose effortlessly glides from being terrifying to wryly humorous. Winner of a PEN/Haim Grant.

The judges said:

'While the stories in *Cursed Bunny* by Bora Chung blend elements of horror, fantasy and the surreal, each is viscerally rooted in the real fears and pressures of everyday life. Chung's richly imaginative collection is translated with verve and evident relish by Anton Hur, who shifts effortlessly from playful to harrowing.'

About the author:

Bora Chung was born in Seoul in 1976. She has written three novels and three collections of short stories. She has an MA in Russian and East European area studies from Yale University and a PhD in Slavic literature from Indiana University. She currently teaches Russian language and literature and science fiction studies at Yonsei University and translates modern literary works from Russian and Polish into Korean.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/bora-chung>

About the translator:

Anton Hur was born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1981. He has translated Man Asia Literary Prize-winner Kyung-Sook Shin's *The Court Dancer* and *Violets*, International Booker Prize-longlisted Hwang Sok-yong's *The Prisoner*, and others. He won a PEN/Heim grant for his translation of Bora Chung's *Cursed Bunny*. He lives in Seoul.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/anton-hur>

After The Sun

By Jonas Eika

Translated by Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg from Danish

Published by Lolli Editions

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/after-the-sun>

Publisher's synopsis:

Under Cancún's hard blue sky, a beach boy provides a canvas for tourists' desires, seeing deep into the world's underbelly. An enigmatic encounter in Copenhagen takes an IT

consultant down a rabbit hole of speculation that proves more seductive than sex. The collapse of a love triangle in London leads to a dangerous, hypnotic addiction. In the Nevada desert, a grieving man tries to merge with an unearthly machine.

After the Sun opens portals to our newest realities, haunting the margins of a globalised world that's both saturated with yearning and brutally transactional. Infused with an irrepressible urgency, Eika's fiction seems to have conjured these far-flung characters and their encounters in a single breath. Juxtaposing startling beauty with grotesquery, balancing the hyperrealistic with the fantastical, he has invented new modes of storytelling for an era when the old ones no longer suffice.

The judges said:

'Jonas Eika's darkly surreal *After the Sun* explores class, capitalism, power and sexuality with an intimacy and eroticism that is as unsettling as it is thrilling. Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg captures these lurid, luminous tales in a translation that dazzles and sears.'

About the author:

Jonas Eika (b. 1991, Aarhus) is one of Denmark's most exciting writers. His debut novel, *Marie House Warehouse*, was awarded the Bodil & Jørgen Munch-Christensen Prize for emerging Danish writers in 2016. *After the Sun* was awarded the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2019, as well as the Michael Strunge Prize, the Montana Prize for Fiction, and the Blixen Literary Award. He lives in Copenhagen.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/jonas-eika>

About the translator:

Sherilyn Nicolette Hellberg was born in West Islip, New York in 1991. She has published translations of Johanne Bille, Tove Ditlevsen, and Ida Marie Hede. In 2018, she received an American-Scandinavian Foundation Award for her translation of Caspar Eric's *Nike*. She lives in Copenhagen.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/sherilyn-hellberg>

A New Name: Septology VI-VII

By Jon Fosse

Translated by Damion Searls from Norwegian

Published by Fitzcarraldo Editions

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/a-new-name-septology-vi-vii>

Publisher's synopsis:

Asle is an ageing painter and widower who lives alone on the southwest coast of Norway. His only friends are his neighbour, Åsleik, a traditional fisherman-farmer, and Beyer, a gallerist who lives in the city. There, in Bjørgvin, lives another Asle, also a painter but

lonely and consumed by alcohol. Asle and Asle are doppelgängers - two versions of the same person, two versions of the same life, both grappling with existential questions.

In this final instalment of Jon Fosse's *Septology*, the major prose work by 'the Beckett of the twenty-first century' (*Le Monde*), Christmas is approaching. Tradition has it that Åsleik and Asle eat lutefisk together, but this year Asle has agreed for the first time to celebrate Christmas with Åsleik and his sister, Guro. On Christmas Eve, Åsleik, Asle, and the dog Bragi take Åsleik's boat out on the Sygnefjord. Meanwhile, we follow the lives of the two Asles as younger adults in flashbacks: the narrator meets his lifelong love, Ales; joins the Catholic Church; starts exhibiting with Beyer; and can make a living by trying to paint away all the pictures stuck in his mind. After a while, Asle and Ales leave the city and move to the house in Dylgja. The other Asle gets married too, but his wedding ends with a sobbing bride and is followed soon after by a painful breakup.

