Fiction at its finest

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About the prize

The Man Booker Prize is the leading literary award in the English speaking world, and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for over four decades. Each year, the prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of the judges, the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland (and Zimbabwe) and it transforms the winner’s career.

The winner of the Man Booker Prize receives £50,000 as well as £2,500 which is awarded to each of the six shortlisted authors. Both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a worldwide readership plus a dramatic increase in book sales.

The Man Booker International Prize was established in 2005, rewarding an author for a body of work originally written in any language as long as it is widely available in English. The International Prize is awarded once every two years. In addition, a number of one-off prizes have been created, from the Lost Man Booker Prize to the Man Booker Best of Beryl, each aimed at spreading the word about the finest in fiction.
“The Man Booker remains a truly important prize because it’s about so much more than the winner, or the shortlist. It has become the indispensable literary thermometer with which to take the temperature of contemporary fiction.”
Robert McCrum, *The Observer*

“...the opinion of the world matters and the quickest way to gain its notice as a writer is to win a prize, and of all prizes to win for a writer of fiction in English, the Man Booker is the biggest and the best.”
Howard Jacobson, *The Independent*
Winner of the 2010 prize

“The Man Booker Prize is the best-known, most hotly debated and eagerly sought literary award in Britain. The announcement of the names of the six final contestants – the famous Booker shortlist – has been known to cause furious rows in pubs and taxis across London, along with debates over who was excluded and why the winners were chosen.”
*The New York Times*

“What does the annual Man Booker Prize ceremony have in common with the Oscars?... in the vaulted dining room of London’s Guildhall, there is a certain glamour, and it undoubtedly changes the life of one artist and his or her supporting cast.

“The prominence given to these books is a gift to the reading world. In Hollywood, actors sometimes use their moment on the podium to draw attention to some good cause, but here there is no need: the good cause is the main event.”
*Daily Telegraph*
Winners, shortlists & judges
Since 1969
In the early days the judges came to their decision a full month before the announcement was made. This first awards ceremony was on 22 April 1969 and consisted of a drinks reception at Stationers’ Hall, where P. H. Newby was presented with the winner’s cheque for £5,000. The prize had only a modest impact, but *Something to Answer For* immediately appeared on the *Evening Standard* bestseller list, the first time that a British novel had made its way onto such a list purely as the result of winning a prize.

**1969**

**Winner**  
P.H. Newby  
*Something to Answer For*  
Faber & Faber

**Shortlisted authors**  
Barry England  
*Figures in a Landscape*  
Cape  

Nicholas Mosley  
*The Impossible Object*  
Hodder & Stoughton  

Iris Murdoch  
*The Nice and the Good*  
Chatto & Windus

**Judges**  
W.L. Webb (Chair)  
David Farrer  
Frank Kermode  
Stephen Spender  
Dame Rebecca West

**Winner**  
Bernice Rubens  
*The Elected Member*  
Eyre & Spottiswoode

**Shortlisted authors**  
A.L. Barker  
*John Brown’s Body*  
Hogarth Press  

Elizabeth Bowen  
*Eva Trout*  
Cape  

Iris Murdoch  
*Bruno’s Dream*  
Chatto & Windus

**Judges**  
David Holloway (Chair)  
Lady Antonia Fraser  
Ross Higgins  
Richard Hoggart  
Dame Rebecca West

The running of the Booker Prize transferred from the Publishers Association to the National Book League (later Book Trust). The winner that year was *The Elected Member* by Bernice Rubens.
The Booker Prize had its first controversy, in the form of one of the judges, Malcolm Muggeridge. Having read his way through most of the submissions he found himself ‘out of sympathy’ with them and withdrew his services, ‘nauseated and appalled’. At the same time critics questioned whether V. S. Naipaul’s *In a Free State* should win the prize as it consisted of five works – two short stories, two novellas and a short novel – linked by a common theme.

