



PRESS RELEASE

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# The Booker Prize 2022

## ‘Stimulating and Surprising’ Longlist Announced

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*Longlisted book synopses, author biographies, author images, jacket images and social media graphics are available to download [here](#)*

The longlist for the Booker Prize 2022 - the leading literary award in the English speaking world - is announced today, Tuesday 26 July 2022.

- Features youngest and oldest author ever to be longlisted: 20-year-old Leila Mottley and octogenarian Alan Garner, who will celebrate his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on the night of the winner ceremony
- At 116 pages, Claire Keegan’s *Small Things Like These* is the shortest book recognised in the prize’s history - the shortest to win was *Offshore* by Penelope Fitzgerald (1979) at 132 pages
- Three debut novelists make the list: Maddie Mortimer, Leila Mottley and Selby Wynn Schwartz
- Previously shortlisted authors NoViolet Bulawayo, Karen Joy Fowler and Graeme Macrae Burnet, and previously longlisted Elizabeth Strout are recognised
- Majority published by independent publishers, including first time appearances from Influx Press and Sort of Books
- “The list offers story, fable and parable, fantasy, mystery, meditation and thriller”, according to chair of judges, Neil MacGregor
- Find out more information at The Booker Prizes website, including [13 things readers need to know about the 2022 longlist](#)

The 13 books on this year’s longlist - the ‘Booker dozen’ - were chosen by the 2022 judging panel: cultural historian, writer and broadcaster [Neil MacGregor](#) (chair); academic and broadcaster [Shahidha Bari](#); historian [Helen Castor](#); novelist and critic [M John Harrison](#); and novelist, poet and professor [Alain Mabanckou](#).

Their selection was made from 169 novels published between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 and submitted to the prize by publishers. Coincidentally, this year’s longlist includes the first and

last book the judges read. The Booker Prize is open to works by writers of any nationality, written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.

The 2022 longlist, or 'The Booker Dozen', of 13 novels, is:

Author (Nationality)	Title (imprint)
<a href="#">NoViolet Bulawayo</a> (Zimbabwean)	<a href="#">Glory</a> (Chatto & Windus, Vintage, Penguin Random House)
<a href="#">Hernan Diaz</a> (American)	<a href="#">Trust</a> (Picador, Pan Macmillan)
<a href="#">Percival Everett</a> (American)	<a href="#">The Trees</a> (Influx Press)
<a href="#">Karen Joy Fowler</a> (American)	<a href="#">Booth</a> (Serpent's Tail, Profile Books)
<a href="#">Alan Garner</a> (British)	<a href="#">Treacle Walker</a> (4 <sup>th</sup> Estate, HarperCollins)
<a href="#">Shehan Karunatilaka</a> (Sri Lankan)	<a href="#">The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida</a> (Sort of Books)
<a href="#">Claire Keegan</a> (Irish)	<a href="#">Small Things Like These</a> (Faber)
<a href="#">Graeme Macrae Burnet</a> (British)	<a href="#">Case Study</a> (Saraband)
<a href="#">Audrey Magee</a> (Irish)	<a href="#">The Colony</a> (Faber)
<a href="#">Maddie Mortimer</a> (British)	<a href="#">Maps of our Spectacular Bodies</a> (Picador, Pan Macmillan)
<a href="#">Leila Mottley</a> (American)	<a href="#">Nightcrawling</a> (Bloomsbury Circus, Bloomsbury Publishing)
<a href="#">Selby Wynn Schwartz</a> (American)	<a href="#">After Sappho</a> (Galley Beggar Press)
<a href="#">Elizabeth Strout</a> (American)	<a href="#">Oh William!</a> (Viking, Penguin General, Penguin Random House)

Neil MacGregor, chair of the 2022 judges, says:

*'Over the last seven months or so, we have read and discussed 169 works of fiction, all written in English, by authors and about subjects from all over the globe. 169 journeys to worlds conjured and created by the wielding of words alone. The skill with which writers shape and sustain those variously imagined worlds, and allow others to inhabit them, has been our main criterion in proposing this longlist of 13 books. Exceptionally well written and carefully crafted, in whatever genre, they seem to us to exploit and expand what the language can do. The list that we have selected offers story, fable and parable, fantasy, mystery, meditation and thriller.'*

