



PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release, Monday October 17, 2022

## *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* wins the Booker Prize 2022

[thebookerprizes.com](https://thebookerprizes.com)

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*Images of the winning author and book are available to download [here](#).  
This folder is being updated with images from the ceremony.*

- Chair of Judges, Neil MacGregor describes the book as ‘an afterlife noir that dissolves the boundaries not just of different genres, but of life and death, body and spirit, east and west’. In it, readers will discover ‘the tenderness and beauty, the love and loyalty, and the pursuit of an ideal that justify every human life’
- Shehan Karunatilaka is the second Sri Lankan-born author to win the Booker Prize following Michael Ondaatje (1992)
- He emerged on the world literary stage in 2011 when he won the Commonwealth Prize for his debut novel *Chinaman*. Karunatilaka, who has also written rock songs, screenplays and travel stories, wins with his second novel
- In an [interview for The Booker Prizes’ website](#) he says he first started thinking about this book in 2009 after the end of the Sri Lankan civil war, ‘when there was a raging debate over how many civilians died and whose fault it was’ and decided to write ‘a ghost story where the dead could offer their perspective’
- Read the interview along with features, reading guides and videos at the Booker Prizes website [here](#)

*The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by [Shehan Karunatilaka](#) is tonight, Monday October 17, named winner of the Booker Prize 2022. The author was presented with his trophy by Her Majesty the Queen Consort in a new-look ceremony held at the Roundhouse, featuring a keynote speech by singer-songwriter Dua Lipa and hosted by comedian Sophie Duker.

The announcement, made by Chair of judges, [Neil MacGregor](#), was broadcast live to a global audience as part of a 45-minute *Front Row* special on BBC Radio 4 (airing at the later time of 9.15pm), presented by Samira Ahmed, and with TV coverage on the *BBC News Channel* and *BBC*

*World News*. Karunatilaka, who is considered one of Sri Lanka's foremost authors, will be interviewed live on the *BBC News at Ten* shortly.

*The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, published by the independent press Sort of Books, explores life after death in a noir investigation set amid the murderous mayhem of a Sri Lanka beset by civil war. In Colombo, 1990, war photographer Maali Almeida is dead, and has no idea who has killed him. He has seven moons to try and contact the man and woman he loves most and lead them to a hidden cache of photos that will rock Sri Lanka. It has been described by the Booker Prize judges as 'whodunnit and a race against time, full of ghosts, gags and a deep humanity.'

It is Karunatilaka's much-anticipated second novel; his debut, *Chinaman* (2011), won the Commonwealth Prize, the DSL and the Gratiaen Prize, and was selected for the BBC and The Reading Agency's Big Jubilee Read last year.

Karunatilaka, who was born in Galle, Sri Lanka in 1975 and grew up in Colombo, said in an [interview for The Booker Prizes' website](#) that 'Sri Lankans specialise in gallows humour and make jokes in the face of crises [...] it's our coping mechanism'.

When asked at longlist stage how he felt about winning the prize, he responded: 'To make any longlist requires luck [...] to have a novel about Sri Lanka's chaotic past come out just when the world is watching Sri Lanka's chaotic present also requires an alignment of dark forces. Unlike my protagonist Maali Almeida, I don't gamble. So I don't expect to roll two more sixes, though I will scream with joy if I do.'

**Neil MacGregor, Chair of the 2022 judges, says:**

'Any one of the six shortlisted books would have been a worthy winner. What the judges particularly admired and enjoyed in *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* was the ambition of its scope, and the hilarious audacity of its narrative techniques. This is a metaphysical thriller, an afterlife noir that dissolves the boundaries not just of different genres, but of life and death, body and spirit, east and west. It is an entirely serious philosophical romp that takes the reader to 'the world's dark heart' – the murderous horrors of civil war Sri Lanka. And once there, the reader also discovers the tenderness and beauty, the love and loyalty, and the pursuit of an ideal that justify every human life.'

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

'This year's Booker judges have formed an incredible team. At their final meeting they were sad to disband, and to be separated from the books that had kept them company. They had come to find that reading, a private act, had become bigger and richer when it was done in a group, and as they showed one another what each of the novels they read could be.