**1971**

**Winner**
V.S. Naipaul
*In a Free State*
Deutsch

**Shortlisted authors**
- Thomas Kilroy
  *The Big Chapel*
  Faber & Faber
- Doris Lessing
  *Briefing for a Descent into Hell*
  Cape
- Mordecai Richler
  *St Urbain’s Horseman*
  Weidenfeld & Nicolson
- Derek Robinson
  *Goshawk Squadron*
  Heinemann
- Elizabeth Taylor
  *Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont*
  Chatto & Windus

**Judges**
- John Gross (Chair)
- Saul Bellow
- John Fowles
- Lady Antonia Fraser
- Philip Toynbee

**1972**

**Winner**
John Berger
*G*
Weidenfield & Nicolson

**Shortlisted authors**
- Susan Hill
  *Bird of Night*
  Hamish Hamilton
- Thomas Keneally
  *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*
  Angus & Robertson
- David Storey
  *Pasmore*
  Longman
- Cyril Connolly (Chair)
- Elizabeth Bowen
- Dr George Steiner

John Berger announced he would give half his prize money for his novel *G* to the Black Panther movement in protest at what he alleged was Booker’s colonialist policy in the West Indies. In fact Booker had had its sugar plantations and refineries confiscated ten years previously – and the Black Panther movement had dissolved two years before.
1973

Winner
J.G. Farrell
The Siege of Krishnapur
Weidenfield & Nicolson

J.G. Farrell used his winner’s speech at the awards ceremony to denounce capitalism, as represented by prize sponsors Booker. Unlike John Berger he retained his £5,000 prize in its entirety for his winning novel, The Siege of Krishnapur, which depicted the siege of an Indian town during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Shortlisted authors
Beryl Bainbridge
The Dressmaker
Duckworth

Elizabeth Mavor
The Green Equinox
Michael Joseph

Iris Murdoch
The Black Prince
Chatto & Windus

Judges
Karl Miller (Chair)
Edna O’Brien
Mary McCarthy

1974

Winners
Nadine Gordimer
The Conservationist
Cape

Stanley Middleton
Holiday
Hutchinson

The shortlist this year included Kingsley Amis’s Ending Up, which caused many raised eyebrows as Elizabeth Jane Howard, his wife, was one of the three judges. Despite her assertion that this was ‘easily Kingsley’s best book’, Amis was beaten by the first Booker Prize tie, Nadine Gordimer’s The Conservationist and Stanley Middleton’s Holiday.

Shortlisted authors
Kingsley Amis
Ending Up
Cape

Beryl Bainbridge
The Bottle Factory Outing
Duckworth

C.P. Snow
In Their Wisdom
Macmillan

Judges
Ion Trewin (Chair)
A.S. Byatt
Elizabeth Jane Howard
Authors were insulted that the judges found only two books worthy of shortlisting out of a total of 83 submissions. Thus Ruth Prawer Jhabala’s *Heat and Dust* had only one runner up – Thomas Keneally’s novel *Gossip from the Forest*.

Harold Wilson, having recently resigned as prime minister, came to the Booker Prize dinner because his wife Mary was one of the judges, but was only in time for pudding since he had spent the first part of the evening at an international boxing match. David Storey won the prize that year with *Saville*.
Chair Philip Larkin threatened to jump out of the window if Paul Scott’s *Staying On* didn’t win. Luckily it did. *Staying On* focuses on Tusker and Lucy Smalley, characters briefly mentioned in the latter two books of Paul Scott’s celebrated Raj Quartet.

**Shortlisted authors**
- Paul Bailey
- Peter Smart’s Confessions
- Caroline Blackwood
- Great Granny Webster
- Jennifer Johnston
- Shadows on our Skin
- Hamish Hamilton

**Penelope Lively**
*The Road to Lichfield*
Heinemann

**Barbara Pym**
*Quartet in Autumn*
Macmillan

**Judges**
Philip Larkin (Chair)
Beryl Bainbridge
Brendan Gill
David Hughes
Robin Ray

The prize money doubled to £10,000 this year. By the time she came to write *The Sea, The Sea*, Iris Murdoch had already published 18 novels and had been shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times.

**Shortlisted authors**
- Kingsley Amis
- Jake’s Thing
- André Brink
- Rumours of Rain
- Penelope Fitzgerald
- The Bookshop
- Jane Gardam
- God on the Rocks

**Bernice Rubens**
*A Five-Year Sentence*
W.H. Allen

**Judges**
Sir Alfred (A.J.) Ayer (Chair)
Clare Boylan
Angela Huth
Derwent May
P.H. Newby
1979

**Winner**
Penelope Fitzgerald
*Offshore*
Collins

*Offshore* recalls Penelope Fitzgerald’s time spent on boats in Battersea by the Thames. It is the shortest novel to have won the Booker Prize at only 132 pages; a fact often cited when the question of ‘how to define a novel’ arises.