*'All 13 books, of course, reflect – and reflect on – the preoccupations of our planet over the last few years. Unsurprisingly, in the wake of the pandemic, they address how we imagine disease as a living enemy to be fought on a daily basis, questions of racial and gender injustice, and the fragility of the political order. But two larger, and no less topical, themes emerged, both strongly represented in the longlist.'*

*'The first is the extent to which individual lives are shaped and determined by long historical processes. If Tolstoy and Jane Austen can stand as opposite poles of the novel, then it seems that in*

2022, Tolstoy is in the ascendant. Whether in Sri Lanka or Ireland, the United States or Zimbabwe, long histories of conflict and injustice are major dynamics of plot. The second is the elusive nature of truth: not in the sense that we live in a post-truth world, but in demonstrating the persistence, energy and scepticism required to get as near as is possible to truth, and so to a proper understanding, whether of one particular person, or of a nation-destroying civil war. The extent to which we can trust the word, spoken or written, is in many of these books the real subject under examination.

*‘The task of whittling 169 down to 13 has been as enjoyable as it has been arduous. We, the five judges, bring such different approaches and experiences to our reading, that left to ourselves, we would probably have produced five very different lists. But we read these books as a group, disagreeing and discussing, comparing, reconsidering and re-reading, and together we reached a striking degree of consensus. These are thirteen books – challenging, stimulating, surprising, nourishing – that we recommend for close and enjoyable reading.’*

**Gaby Wood, Director of the Booker Prize Foundation, adds:**

*‘The 2022 Booker judges come from very different corners of the reading world, yet from the moment they met they have revelled in each other’s opinions and delighted in each other’s company.’*

*‘The result is a set of books that are sometimes serious but never sombre, whose authors engage you with their wit, even as you absorb their dramatic, painful or provocative subject matter. It’s in this playfulness, of form or tone, that this year’s fiction is at its best.’*

Four novelists have been recognised by the prize before: NoViolet Bulawayo (shortlisted in 2013 for her debut novel *We Need New Names*); Karen Joy Fowler (shortlisted in 2014 for *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*); Graeme Macrae Burnet, who was born in Kilmarnock in Scotland and now lives in Glasgow (shortlisted in 2016 for *His Bloody Project*); and Elizabeth Strout (longlisted in 2016 for *My Name Is Lucy Barton*).

The list features five men and eight women. Three of the women are debut novelists: 20-year-old Leila Mottley, a former Oakland youth poet laureate; Maddie Mortimer with *Maps of our Spectacular Bodies*, which just won The Desmond Elliot Prize (for a debut novel); and Selby Wynn Schwartz, who was named a 2020 Finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in LGBTQ Non-fiction. By contrast, Percival Everett has published more than 30 books and was awarded the Ivan Sandroff Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Book Critics Circle Awards 2021, and 87-year-old Alan Garner published his first book 62 years ago.

Eight of the longlisted books come from independently-owned publishers: Bloomsbury, Faber, Galley Beggar Press, Influx Press, Profile Books, Saraband and Sort of Books. Faber has won the prize seven times before - the second highest number of wins for any publisher, just behind PRH imprint Jonathan Cape which has won eight times.

**The shortlist and winner announcements**

The shortlist of six books will be announced on Tuesday 6 September at an evening event at the Serpentine Pavilion in London. The shortlisted authors each receive £2,500 and a specially [bound edition of their book](#).

On Saturday 15 October, just ahead of the winner announcement, the shortlisted authors will be appearing at *The Times* & *The Sunday Times* Cheltenham Literature Festival. The Booker Prize shortlist event will be chaired by director of the Booker Prize Foundation, Gaby Wood.

The 2022 winner will be announced on Monday 17 October in an award ceremony held at the Roundhouse and fully in person for the first time since 2019. The winner receives £50,000 and can expect international recognition and a dramatic increase in global book sales.

The 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction was won by Damon Galgut with *The Promise*. In the two weeks after it won the 2021 Booker Prize, Damon Galgut's *The Promise* sold 1,925% more copies in the UK than it had in the previous two weeks. According to *The Bookseller*, in the 12 weeks after his win, Galgut sold more copies of his books that he did in the previous 17 years since first being published in the UK. Rights to *The Promise* have been sold in 35 territories.