'The 170 novels they read originated in many parts of the globe. "We're going to show that you can find a diamond anywhere in the world," said one of the judges. Finally, their longlist of 13 undiminished in spirit, they settled on a single gem: a book they were excited to press into the hands of readers everywhere.

‘My thanks to the judges, and all joy to the Booker Prize 2022 winner, Shehan Karunatilaka.’

Karunatilaka has been praised for *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Tomiwa Owolade in *The Guardian* for ‘his ability to do artistic justice to a terrible period in his country’s history’. Lucy Popescu agrees, commenting in the *Financial Times* that it is ‘an ambitious novel, epic in scope (mixing tropes from thrillers, crime fiction and magic realism) and a powerful evocation of Sri Lanka’s brutal past.’ Kate Mcloughlin from *The Times Literary Supplement* highlights Karunatilaka’s ‘tinder-dry wit’ and ‘unflinching ear for prose cadence’.

Karunatilaka received £50,000 presented to him by last year’s winner Damon Galgut, a designer-bound edition of his book, and the £2,500 given to each shortlisted author. As the winner, he can expect instant international recognition and a dramatic increase in global sales. He is also the recipient of a newly designed trophy. The Booker Prize has worked with Factum Foundation to reinstate the original 1969 Booker Prize trophy in memory of its creator, the beloved children’s author and illustrator Jan Pieńkowski, who died in February this year.

Neil MacGregor was joined on this year’s judging panel by academic and broadcaster [Shahidha Bari](#); historian [Helen Castor](#); novelist and critic [M John Harrison](#); and novelist, poet and professor [Alain Mabanckou](#).

*Imagined Worlds*, a special programme will air tomorrow (October 18) on *BBC Radio 4* at 4pm. MacGregor and his fellow judges will explore what imagined worlds this year’s shortlisted novelists have created and what they tell us about the times we are living through. It was recorded ahead of the winner decision, and they will explore the threads linking the diverse novels on the shortlist and share insights into the judging process.

### **This year’s re-imagined ceremony**

The first fully in-person event since 2019 brought together Booker writers past and present with a diverse range of readers, and celebrated talent from across the cultural spectrum.

Winner Karunatilaka and shortlisted authors NoViolet Bulawayo, Percival Everett, Claire Keegan and Elizabeth Strout were all in attendance, with Alan Garner attending virtually.

Her Majesty The Queen Consort made one of her first public appearances since the change of reign. In her role as Duchess of Cornwall, she was Patron of the National Literacy Trust and a long-standing supporter of our joint programme, Books Unlocked, which distributes Booker-shortlisted books in prisons. In addition to presenting the trophy, she met with the shortlisted authors, the judges and other guests, including Bernardine Evaristo, Anna Burns, Damon Galgut and Dua Lipa.

Dua Lipa delivered a rousing speech on how a love of reading has shaped her imagination, her identity, and her career as a global pop superstar. She credited reading books by Ismail Kadare, who won the inaugural International Booker Prize, for testing her language skills ‘while also helping me connect with my family’s heritage and identity as Kosovan Albanians’, adding, ‘I often wonder if

authors realise just how many gifts they give us.’ She explained: ‘Touring commitments take me all over the globe and life is often hectic. Sometimes, just to survive, I need to adopt a tough exterior. And at these times, it is books that soften me.’

The singer-songwriter also led guests in singing Happy Birthday to Garner, who celebrated his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday today. In addition, guests were treated to the limber jazz-inflected tones of Roundhouse Resident Artist and Amy Winehouse Foundation alumna, India Shan.

Meanwhile, British-Turkish author Elif Shafak, who appeared on the Booker Prize shortlist in 2019 with Salman Rushdie, spoke on BBC Radio 4’s *Front Row* about what the attack on his life means for writers around the world, and judge Helen Castor acknowledged the extraordinary achievement of the late double-Booker winner Hilary Mantel.