**Shortlisted authors**
- Thomas Keneally
- Confederates
  Collins
- V.S. Naipaul
  *A Bend in the River*
  Deutsch
- Julian Rathbone
  Joseph
  Michael Joseph

**Fay Weldon**
*Praxis*
Hodder & Stoughton

**Judges**
- Lord (Asa) Briggs (Chair)
- Benny Green
- Michael Ratcliffe
- Hilary Spurling
- Paul Theroux

1980

**Winner**
William Golding
*Rites of Passage*
Faber & Faber

Anthony Burgess made it plain from the moment his novel *Earthly Powers* was shortlisted that he was not willing to attend the awards ceremony at the Guildhall unless he was assured in advance that he had won. He hadn’t, so he sulked at the Savoy Hotel while William Golding collected the prize for *Rites of Passage*.

**Shortlisted authors**
- Anthony Burgess
  *Earthly Powers*
  Hutchinson
- Anita Desai
  *Clear Light of Day*
  Heinemann
- Alice Munro
  *The Beggar Maid*
  Allen Lane
- Julia O’Faolain
  *No Country for Young Men*
  Allen Lane

**Barry Unsworth**
*Pascali’s Island*
Michael Joseph

**J.L. Carr**
*A Month in the Country*
Harvester

**Judges**
- Professor David Daiches (Chair)
- Ronald Blythe
- Margaret Forster
- Claire Tomalin
- Brian Wenham
1981

Winner
Salman Rushdie
Midnight’s Children
Cape

Winner
Thomas Keneally
Schindler’s Ark
Hodder & Stoughton

Helena Kennedy later praised Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* as ‘a feast of sensations. A world was created full of clamour and scent, food smells, flowers and colour. I can still remember the thrill of its magic, the nosebleed turning to rubies on the page.’

Shortlisted authors
Molly Keane
*Good Behaviour*
Deutsch

Doris Lessing
*The Sirian Experiments*
Cape

Ian McEwan
*The Comfort of Strangers*
Cape

Ann Schlee
*Rhine Journey*
Macmillan

Muriel Spark
*Loitering with Intent*
Bodley Head

D.M. Thomas
*The White Hotel*
Gollancz

Judges
Professor Malcolm Bradbury (Chair)
Brian Aldiss
Joan Bakewell
Samuel Hynes
Hermione Lee

The controversy this year revolved around whether or not Thomas Keneally’s *Schindler’s Ark* was fiction or non-fiction. It became the bestselling Booker Prize winner ever, selling over two million copies. Steven Spielberg turned it into a moving film under the book’s American title, *Schindler’s List*, which won seven Academy Awards.

Shortlisted authors
John Arden
*Silence among the Weapons*
Methuen

William Boyd
*An Ice-Cream War*
Hamish Hamilton

Lawrence Durrell
*Constance or Solitary Practices*
Faber & Faber

Alice Thomas Ellis
*The 27th Kingdom*
Duckworth

Timothy Mo
*Sour Sweet*
Deutsch

Judges
Professor John Carey (Chair)
Paul Bailey
Frank Delaney
Janet Morgan
Lorna Sage
Chair Fay Weldon, put in the difficult position of having to choose between J. M. Coetzee’s *Life & Times of Michael K* and Salman Rushdie’s *Shame*, told Martyn Goff (the prize's administrator) that she never made decisions at home. ‘My husband makes them all.’

No one was more astonished than Anita Brookner herself when *Hotel du Lac* won – she had backed J. G. Ballard to win. The novel was adapted for television by Christopher Hampton and went on to be nominated for nine BAFTA awards.

**1983**

**Winner**
J.M. Coetzee  
*Life & Times of Michael K*  
Secker & Warburg

**Shortlisted authors**
- Malcolm Bradbury  
  *Rates of Exchange*  
  Secker & Warburg
- John Fuller  
  *Flying to Nowhere*  
  Salamander
- Anita Mason  
  *The Illusionist*  
  Hamish Hamilton
- Salman Rushdie  
  *Shame*  
  Cape