The first public event with the Booker Prize 2022 winner takes place on Thursday 20 October at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of London Literature Festival 2022, alongside 2021 winner Damon Galgut who will hand over the baton.

### **The leading prize for quality fiction in English**

First awarded in 1969, The Booker Prize is recognised as the leading prize for literary fiction written in English. The list of former winners features many of the literary giants of the last five decades: from Iris Murdoch to Salman Rushdie, V.S. Naipaul to Hilary Mantel.

The Booker Prize is supported by Crankstart, a charitable foundation.

### **Longlisted books: judges' comments**

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#### ***Glory*, NoViolet Bulawayo**

'A fictional country of animals ruled by a tyrannical and absolute power is on the verge of liberation. The fiction becomes almost reality as we picture the parallel between this *Animal Farm*, Zimbabwe, and the fate of many African nations. An ingenious and brilliant political fable that bears witness to the surreal turns of history.'

#### ***Trust*, Hernan Diaz**

'There is a dazzling intelligence behind this novel, which challenges us to rethink everything we know both about the institutions on which nations are built and the narratives by which stories are told. Sly, sophisticated, insistently questioning, Diaz writes with assurance, determined to rob us of every certainty.'

### ***The Trees*, Percival Everett**

‘Eerie, provocative, blackly comic Southern noir. A page-turner with a sharp, provocative edge, as it harks back to the real-life murder of the young Emmett Till, it has important things to say about race.’

### ***Booth*, Karen Joy Fowler**

‘What shapes us? And who gets to choose the stories we tell about our place in the world? With an eagle eye and a bone-dry wit, Fowler introduces the Booths, a 19th-century family forged by theatrical ambition and agonising grief within a household steeped in the racism and myth-making of the disunited States. As the novel unfolds, we know - and they don’t - that one day the ninth child, John Wilkes, will step forward with a gun in his hand to bring the narratives of dynasty and country decisively together.’

### ***Treacle Walker*, Alan Garner**

‘Garner bared to the bone in late style. This tiny book compresses all his themes - time, childhood, language, science and landscape entangled - into a single, calmly plaintive cry.’

### ***The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, Shehan Karunatilaka**

‘Life after death in Sri Lanka: an afterlife noir, with nods to Dante and Buddha and yet unpretentious. Fizzes with energy, imagery and ideas against a broad, surreal vision of the Sri Lankan civil wars. Slyly, angrily comic.’

### ***Small Things Like These*, Claire Keegan**

‘A story of quiet bravery, set in an Irish community in denial of its central secret. Beautiful, clear, economic writing and an elegant structure dense with moral themes.’

### ***Case Study*, Graeme Macrae Burnet**

‘A mystery story - or is it? - that takes us into the heart of the psychoanalytical consulting room. Or does it? Interleaving a biography of radical ‘60s ‘untherapist’ Collins Braithwaite with the notebooks of his patient ‘Rebecca’, a young woman seeking answers about the death of her sister, ‘GMB’ presents a forensic, elusive and mordantly funny text(s) layered with questions about authenticity and the self.’

### ***The Colony*, Audrey Magee**

‘The summer of 1979. Sectarian murders claim victims across Ireland. An idyllic island fishing community off the west coast becomes the laboratory in which Magee dissects the gulf between what Ireland is and how the rest of the world wants to fantasise it.’

### ***Maps of our Spectacular Bodies*, Maddie Mortimer**

‘Deliriously inventive and viscerally moving, Mortimer’s debut is a patterned, protean narrative that astonishes and overwhelms. Lia is dying while she’s living, her past, present and future a glorious cacophony of voices, from the webs of words that bind her to her daughter, to the mutating cancer that is an inexorable part of her self.’

### ***Nightcrawling*, Leila Mottley**

'*Nightcrawling* is a dazzling and electrifying novel set in the streets of Oakland, where the protagonist Kiara will face a justice system that oppresses young black women. A spellbinding story and a *Catcher in the Rye* for a new generation.'

### ***After Sappho*, Selby Wynn Schwartz**

'A poetic patchwork of fragments of literary history that together take shape as an intergenerational tale of the Lesbian family. An ancestry eruditely, playfully recovered.'