Written in melodious and hypnotic 'slow prose', *A New Name: Septology VI-VII* is a transcendent exploration of the human condition by Jon Fosse, and a radically other reading experience - incantatory, hypnotic, and utterly unique.

The judges said:

'*A New Name*, the final movement in Jon Fosse's monumental *Septology*, draws together art, death, and the idea of God with a vast, gentle grace. Damion Searls' translation unfurls Fosse's slow sentence with immense precision and beauty.'

About the author:

Jon Fosse was born in 1959 on the west coast of Norway and has written over 30 books and 28 plays that have been translated into over 40 languages. His first novel, *Red, Black*, was published in 1983, and was followed by such works as *Melancholia I & II*, *Aliss at the Fire*, and *Morning and Evening*. He is one of the world's most produced living playwrights. In 2007, Fosse became a chevalier of the Ordre national du Mérite of France, and he was awarded the International Ibsen Award in 2010. In 2011, he moved into Grotten, an honorary residence for artists on the grounds of the Royal Palace in Oslo. He was awarded the European Prize for Literature in 2014 and the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2015. *The Other Name: Septology I-II* was longlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2020. Fosse currently has homes in Bergen, Oslo, and in Hainburg, Austria.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/jon-fosse>

About the translator:

Damion Searls was born in New York City in 1971 and lives in Minneapolis. He is a translator from German, French, Norwegian and Dutch, and a writer in English. He was longlisted for the 2020 International Booker Prize with Jon Fosse, for *The Other Name: Septology I-II*; he has received Guggenheim, Cullman Center, and two NEA fellowships, and the Schlegel-Tieck Translation Prize for Hans Keilson's *Comedy in a Minor Key*, the PEN Center USA Translation Award for Jon Fosse's *Aliss at the Fire*, and the Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize for Uwe Johnson's four-volume *Anniversaries*, among other awards. He has also edited a one-volume abridgement of Henry David Thoreau's *Journal*; his own books include *What We Were Doing* and *Where We Were Going* (stories), *The Inkblots* (a history

of the Rorschach Test and biography of its creator, Hermann Rorschach, which has been translated into 10 languages), and *The Philosophy of Translation*.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/damion-searls>

More Than I Love My Life

By David Grossman

Translated by Jessica Cohen from Hebrew

Published by Vintage, Jonathan Cape

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/more-than-i-love-my-life>

Publisher's synopsis:

On a kibbutz in Israel in 2008, Gili is celebrating the 90th birthday of her grandmother Vera, the adored matriarch of a sprawling and tight-knit family. But festivities are interrupted by the arrival of Nina, the iron-willed daughter who rejected Vera's care and the absent mother who abandoned Gili when she was still a baby.

Nina's return to the family after years of silence precipitates an epic journey from Israel to the desolate island of Goli Otok, formerly part of Yugoslavia. It was here, five decades earlier, that Vera was held and tortured as a political prisoner. And it is here that the three women will finally come to terms with the terrible moral dilemma that Vera faced, and that permanently altered the course of their lives.

More Than I Love My Life is a sweeping story about the power of love and loving with courage. A novel driven by faith in humanity even in our darkest moments, it asks us to confront our deepest held beliefs about a woman's duty to herself and to her children.

The judges said:

'David Grossman's *More Than I Love My Life* is a tender and immersive multigenerational family novel about the rewards, punishments and dysfunctions of love; about remembering, healing and belonging. In Jessica Cohen's translation, the singular voice of its narrator is conjured with admirable restraint and emotion.'