**Judges**
Fay Weldon (Chair)  
Angela Carter  
Terence Kilmartin  
Peter Porter  
Libby Purves

**1984**

**Winner**
Anita Brookner  
*Hotel du Lac*  
Cape

**Shortlisted authors**
- J.G. Ballard  
  *Empire of the Sun*  
  Gollancz
- Julian Barnes  
  *Flaubert’s Parrot*  
  Cape
- Anita Desai  
  *In Custody*  
  Heinemann

**Judges**
Professor Richard Cobb (Chair)  
Anthony Curtis  
Polly Devlin  
John Fuller  
Ted Rowlands

**Author**
Penelope Lively  
*According to Mark*  
Heinemann

**Author**
David Lodge  
*Small World*  
Secker & Warburg
1985

Winner
Keri Hulme
The Bone People
Hodder & Stoughton

*The Bone People* was Keri Hulme’s first and only novel. One review described it as ‘a disaster’. The first British print-run of the book was 1,500 copies, but having won the prize, the book went on to sell 34,000 copies in hardback. Joanna Lumley, one of the judges, said of her experience: ‘The so-called bitchy world of acting was a Brownie’s tea party compared with the piranha-infested waters of publishing.’

Shortlisted authors
Peter Carey
Illywhacker
Faber & Faber

J.L. Carr
The Battle of Pollocks Crossing
Viking

Doris Lessing
The Good Terrorist
Cape

Jan Morris
Last Letters from Hav
Viking

Iris Murdoch
The Good Apprentice
Chatto & Windus

Judges
Norman St John-Stevas (Chair)
Nina Bawden
J.W. Lambert
Joanna Lumley
Marina Warner

1986

Winner
Kingsley Amis
The Old Devils
Hutchinson

There was surprise when *The Old Devils* by Kingsley Amis (a reputed misogynist) won since four of the five judges were women. In his acceptance speech he repented about his previous criticism of the prize saying, ‘Now I feel it is a wonderful indication of literary merit’. He also said that he planned to buy new curtains with his prize money.

Shortlisted authors
Margaret Atwood
The Handmaid’s Tale
Cape

Paul Bailey
Gabriel’s Lament
Cape

Robertson Davies
What’s Bred in the Bone
Viking

Kazuo Ishiguro
An Artist of the Floating World
Faber & Faber

Timothy Mo
An Insular Possession
Chatto & Windus

Judges
Anthony Thwaite (Chair)
Edna Healey
Isabel Quigley
Gillian Reynolds
Bernice Rubens
Penelope Lively won this year with her novel *Moon Tiger*, the story of a woman journalist’s reflections on a troubled life as she lies dying in a hospital bed, overshadowed by the memories of a love affair with a young soldier during the Second World War. Penelope Lively was also shortlisted for the prize in 1977 and 1984.

**Shortlisted authors**
- Chinua Achebe
  - *Anthills of the Savannah*
  - Heinemann
- Peter Ackroyd
  - *Chatterton*
  - Hamish Hamilton
- Nina Bawden
  - *Circles of Deceit*
  - Macmillan

**Winner**
- Penelope Lively
- *Moon Tiger*
- Deutsch

Content in *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie led the Iranian leadership to issue a fatwa against him. The novel was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and Michael Foot, chair of judges, was accused of backing *The Satanic Verses* because Rushdie was a member of the Labour Party. In the end Peter Carey won for *Oscar and Lucinda*.

**Shortlisted authors**
- Bruce Chatwin
  - *Utz*
  - Cape
- Penelope Fitzgerald
  - *The Beginning of Spring*
  - Collins
- David Lodge
  - *Nice Work*
  - Secker & Warburg

**Winner**
- Peter Carey
- *Oscar and Lucinda*
- Faber & Faber

**Judges**
- P.D. James (Chair)
- Lady Selina Hastings
- Allan Massie
- Trevor McDonald
- John B Thompson
Controversy arose when Martin Amis’s *London Fields* was excluded because of feminist objections from the two women judges, Maggie Gee and Helen McNeil, who were offended by the character of Nicola Six, a vampish, sexually reckless young woman who organises her own murder. The eventual winner, Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Remains of the Day*, was later turned into the Oscar-nominated film starring Anthony Hopkins.

A.S. Byatt told the audience at the prize-giving dinner at the Guildhall that she planned to spend her prize money on building a swimming pool at her house in Provence. Edwina Currie later praised *Possession* saying ‘It was clever and beautifully written but also entertaining and a compulsive read. I wish I could write like that!’
Ben Okri became the youngest-ever winner of the Booker in 1991 at the age of 32 with *The Famished Road*. One of the judges, Nicholas Mosley, resigned when he failed to persuade his fellow judges to include Allan Massie’s novel *The Sins of the Father* on the shortlist.