### ***Oh William!*, Elizabeth Strout**

'No-one writes interior life as Strout does. This is meticulous observed writing, full of probing psychological insight. Lucy Barton is one of literature's immortal characters - brittle, damaged, unravelling, vulnerable and most of all, ordinary, like us all.'

**ENDS**

**For all press enquiries please contact the Four Culture team:**

Julie Holman [Julie.Holman@FourCommunications.com](mailto:Julie.Holman@FourCommunications.com) | +44 (0)7841 672 393  
Eleanor Gibson [Eleanor.Gibson@FourCommunications.com](mailto:Eleanor.Gibson@FourCommunications.com) | +44 (0)7384 525 244

### **Notes to Editors**

- Longlisted book synopses, author biographies, author images, jacket images and social media graphics are available to download [here](#)
- The Booker Prize for Fiction was first awarded in 1969. It 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 previous two weeks. Rights to *The Promise* have now been sold in 35 territories and it has been a bestseller in Germany and Greece.

The influence of the prize extends far beyond the initial months after a win. *Girl, Woman, Other*, by Bernardine Evaristo co-winner of the 2019 Booker Prize, was the 7<sup>th</sup> most popular title borrowed from UK public libraries for the 2020/21 Public Lending Right year.

- The rules state that a longlist of 12 or 13 books - the 'Booker Dozen' - is to be selected, followed by a shortlist of six from which the winner is chosen. UK and Irish publishers may submit works of long form fiction written in the English language and published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022. The number of works a publisher can submit will depend on that publisher's inclusion in longlists over the previous five years, as follows:

- Publishers with no longlistings - 1 submission

- Publishers with 1 or 2 longlisting(s) - 2 submissions
- Publishers with 3 or 4 longlistings - 3 submissions
- Publishers with 5 or more longlistings - 4 submissions

This means that the number of submissions for each publisher may change from year to year. A new work by any author who has previously been shortlisted for the Booker Prize (pre-2002 or post-2018) or Man Booker Prize (2002-2018) is automatically eligible.

The judges also 'call-in' a number of works each year. In addition to their main submission(s), a publisher may provide a list of up to five titles for consideration, accompanied by a justification from the editor. The judges are required to call-in no fewer than eight and no more than 12 of these titles. The judges are also permitted to call-in other works published within the requisite dates, even if the work has not been submitted through any other route.

There are no fees for publishers to submit books to the prize, nor to be longlisted, shortlisted or win.

The rules of the prize were changed at the end of 2013 to embrace the English language 'in all its vigour, its vitality, its versatility and its glory', opening it up to writers beyond the UK and Commonwealth, providing they were writing novels in English and published in the UK. Novels published in Ireland have been eligible since 2018.

- The International Booker Prize - awarded annually in May - is 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 2022 winner, *Tomb of Sand*, written by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell, was met with both public and critical acclaim. The novel made history as the first book originally written in any Indian language to win the prize. The book's publisher, Tilted Axis, ordered a 15,000 re-print the day after the winner announcement, and HarperVia acquired the rights in the US. Sales saw a 877% jump week on week in volume.
- The recently relaunched website, [thebookerprizes.com](https://thebookerprizes.com) - supported by Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok accounts, as well as a YouTube channel - is a unique online space which showcases the 500+ exceptional books that have won, or been longlisted or shortlisted for, the Booker Prize and International Booker Prize. The site aims to be an entertaining and illuminating content destination that combines both practical information about the prizes past and present with fresh and original features to bring the books and their authors to life, encouraging readers new and old to visit and revisit titles in the 'Booker Library'. The Booker Prize Foundation is driven by a simple belief - great fiction not only brings joy to millions, it has the power to change the way we think about the world we live in.
- 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*.
- The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity (no 1090049) established in 2002. It is responsible for awarding the Booker Prize for Fiction and the International Booker Prize. As an organisation, it exists to inspire people to read the world's best fiction. 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 Dame 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.
- 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 for Fiction shortlisted titles in braille 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](mailto: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 The Booker Prize for Fiction 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/](https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/books-unlocked/)

- The Booker Prize Archive was given on loan in 2003 to Oxford Brookes University, where it now resides.

Four Culture,  
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