About the author:

David Grossman was born in Jerusalem in 1954. He is the bestselling author of numerous works, which have been translated into 36 languages. His most recent novel, *A Horse Walks into a Bar*, was awarded the International Man Booker Prize 2017, and shortlisted for the TLS-Risa Domb/Porjes Prize 2019. Grossman is also the recipient of the French Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres and the 2010 Frankfurt Peace Prize.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/david-grossman>

About the translator:

Jessica Cohen is a freelance translator born in England (1975), raised in Israel, and living in Denver. She translates contemporary Israeli prose, poetry, and other creative work. Her translations include David Grossman's critically acclaimed *To The End of the Land* and the International Man Booker Prize 2017 winner, *A Horse Walks into a Bar*. She has translated works by major Israeli writers including Etgar Keret, Rutu Modan, Dorit Rabinyan, Ronit Matalon, Amir Gutfreund, and Tom Segev, as well as Golden Globe-winning director Ari Folman. She is a past board member of the American Literary Translators Association and has served as a judge for the National Translation Award.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/david-grossman>

The Book of Mother

By **Violaine Huisman**

Translated by **Leslie Camhi** from French

Published by **Virago**

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/the-book-of-mother>

Publisher's synopsis:

With spectacular ferocity of language, a streak of dark humour and stunning emotional bravery, *The Book of Mother* is an exquisitely wrought story of a mother's dizzying heights and devastating lows, and a daughter who must hold her memory close in order to let go.

A prize-winning tour de force when it came out in France, Violaine Huisman's remarkable debut novel is about a daughter's inextinguishable love for her magnetic, mercurial mother. Beautiful and charismatic, Catherine, aka 'Maman', smokes too much, drives too fast, laughs too hard and loves too extravagantly. During a joyful and chaotic childhood in Paris, her daughter Violaine wouldn't have it any other way. But when Maman is hospitalised after a third divorce and breakdown, everything changes. Even as Violaine and her sister long for their mother's return, once she's back Maman's violent mood swings and flagrant disregard for personal boundaries soon turn their home into an emotional landmine. As the story of Catherine's own traumatic childhood and coming of age unfolds, the pieces come together to form an indelible portrait of a mother as irresistible as she is impossible, as triumphant as she is transgressive.

The judges said:

'Violaine Huisman's *The Book of Mother* brings alive the high-drama world of Violaine and her mother, Catherine. This stark, no-holds-barred depiction of a mother-daughter relationship feels incredibly immediate, a beautiful, bold novel translated with a deceptively elegant simplicity by Leslie Camhi.'

About the author:

Violaine Huisman was born in Paris in 1979 and has lived and worked in New York for 20 years, where she ran the Brooklyn Academy of Music's literary series and also organized multidisciplinary arts festivals across the city. Originally published by Gallimard under the title *Fugitive parce que reine*, her debut novel *The Book of Mother* was awarded multiple literary prizes including the Prix Françoise Sagan and the Prix Marie Claire.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/violaine-huisman>

About the translator:

Leslie Camhi is a New York-based essayist and cultural journalist who writes for the *New York Times*, *Vogue* and other publications. She is a frequent contributor to artists' monographs and museum catalogues. *The Book of Mother* is her first book-length translation.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/leslie-camhi>

Heaven

By Mieko Kawakami

Translated by Samuel Bett and David Boyd from Japanese

Published by Pan Macmillan, Picador

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/heaven>

Publisher's synopsis:

Told through the eyes of a 14-year-old boy subjected to relentless bullying, this is a haunting novel of the threat of violence that can stalk our teenage years.

Instead of putting up resistance, the boy suffers in complete resignation. His sole ally is a girl classmate similarly outcast and similarly preyed upon by the bullies of the school. They meet in secret in the hopes of avoiding any further attention and take solace in each other's company, completely unaware that their relationship has not gone unnoticed by their tormentors . . .

Heaven, Mieko Kawakami's deceptively simple yet profound work, stands as a testament to her remarkable literary talent. Here she asks us to question the fate of the meek in a society that favours the strong, and the lengths that even children will go in their learned cruelty.

The judges said:

'An intense, claustrophobic novel, *Heaven* uses its tale of middle-school bullying to enact Nietzsche's critique of morality. The power of Sam Bett and David Boyd's translation lies in its ability to communicate both Mieko Kawakami's abstract, philosophical ideas and her harrowing human drama.'