Also in attendance were Chwaeroniaeth Book Club, winners of the inaugural [Booker Prize Book Club Challenge](#). The Booker Prize partnered with the national charity The Reading Agency to select six groups to each read and discuss a different book on the 2022 shortlist, and compete for places at the winner ceremony for the first time. Chwaeroniaeth were chosen as winners for their subtle analysis of and emotional engagement with Elizabeth Strout’s *Oh William!*

Shehan Karunatilaka saw his book brought to life by actor Prasanna Puwanarajah in a two-minute video directed by Kevin Thomas and produced by Mermade Films as part of a Booker Prize commission. All 12 videos made for the shortlisted books form part of the Booker Prize’s new digital publishing venture designed to encourage more people to read quality fiction, and can be watched on [The Booker Prizes website](#) and [YouTube](#) channels now.

### **Forthcoming events**

Shehan Karunatilaka’s [first public event as the Booker Prize 2022 winner](#) takes place on Thursday October 20 at Southbank Centre’s Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of London Literature Festival 2022, alongside 2021 winner Damon Galgut, who will pass the baton. The pair will be in conversation with novelist Sara Collins.

The Booker Prize is offering readers the chance to win a signed copy of *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* and a Booker Prizes goody bag. More information is [here](#).

### **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.

The winner can expect instant international recognition. 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 *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 had in the previous 17 years since first being published in the UK. Rights to *The Promise* have been sold in 35 territories.

**ENDS**

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### About the winning book and author

#### **Publisher synopsis**

Shehan Karunatilaka's rip-roaring epic is a searing, mordantly funny satire set amid the murderous mayhem of a Sri Lanka beset by civil war.

Colombo, 1990. Maali Almeida, war photographer, gambler and closeted gay man, has woken up dead in what seems like a celestial visa office. His dismembered body is sinking in the Beira Lake and he has no idea who killed him. At a time when scores are settled by death squads, suicide bombers and hired goons, the list of suspects is depressingly long.

But even in the afterlife, time is running out for Maali. He has seven moons to try and contact the man and woman he loves most and lead them to a hidden cache of photos that will rock Sri Lanka.

#### **Author biography**

Shehan Karunatilaka is considered one of Sri Lanka's foremost authors. In addition to his novels he has written rock songs, screenplays and travel stories.

Karunatilaka emerged on the world literary stage in 2011, when he won the Commonwealth Prize, the DSL and Gratiaen Prize for his debut novel, *Chinaman*. His songs, scripts and stories have been published in *Rolling Stone*, *GQ* and *National Geographic*.

Born in Galle, Sri Lanka, Karunatilaka grew up in Colombo, studied in New Zealand and has lived and worked in London, Amsterdam and Singapore. He currently lives in Sri Lanka. *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* is his long-awaited second novel.

#### **Notes to Editors**

- Shehan Karunatilaka is available for interview. To arrange please contact Ruth Killick at [publicity@ruthkillick.co.uk](mailto:publicity@ruthkillick.co.uk)
- Images of the winning author and book are available to download [here](#). This folder is being updated with images from the ceremony.
- **Please get in touch with Four Culture if you would like access to the BBC broadcast footage from the ceremony**
- The special designer bound edition of the book was made by Lester Capon. It can be viewed on the Booker Prizes website, along with the finished designs for the five other shortlisted books.

This year's makers from Designer Bookbinders who have created the book bindings are: Kaori Maki (*Glory* by NoViolet Bulawayo); Kate Holland (*The Trees* by Percival Everett); Dominic Riley (*Treacle Walker* by Alan Garner); Lester Capon (*The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida* by Shehan Karunatilaka); Angela James (*Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan); and Rachel Ward-Sale (*Oh William!* by Elizabeth Strout).

- The winning book selection was made from 169 novels published between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022 and submitted to the prize by publishers. The Booker Prize is open to works by writers of any nationality, written in English and published in the UK or Ireland. The Booker Prize 2022 shortlisted titles were:

<b>Author (Nationality)</b>	<b>Title (imprint)</b>
<a href="#">NoViolet Bulawayo</a> (Zimbabwean)	<a href="#">Glory</a> (Chatto & Windus, Vintage, Penguin Random House)
<a href="#">Percival Everett</a> (US)	<a href="#">The Trees</a> (Influx Press)
<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="#">Elizabeth Strout</a> (US)	<a href="#">Oh William!</a> (Viking, Penguin General, Penguin Random House)

- Front Row, BBC Radio 4, is produced by Sarah Johnson. The editor is Tim Prosser.