**1991**

**Winner**
Ben Okri
*The Famished Road*
Cape

**Shortlisted authors**
Martin Amis
*Time’s Arrow*
Cape
Roddy Doyle
*The Van*
Secker & Warburg
Rohinton Mistry
*Such a Long Journey*
Faber & Faber

**Judges**
Jeremy Treglown (Chair)
Penelope Fitzgerald
Jonathan Keates
Nicholas Mosley
Ann Schlee

**1992**

**Winners**
Michael Ondaatje
*The English Patient*
Bloomsbury
Barry Unsworth
*Sacred Hunger*
Hamish Hamilton

**Shortlisted authors**
Christopher Hope
*Serenity House*
Macmillan
Patrick McCabe
*The Butcher Boy*
Picador
Ian McEwan
*Black Dogs*
Cape

**Judges**
Victoria Glendinning (Chair)
John Coldstream
Professor Valentine Cunningham
Dr Harriet Harvey Wood
Mark Lawson

The judges, chaired by Victoria Glendinning, came under fire for splitting the prize between Michael Ondaatje’s *The English Patient* (later an evocative film directed by the late Anthony Minghella) and Barry Unsworth’s *Sacred Hunger*. As a result the Booker Prize management committee changed the rules so that in future only one book could win. On jointly winning the prize, Ondaatje said, ‘For a short time, I was a legend in my own lunchtime.’
1993

Winner
Roddy Doyle
Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha
Secker & Warburg

To mark the 25th anniversary of the prize, three former chairmen of the judges - Malcolm Bradbury, David Holloway and W. L. Webb - were asked to choose their ‘Booker of Bookers’. Salman Rushdie’s Midnight’s Children originally won the prize in 1981. Rushdie described it as ‘the greatest compliment I have ever been paid as a writer.’ Roddy Doyle’s Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha won the annual prize that year.

Shortlisted authors
Tibor Fischer
Under the Frog
Polygon
Michael Ignatieff
Scar Tissue
Chatto & Windus
David Malouf
Remembering Babylon
Chatto & Windus

Caryl Phillips
Crossing the River
Bloomsbury
Carol Shields
The Stone Diaries
Fourth Estate

Judges
Lord Gowrie (Chair)
Professor Gillian Beer
Anne Chisholm
Nicholas Clee
Olivier Todd

1994

Winner
James Kelman
How Late It Was, How Late
Secker & Warburg

James Kelman winning the prize gave Scotland its first Booker Prize success. It was a controversial choice with even one of the judges, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, describing How Late It Was, How Late as ‘a disgrace’ before disassociating herself from the decision.

Shortlisted authors
Romesh Gunesekera
Reef
Granta Books
Abdulrazak Gurnah
Paradise
Hamish Hamilton
Alan Hollinghurst
The Folding Star
Chatto & Windus

George Mackay Brown
Beside the Ocean of Time
John Murray
Jill Paton Walsh
Knowledge of Angels
Green Bay

Judges
Professor John Bayley (Chair)
Rabbi Julia Neuberger
Dr Alastair Niven
Alan Taylor
James Wood
1995

Winner
Pat Barker
The Ghost Road
Viking

Shortlisted authors
Justin Cartwright
In Every Face I Meet
Sceptre
Salman Rushdie
The Moor's Last Sigh
Cape
Barry Unsworth
Morality Play
Hamish Hamilton

Tim Winton
The Riders
Picador

Judges
George Walden (Chair)
Kate Kellaway
Peter Kemp
Adam Mars-Jones
Ruth Rendell

A controversy sprang up over the similarity of structure between the winner, Graham Swift’s Last Orders and William Faulkner’s As I Lay Dying. Swift gave an interview the following morning with BBC Radio 4 but was unable to name his favourite authors, ‘because I have a massive hangover,’ he explained.