About the author:

Mieko Kawakami was born in Osaka in 1976. She is the author of the internationally bestselling novel, *Breasts and Eggs*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year and one of *TIME*'s Best 10 Books of 2020. Born in Osaka, Kawakami made her literary debut as a poet in 2006, and published her first novella, *My Ego, My Teeth, and the World*, in 2007. Her writing is known for its poetic qualities and its insights into the female body, ethical questions, and the dilemmas of modern society. Her works have been translated into many languages and are available all over the world. She has received numerous prestigious literary awards in Japan for her work, including the Akutagawa Prize, the Tanizaki Prize, and the Murasaki Shikibu Prize. She lives in Tokyo, Japan.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/mieko-kawakami>

About the translators:

Sam Bett is a writer and Japanese translator. Awarded Grand Prize in the 2016 JLPP International Translation Competition, he won the 2019/2020 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for his translation of *Star* by Yukio Mishima (New Directions, 2019). Sam has translated fiction by Yoko Ogawa, NISIOISIN and Keigo Higashino as well as essays by Banana Yoshimoto, Haruomi Hosono and Toshiyuki Horie. He is a founder and host of Us&Them, a quarterly Brooklyn-based reading series showcasing the work of writers who translate. With David Boyd, he is co-translating the novels of Mieko Kawakami for Europa Editions. He lives in Portland, Maine.

For further information, please visit: <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/samuel-bett>

David Boyd is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has translated novels and stories by Hiroko Oyamada, Masatsugu Ono and Toh EnJoe, among others. His translation of Hideo Furukawa's *Slow Boat* (Pushkin Press, 2017) won the 2017/2018 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission (JUSFC) Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. With Sam Bett, he is co-translating the novels of Mieko Kawakami for Europa Editions.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/david-boyd>

Paradais

By Fernanda Melchor

Translated by Sophie Elizabeth Hughes from Spanish

Published by Fitzcarraldo Editions

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/paradais>

Publisher's synopsis:

Inside a luxury housing complex, two misfit teenagers sneak around and get drunk. Franco Andrade, lonely, overweight, and addicted to porn, obsessively fantasizes about seducing

his neighbour - an attractive married woman and mother - while Polo dreams about quitting his gruelling job as a gardener within the gated community and fleeing his overbearing mother and their narco-controlled village. Each facing the impossibility of getting what he thinks he deserves, Franco and Polo hatch a mindless and macabre scheme. Written in a chilling torrent of prose by one of our most thrilling new writers, *Paradais* explores the explosive fragility of Mexican society - with its racist, classist, hyperviolent tendencies - and how the myths, desires, and hardships of teenagers can tear life apart at the seams.

The judges said:

‘In *Paradais* Fernanda Melchor draws us into the brutish, profane world of two unlikely, hapless teenagers, Polo and Franco, in the gated community where they plot a crime that can only go horribly wrong. Sophie Hughes’ endlessly inventive translation breathtakingly captures the book’s caustic humour and exhilarating pace.’

About the author:

Born in Veracruz, Mexico, in 1982, Fernanda Melchor is widely recognised as one of the most exciting new voices of Mexican literature. In 2018, she won the PEN Mexico Award for Literary and Journalistic Excellence and in 2019 the German Anna-Seghers-Preis and the International Literature Award for *Hurricane Season*. In 2020 she was shortlisted, along with Sophie Hughes, for the International Booker Prize.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/fernanda-melchor>

About the translator:

Sophie Hughes was born in Chertsey, UK, in 1971 and lives in Trieste, Italy. She has translated novels by several contemporary Latin American and Spanish authors, including Laia Jufresa, Rodrigo Hasbún and Alia Trabucco Zerán. She was shortlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2019 and 2020, the latter with Fernanda Melchor for *Hurricane Season*.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/sophie-hughes>

Love in the Big City

By Sang Young Park

Translated by Anton Hur from Korean

Published by Tilted Axis Press

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/love-in-the-big-city>

Publisher's synopsis:

Love in the Big City is an energetic, joyful, and moving novel that depicts both the glittering nighttime world of Seoul and the bleary-eyed morning-after.

Young is a cynical yet fun-loving Korean student who pinballs from home to class to the beds of recent Tinder matches. He and Jaehee, his female best friend and roommate, frequent nearby bars where they suppress their anxieties about their love lives, families, and money with rounds of soju and freezer-chilled Marlboro Reds. Yet in time even Jaehee settles down, leaving Young alone to care for his ailing mother and find companionship in his relationships with a series of men, including one whose handsomeness is matched by his coldness, and another who might end up being the great love of his life.