### Biographies of attendees, performers, speakers and collaborators

- **Sophie Duker**  
Sophie Duker is a comedian and writer whose 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Show, *Venus*, saw her nominated for the Best Newcomer award and gained critical acclaim and five-star reviews.

Sophie, who studied English and French at Oxford University, is a regular guest on Frankie

Boyle's *New World Order* (BBC2). She has appeared on *Live at The Apollo* (BBC2), *Mock the Week* (BBC2), *8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown* (Channel 4) and *Hypothetical* (Dave). She is also series champion of much-loved *Taskmaster* series 13 (Channel 4) and her specialist subject on *Celebrity Mastermind* was Alan Bennett's play *The History Boys*.

Sophie won the 2021 Funny Women Best Comedy Writer Award, as voted by producers, head writers and executives across the industry. She is also the host of the comedy night, Wacky Racists Comedy Club, and the host of the official TV companion podcast to *I May Destroy You* (BBC), *Obsessed With... I May Destroy You* on BBC Sounds, and more recently co-host of *Obsessed With... Everything I know About Love* (BBC).

This year saw Sophie return to the Edinburgh Fringe with her brand-new show *Hag*, which she'll soon be taking to London's Soho Theatre before touring nationwide in 2023.

- **India Shan**

Born and raised in North West London, India was immersed in music both at home and while frequenting concerts from a tender age. She owes her affinity for the capital to the Roundhouse for quickly becoming her favourite place and inspiring her to remain in London after attending several of the young creative courses and joining as a Resident Artist in 2021. India is also a Amy Winehouse Foundation alumna

Released in July 2021, India's debut EP, *Inertia* explores shimmering, electronic-tinged soul, with Raf Riley's bleeding-edge production proving the perfect foil for India's limber, jazz-inflected tones. Whether it's the rippling R&B on 'Waves', or gliding over the low-slung hip hop grooves of 'Go Slow', this trend continues on the follow-up, currently slated for release in 2022. Stylistically bolder than its predecessor, it finds India luxuriating in low-key productions and producing deeply percussive, soul bops while pushing her pen beyond the ideas of relationships and self-sabotage as expressed on *Inertia*.

- **Roundhouse**

Roundhouse is an iconic music and arts venue in Camden. Since the 1960s they've opened up space for creativity to empower people and communities - day in, night out. From young people to leading artists, everyone can experiment, take risks, and be a part of incredible live events that go down in history.

Their Resident Artist programme facilitates and supports the creative and professional development of outstanding emerging artists across a range of disciplines, as they transition into building sustainable careers in the creative industries. This year's cohort includes musicians, theatre-makers and poets. Alongside workshops, masterclasses and mentoring over the course of a year, the programme provides opportunities to perform on Roundhouse stages, at renowned festivals and a variety of platforms beyond our walls.

- **Dua Lipa**

Dua Lipa is a multi-Grammy and BRIT award winning singer-songwriter. Her Grammy award-winning album *Future Nostalgia* was released in 2020 to worldwide acclaim. Certified platinum in the US & UK, the album is the follow up to her eponymous 2017 debut, also

certified platinum, and which made Dua the first female artist in BRIT Awards history to pick up five nominations, with two wins for British Breakthrough Act and British Female Solo Artist.

This year, Dua launched her podcast, *Dua Lipa: At Your Service*, featuring cultural icons and thought leaders, with topics spanning music and fashion to activism and literature. Guests to date include Elton John, Monica Lewinsky, Amal Clooney, and authors including Booker-shortlisted Hanya Yanagihara, Min Jin Lee and Lisa Taddeo. The podcast is accompanied by Dua's *Service95* newsletter, an editorial platform created to help the reader access inspiring content on literature, culture, and activism. Dua has championed many Booker books from *A Fine Balance* to *Girl, Woman, Other*.

- **Mermade Films**

The films were produced by Mermade, the digital sister company to Sharon Horgan and Clelia Mountford's Merman, which specialises in creating premium scripted and non-scripted content. Founded in 2018, Mermade has made comedy series *Down From London* and the factual podcast *You Don't Know Me*, which topped Apple UK's documentary chart. Joshua Buckingham heads up the UK office.