1996

Winner
Graham Swift
Last Orders
Picador

Shortlisted authors
Margaret Atwood
Alias Grace
Bloomsbury
Beryl Bainbridge
Every Man for Himself
Duckworth
Seamus Deane
Reading in the Dark
Cape

Shena Mackay
The Orchard on Fire
Heinemann
Rohinton Mistry
A Fine Balance
Faber & Faber

Judges
Carmen Callil (Chair)
Jonathan Coe
Ian Jack
A.L. Kennedy
A.N. Wilson

The Ghost Road was the third novel in Pat Barker’s World War I trilogy. On winning the prize, Barker told reporters that the Booker Prize was a good way to draw attention to contemporary fiction. ‘I can’t think of another way of promoting fiction, other than Hollywood films,’ she said.
The God of Small Things was the first – and so far only – novel from Indian writer, Arundhati Roy. Gillian Beer, Professor of English literature at Cambridge and the chair of the judges, said the book was written with ‘extraordinary linguistic inventiveness.’

**Shortlisted authors**
- Jim Crace
- Quarantine
- Viking
- Mick Jackson
- The Underground Man
- Picador
- Bernard MacLaverty
- Grace Notes
- Cape

**Tim Parks**
- Europa
- Secker & Warburg

Madeleine St John
- The Essence of the Thing
- Fourth Estate

**Judges**
- Professor Gillian Beer (Chair)
- Rachel Billington
- Jason Cowley
- Jan Dalley
- Professor Dan Jacobson

Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, and chair of the judges, called Ian McEwan’s novel Amsterdam ‘a sardonic and wise examination of the morals and culture of our time.’ McEwan said he would probably spend the money on ‘something perfectly useless,’ rather than fritter it away on things like ‘bus fares and linoleum.’

**Shortlisted authors**
- Beryl Bainbridge
- Master Georgie
- Duckworth
- Julian Barnes
- England, England
- Cape
- Martin Booth
- The Industry of Souls
- Dewi Lewis

**Patrick McCabe**
- Breakfast on Pluto
- Picador

**Magnus Mills**
- The Restraint of Beasts
- Flamingo

**Judges**
- Douglas Hurd (Chair)
- Professor Valentine Cunningham
- Penelope Fitzgerald
- Miriam Gross
- Nigella Lawson
1999

Winner
J.M. Coetzee
Disgrace
Secker & Warburg

J. M. Coetzee became the first writer to win the Booker Prize twice – with Life & Times of Michael K (1983) and Disgrace (1999). Coetzee described it as the ‘ultimate prize to win in the English-speaking world’. Unable to attend the ceremony, his prepared speech said, ‘If I do win it’s only because the stars this October 25th are in a lucky conjunction for me.’

Shortlisted authors
Anita Desai
Fasting, Feasting
Chatto & Windus
Michael Frayn
Headlong
Faber & Faber
Andrew O’Hagan
Our Fathers
Faber & Faber
Ahdaf Soueif
The Map of Love
Bloomsbury

2000

Winner
Margaret Atwood
The Blind Assassin
Bloomsbury

Robert MacFarlane wrote in The Observer two days before the winner announcement, ‘Ideally, the Booker Prize would be run like a criminal trial. Past offences (or past novels) would not be taken into account, and justice would be administered only according to the available evidence (the books in question).’ Margaret Atwood won this year for her novel The Blind Assassin, having been shortlisted for the prize three times before.

Shortlisted authors
Trezza Azzopardi
The Hiding Place
Picador
Michael Collins
The Keepers of Truth
Phoenix House
Kazuo Ishiguro
When we were Orphans
Faber & Faber

Matthew Kneale
English Passengers
Hamish Hamilton
Brian O’Doherty
The Deposition of Father McGreevy
Arcadia

Judges
Simon Jenkins (Chair)
Professor Roy Foster
Mariella Frostrup
Caroline Gascoigne
Rose Tremain
For the first time in the prize’s 33 year history, the judges revealed their final 24 books, ‘the longlist’ from which the shortlist and the ultimate winner would be chosen. The BBC renewed its partnership with the Booker Prize after four years when Channel 4 covered the Guildhall dinner, and Peter Carey became the second double-winner of the prize with *True History of the Kelly Gang*.

**2002**

*Winner*
Yann Martel
*Life of Pi*
Canongate

Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* proved a hugely popular winner, but it was another novel to provoke a plagiarism row with the accusation that Martel had stolen the idea from a Brazilian author, Dr Moacyr Scliar. In his defence Martel said, ‘I saw a premise I liked and told my own story with it.’ This was the first year of the Man Group’s sponsorship, making Martel the first writer to win the Man Booker Prize.
2003

Winner
D.B.C. Pierre
*Vernon God Little*
Faber & Faber

D.B.C. Pierre’s win for *Vernon God Little* followed shortly after a confession that he had spent a ten year period betraying and fleecing friends over three continents. On winning the prize, D.B.C. Pierre said that the cheque would go straight to the people he owed.