The judges said:

‘*Love in the Big City* is disarmingly confessional but never sentimental, even while sifting through the desolation of human existence. Sang Young Park’s lost souls make their way through an uncaring world, seeking and briefly finding, moments of redemption. Anton Hur’s brilliantly idiomatic translation conveys a vibrant sense of place.’

About the author:

Sang Young Park was born in 1988 and studied French at Sungkyunkwan University. He worked as a magazine editor, copywriter, and consultant before debuting as a novelist. The title story of his bestselling short story collection, *The Tears of an Unknown Artist, or Zaytun Pasta*, was one of Words Without Borders’ most read pieces ever. He lives in Seoul.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/sang-young-park>

About the translator:

Anton Hur was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1981. He has translated Man Asia Literary Prize-winner Kyung-Sook Shin’s *The Court Dancer* and *Violets*, International Booker Prize-longlisted Hwang Sok-yong’s *The Prisoner*, and others. He won a PEN/Heim grant for his translation of Bora Chung’s *Cursed Bunny*. He lives in Seoul.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/anton-hur>

Happy Stories, Mostly

By Norman Erikson Pasaribu

Translated by Tiffany Tsao from Indonesian

Published by Tilted Axis Press

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/happy-stories-mostly>

Publisher’s synopsis:

Inspired by Simone Weil’s concept of ‘decreation’, and drawing on Batak and Christian cultural elements, the stories put queer characters in situations and plots conventionally filled by hetero characters.

In one story, a new staff member is introduced to their new workplace—a department of

Heaven devoted to archiving unanswered prayers. In another, a woman's attempt to vacation in Vietnam after her gay son commits suicide turns into a nightmarish failed escape. And in a speculative-historical third, a young man finds himself haunted by the tale of a giant living in colonial-era Sumatra.

A blend of science fiction, absurdism, and alternative-historical realism, *Happy Stories, Mostly* is a powerful puff of fresh air, aimed at destabilizing the heteronormative world and exposing its underlying rot.

The judges said:

'The bittersweet stories of Norman Erikson Pasaribu's *Happy Stories, Mostly* - in a translation by Tiffany Tsao that shimmers and soars - range from the heart-wrenching to the absurd, creating a vibrant mosaic of contemporary Indonesia.'

About the author:

Norman Pasaribu was born in Jakarta in 1990. His debut poetry collection *Sergius Mencari Bacchus* (translated by Tiffany Tsao as *Sergius Seeks Bacchus*) won first prize in the 2015 Jakarta Arts Council Poetry Manuscript Competition, and was shortlisted in the 2016 Khatulistiwa Literary Award for Poetry.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/norman-erikson-pasaribu>

About the translator:

Tiffany Tsao was born in San Diego, US, in 1983. She translates Indonesian fiction and poetry into English. She has published three book-length translations to date. Her translation of Norman Erikson Pasaribu's *Sergius Seeks Bacchus* was awarded a PEN Translates grant and shortlisted for the 2021 NSW Premier's Translation Prize. She also writes fiction. Her third novel *The Majesties* was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award. She holds a Ph.D. in English from UC-Berkeley and currently lives in Australia.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/tiffany-tsao>

Elena Knows

By Claudia Piñeiro

Translated by Frances Riddle from Spanish

Published by Charco Press

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/elena-knows>

Publisher's synopsis:

From the 'Hitchcock of the River Plate' (*Corriere della Sera*) comes *Elena Knows*, a unique story that interweaves crime fiction with intimate tales of morality and search for individual freedom.

After Rita is found dead in the bell tower of the church she used to attend, the official investigation into the incident is quickly closed. Her sickly mother is the only person still determined to find the culprit. Chronicling a difficult journey across the suburbs of the city, an old debt and a revealing conversation, *Elena Knows* unravels the secrets of its characters and the hidden facets of authoritarianism and hypocrisy in our society.

The judges said:

'*Elena Knows*, Claudia Piñeiro's short and deeply felt novel, evokes the loneliness of ageing and the uncertainty of memory. Frances Riddle's brutal yet sparing translation suggests the shadows and light of noir without ever eclipsing the very human tragedy at the core of the book.'