- **Kevin Thomas**

Kevin Thomas is an award-winning director, across film and commercials. His short film *True Love (Once Removed)* won best short at the Palm Springs Film Festival. Most recently he won a D&AD Pencil and an AICP Award for *The Way Back*, a virtual reality film to help trigger memories among people with dementia. It is a permanent exhibit at the BFI.

- **Nikki Amuka-Bird**

Nigerian-born British actor Nikki Amuka-Bird began her career with the RSC. In addition to her impressive theatre credits she has appeared in a number of TV dramas, including *Silent Witness*, *Small Island*, *The Line of Beauty* and *Avenue 5*, as well as movies including *Old*, *Persuasion* and *The Personal History of David Copperfield*.

- **David Harewood**

David Harewood's TV credits include *Homeland*, *The Night Manager*, *Supergirl* and *The Last Enemy*. He was awarded an OBE for services to drama in 2012. He has played Nelson Mandela on screen and Martin Luther King Jr on stage, and has been a guest host on *Have I Got News for You*.

- **Jarvis Cocker**

Sheffield-born Cocker was a founder member and lead singer of the band Pulp, who released seven albums between 1983 and 2001. Since then he has embarked on a number of solo projects and has hosted a long-running *BBC 6Music* radio show. He has appeared in a Harry Potter film and provided voices in two Wes Anderson movies. His memoir, *Good Pop Bad Pop* was published this year.

- **Prasanna Puwanarajah**

Suffolk-born Puwanarajah, whose parents are from Sri Lanka, is an actor, writer, director

and former junior doctor. He has appeared on television in *Doctor Foster*, *Line of Duty*, *Ten Percent* and *Patrick Melrose*, and plays Martin Bashir in the next series of *The Crown*.

- **Sharon Horgan**

The multi-award-winning British-born Irish actor is best known for writing and starring in the series *Pulling*, *Catastrophe* and *Bad Sisters*. She also wrote *Divorce*, a US comedy series starring Sarah Jessica Parker, while her film credits include *Game Night*, *How to Build a Girl* and *Military Wives*. In 2014 she established an independent production company, Merman.

- **Anna Friel**

Manchester-born Friel found fame in the Channel 4 soap *Brookside* before making her film debut in 1998's *The Land Girls*. She came to international prominence in ABC's *Pushing Daisies* and currently stars in Fox's country music drama *Monarch*. She played the lead in the BBC's nordic crime drama *Marcella*, for which she won an International Emmy.

- **Her Majesty The Queen Consort**

Her Majesty The Queen Consort will be presenting the winner with their trophy this evening. Her Majesty has a enduring interest in literacy and reading. In her role as Duchess of Cornwall, Her Majesty was a long-standing Patron of National Literacy Trust and championed Books Unlocked, which is supported by the Booker Prize Foundation. Her Majesty's book club, 'The Reading Room' (<https://royalreadingroom.uk/> and @theroyalreadingroom on Instagram) has featured Booker nominated authors and helps readers and non-readers alike find and connect with books they will love. Through exclusive author interviews and behind-the-scenes content, The Reading Room celebrates books from around the world and the extraordinary people who create them.

- **The Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation**

The Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 2009 in Madrid by Adam Lowe. It works alongside its sister company, Factum Arte, a multi-disciplinary workshop in Madrid dedicated to the production of facsimile, and to digital mediation and physical transformation in contemporary art (working with artists such as (Grayson Perry, Conrad Shawcross, Marina Abramović, Anish Kapoor, El Anatsui). The Foundation was established to demonstrate the importance of documenting, studying, recreating and disseminating the world's cultural heritage. Its activities include: the development of high-resolution recording and rematerialisation techniques, building digital archives for preservation and further study, creating and organising touring exhibitions, setting up training centres for locals to record their own cultural heritage. Together with Factum Arte, the Foundation also produces exact facsimiles, as part of a new approach to conservation and restoration