About the author:

As an author and scriptwriter for television, Claudia Piñeiro (Argentina, 1960) has already won numerous national and international prizes, among them the renowned German LiBeraturpreis for *Elena Knows* and the prestigious Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize for *Las grietas de Jara* (A crack in the wall). She is best known for her crime novels which are bestsellers in Argentina, the rest of Latin American and around the world. Many of her novels have been adapted for the big screen. Claudia Piñeiro is the third most translated Argentinean author, after Jorge Luis Borges and Julio Cortázar. More recently, Piñeiro has become a very active figure in the fight for the legalisation of abortion in Argentina and for the legal recognition of writers as workers. Her fiction (as with *Elena sabe*) is stemmed in the detective novel but has recently turned increasingly political. She's been called 'the Hitchcock of the River Plate'.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/claudia-pineiro>

About the translator:

Frances Riddle was born in Raleigh, US and lives in Buenos Aires, where she works as a translator, writer, and editor. She holds an MA in translation studies from the University of Buenos Aires and a BA in Spanish literature. Her book-length publications include *A Simple Story* by Leila Guerriero (New Directions, 2017); *Bodies of Summer* by Martín Felipe Castagnet (Dalkey Archive Press, 2017); and *The Life and Deaths of Ethel Jurado* (Hisfabooks, 2017). This is her fourth title for Charco Press after *Slum Virgin* by Gabriela Cabezón Cámara (2017), *The German Room* by Carla Maliandi (2018) and *Theatre of War* by Andrea Jeftanovic (2020).

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/frances-riddle>

Phenotypes

By Paulo Scott

Translated by Daniel Hahn from Portuguese

Published by And Other Stories

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker->

Publisher's synopsis:

A smart and stylish account of the bigotry lurking in hearts and institutions alike.

Federico and Lourenço are brothers. Their father is black, a famed forensic pathologist for the police; their mother is white. Federico - distant, angry, analytical - has light skin, which means he's always been able to avoid the worst of the racism that Brazilian culture has to offer. He can 'pass' as white, and yet, because of this, he has devoted his life to racial justice. Lourenço, on the other hand, is dark-skinned, easy-going, and well-liked in the brothers' hometown of Porto Alegre - and has become a father himself.

As Federico's 50th birthday looms, he joins a governmental committee in the capital. It is tasked with quelling the increasingly violent student protests rocking Brazil by overseeing the design of a software program that will adjudicate the degree to which each university applicant is sufficiently black to warrant admittance under new affirmative-action quotas. Before he can come to grips with his feelings about this initiative, not to mention a budding romance with one of his committee colleagues, Federico is called home: his niece has just been arrested at a protest carrying a concealed gun. And not just any gun. A stolen police service revolver that Federico and Lourenço hid for a friend decades before. A gun used in a killing.

Paulo Scott here probes the old wounds of race in Brazil, and in particular the loss of a black identity independent from the history of slavery. Exploratory rather than didactic, a story of crime, street-life and regret as much as a satirical novel of ideas, *Phenotypes* is a seething masterpiece of rage and reconciliation.

The judges said:

'A remarkably open and honest study of race, Paulo Scott's *Phenotypes* grapples with contentious issues we may not yet have the language to discuss, which makes it all the more urgent. Daniel Hahn's masterful translation engages with the text with humility and perceptiveness.'

About the author:

Paulo Scott was born in 1966 in Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil, and grew up in a working-class neighbourhood. At university, Scott was an active member of the student political movement and was also involved in Brazil's re-democratisation process.

For ten years he taught law at university in Porto Alegre. He has now published four books of fiction and four of poetry. He also translates from English. He moved to Rio de Janeiro in 2008 to focus on writing full-time.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/node/3968>

About the translator:

Daniel Hahn is a writer, editor and translator with some 60-something books to his name. His work has won him the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, the Blue Peter Book Award and the International Dublin Literary Award, and he has been shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize, among others. He was born in London in 1973 and lives in

Lewes, UK.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/daniel-hahn>

Tomb of Sand

By Geetanjali Shree

Translated by Daisy Rockwell from Hindi

Published by Titled Axis Press

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/tomb-of-sand>

Publisher's synopsis:

In northern India, an 80-year-old woman slips into a deep depression at the death of her husband, then resurfaces to gain a new lease on life. Her determination to fly in the face of convention -including striking up a friendship with a hijra person - confuses her bohemian daughter, who is used to thinking of herself as the more 'modern' of the two.