- **The Reading Agency**

The Booker Prize Foundation has partnered with The Reading Agency on the Book Club Challenge. The Reading Agency is a national charity that tackles life's big challenges through the proven power of reading. We work closely with partners to develop and deliver programmes for people of all ages and backgrounds; our vision is for a world where everyone is reading their way to a better life. We help 1.9 million people benefit from reading every

year, through our programmes, our tireless campaigning, our excellent networks and our power to influence, challenge and make change happen. [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

- The Booker Prize - awarded annually in the autumn - is the leading literary award in the English speaking world. It was first awarded in 1969 and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for over five decades. It was called the Man Booker Prize for Fiction when sponsored by Man Group from 2002-2018. Each year, the prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of the judges, the best work of long-form fiction written in English and published in the UK and Ireland, irrespective of the nationality or citizenship of the author. The winner receives £50,000 as well as the £2,500 awarded to each of the six shortlisted authors. Both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a global readership and can expect a dramatic increase in book sales. The 2022 longlist was announced on July 26, the shortlist was announced on September 6 and the winner was announced on October 17.

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 October 1, 2021 and September 30, 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 spring - is for the best single work of fiction translated into English and published in the UK and Ireland. It was known until 2019 as the Man Booker International Prize when sponsored by Man Group. The winner's prize purse is £50,000; £25,000 for the author and £25,000 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators). There will be a prize of £5,000 for each of the shortlisted titles: £2,500 for the author and £2,500 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators). The announcement of the 2022 International Booker Prize 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 British publisher, Tilted Axis, ordered a 15,000 re-print the day after the winner announcement, and sales saw a 877% jump week on week in volume. HarperVia acquired the rights in the US shortly after.
- The International Booker Prize 2023 judging panel chaired by the prize-winning French-Moroccan novelist, Leïla Slimani. The panel also includes Uilleam Blacker, one of Britain's leading literary translators from Ukrainian; Tan Twan Eng, the Booker-shortlisted Malaysian novelist; Parul Sehgal, staff writer and critic at the *New Yorker*; and Frederick Studemann, Literary Editor of the *Financial Times*. The 2023 judging panel will be looking for the best work of translated fiction, selected from entries published in the UK or Ireland between 1 May 2022 and 30 April 2023.
- 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 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. Its purpose is to promote the art and value of literature for the public benefit and its mission is to inspire people to read the world's best fiction. It 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. It is responsible for awarding the Booker Prize for Fiction and the International Booker Prize. Other aspects of the Foundation's work include reading initiatives in prisons, writers' visits to universities, the distribution of books to disadvantaged readers, the funding of Braille and audio editions of Booker Prize books through the RNIB, and awarding the annual UEA Booker Prize Foundation Scholarship.
- 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 - President of Brands and Licensing, 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.
- In 2009, the Booker Prize Foundation and the University of East Anglia came together to create the UEA Booker Prize Foundation Scholarship. The Creative Writing course at UEA is a close historical relative of the Booker Prize, boasting as it does a number of alumni who have gone on to win the prize - including Anne Enright, Kazuo Ishiguro and Ian McEwan.

It is awarded annually to an applicant who has already been offered a place to study for an MA in Prize Fiction, but who in many cases would not be able to afford to accept were it not for the support of the Booker Prize Foundation. The scholar is chosen each year by members of the Creative Writing department in collaboration with the Director of the Booker Prize Foundation. Many past scholars have since met with acclaim as published authors.

The scholar for 2022/23 is Zanta Nkumane (Eswatini). The past scholars are:

2009-10 D.W. Wilson (Canada)  
2010-11 Anthony Good (UK)  
2011-12 Eliza Robertson (Canada)  
2012-13 Sharlene Teo (Singapore)  
2013-14 Sarah Young (New Zealand)  
2014-15 Anna Pook (UK)  
2015-16 Kristien Potgieter (South Africa)  
2016-17 Alake Pilgrim (Trinidad)  
2017-18 Francis Gosper (Australia)  
2018-19 Stephen Buoro (Nigeria)  
2019-20 Daniel Wiles (UK)  
2020-21 Esther Opeoluwa (Ope) Adedeji (Nigeria)  
2021-22 Michael Egan (UK)

- 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,  
October 2022