To her family's consternation, Ma insists on travelling to Pakistan, simultaneously confronting the unresolved trauma of her teenage experiences of Partition, and re-evaluating what it means to be a mother, a daughter, a woman, a feminist.

Rather than respond to tragedy with seriousness, Geetanjali Shree's playful tone and exuberant wordplay results in a book that is engaging, funny, and utterly original, at the same time as being an urgent and timely protest against the destructive impact of borders and boundaries, whether between religions, countries, or genders.

The judges said:

'The constantly shifting perspectives and timeframes of Geetanjali Shree's inventive, energetic *Tomb of Sand* lead us into every cranny of an 80-year-old woman's life and surprising past. Daisy Rockwell's spirited translation rises admirably to the complexity of the text, which is full of word play and verve. A loud and irresistible novel.'

About the author:

Author of three novels and several story collections, Geetanjali Shree's work has been translated into English, French, German, Serbian, and Korean. She was born in Mainpuri, India, in 1957. This is the first of her books to be published in the UK. She has received and been shortlisted for a number of awards and fellowships, and lives in New Delhi.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/geetanjali-shree>

About the translator:

Daisy Rockwell is a painter, writer and translator living in Vermont, US. She was born in 1969 in Massachusetts. She has translated a number of classic works of Hindi and Urdu literature, including Upendranath Ashk's *Falling Walls*, Bhisham Sahni's *Tamas*, and Khadija Mastur's *The Women's Courtyard*. Her 2019 translation of Krishna Sobti's *A Gujarat Here, a*

Gujarat There was awarded the Modern Language Association's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Translation Prize.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/daisy-rockwell>

The Books of Jacob

By Olga Tokarczuk

Translated by Jennifer Croft from Polish

Published by Fitzcarraldo Editions

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/books/the-books-of-jacob>

Publisher's synopsis:

In the mid-18th century, as new ideas begin to sweep the continent, a young Jew of mysterious origins arrives in a village in Poland. Before long, he has changed not only his name but his persona; visited by what seem to be ecstatic experiences, Jacob Frank casts a charismatic spell that attracts an increasingly fervent following. In the decade to come, Frank will traverse the Hapsburg and Ottoman empires, throngs of disciples in his thrall as he reinvents himself again and again, converts to Islam and then Catholicism, is pilloried as a heretic and revered as the Messiah, and wreaks havoc on the conventional order, Jewish and Christian alike, with scandalous rumours of his sect's secret rituals and the spread of his increasingly iconoclastic beliefs. In *The Books of Jacob*, her masterpiece, 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature laureate Olga Tokarczuk writes the story of Frank through the perspectives of his contemporaries, capturing Enlightenment Europe on the cusp of precipitous change, searching for certainty and longing for transcendence.

The judges said:

'Olga Tokarczuk's *The Books of Jacob* weaves an epic tapestry from the bizarre, mundane, and utterly unpredictable sweep of history as it is created moment by moment, crammed with a staggering cast of characters, places and historical events. Jennifer Croft's lithe, elegant translation nimbly conveys the novel's delicate irony and its ethereal beauty.'

About the author:

Olga Tokarczuk is the author of nine novels, three short story collections and has been translated into 30 languages. Her novel *Flights* won the 2018 International Booker Prize, in Jennifer Croft's translation. In 2019, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. She was born in Sulechów, Poland in 1962 and lives in Wrocław.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/olga-tokarczuk>

About the translator:

Jennifer Croft is the recipient of Fulbright, PEN, and National Endowment for the Arts grants, as well as the Michael Henry Heim Prize, and her translations from Polish, Spanish, and Ukrainian have appeared in the *New York Times*, *n+1*, *Electric Literature*, *The New Republic*, *BOMB*, *Guernica*, and elsewhere. She holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University

and an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa. She is a founding editor of *The Buenos Aires Review*. In 2018 she won the International Booker Prize for her translation of *Flights* by Olga Tokarczuk. She was born in Stillwater, US in 1981 and lives in Los Angeles.

For further information, please visit <https://thebookerprizes.com/the-booker-library/authors/jennifer-croft>

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