Shortlisted authors
Monica Ali
*Brick Lane*
Doubleday
Margaret Atwood
*Oryx and Crake*
Bloomsbury
Damon Galgut
*The Good Doctor*
Atlantic Books
Zoë Heller
*Notes on a Scandal*
Viking Penguin

Clare Morrall
*Astonishing Splashes of Colour*
Tindal Street Press

Judges
Professor John Carey (Chair)
A.C. Grayling
Francine Stock
Rebecca Stephens MBE
D.J. Taylor

2004

Winner
Alan Hollinghurst
*The Line of Beauty*
Picador

*The Line of Beauty* was dubbed by the media as ‘the first gay novel’ to win the prize. In describing his novel, Alan Hollinghurst said, ‘The first part is a romance, the second one is more farcical and grotesque and the third one is more tragic in nature.’

Shortlisted authors
Achmat Dangor
*Bitter Fruit*
Atlantic
Sarah Hall
*The Electric Michelangelo*
Faber & Faber
David Mitchell
*Cloud Atlas*
Sceptre
Colm Tóibín
*The Master*
Picador

Gerard Woodward
*I’ll go to Bed at Noon*
Chatto & Windus

Judges
Chris Smith (Chair)
Tibor Fischer
Robert Macfarlane
Rowan Pelling
Fiammetta Rocco
John Banville and Kazuo Ishiguro came head to head again on the prize shortlist. Ishiguro had pipped Banville to the post in 1989 with *Remains of the Day*, but this year Banville successfully picked up the prize with his novel *The Sea* over Ishiguro’s *Never Let Me Go*. John Sutherland, chair of judges that year, had to cast the deciding vote between the two novels. The Albanian writer Ismail Kadaré became the winner of the inaugural Man Booker International Prize.

Kiran Desai’s win with her second novel, *Inheritance of Loss*, made her the youngest female author to have won the prize. Her mother Anita Desai, herself shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times, was delighted with the news. Desai told reporters her win felt ‘like a family endeavour’.
With *The Gathering* Anne Enright became the third Irish novelist to win the Man Booker Prize. ‘When people pick up a book they may want something happy that will cheer them up. In that case they shouldn’t really pick up my book. It’s the intellectual equivalent of a Hollywood weepie.’

**Shortlisted authors**
- Nicola Barker
  - *Darkmans*
  - Fourth Estate
- Mohsin Hamid
  - *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
  - Hamish Hamilton
- Lloyd Jones
  - *Mister Pip*
  - John Murray
- Ian McEwan
  - *On Chesil Beach*
  - Cape

**Judges**
- Howard Davies (Chair)
- Wendy Cope
- Giles Foden
- Ruth Scurr
- Imogen Stubbs

The judges enjoyed culinary as well as literary delights this year, as Hardeep Singh Kohli cooked dinner for the panel to accompany their meetings. The meals were such a success that one was filmed for the BBC’s *The One Show*. It is not known whether Hardeep’s Indian cuisine influenced the eventual choice of winner.

**Shortlisted authors**
- Sebastian Barry
  - *The Secret Scripture*
  - Faber & Faber
- Amitav Ghosh
  - *Sea of Poppies*
  - John Murray
- Linda Grant
  - *The Clothes on Their Backs*
  - Virago

**Judges**
- Michael Portillo (Chair)
- Alex Clark
- Louise Doughty
- James Heneage
- Hardeep Singh Kohli
2009

Winner
Hilary Mantel
Wolf Hall
Fourth Estate

Wolf Hall was a commercial as well as critical success becoming the fastest selling Man Booker winner ever. It sold over half a million copies in the UK alone, with rights sold to 37 countries world wide.

Shortlisted authors
A.S. Byatt
The Children’s Book
Chatto & Windus

J.M. Coetzee
Summertime
Harvill Secker

Adam Foulds
The Quickening Maze
Cape

Simon Mawer
The Glass Room
Little, Brown

Sarah Waters
The Little Stranger
Virago

Judges
James Naughtie (Chair)
Lucasta Miller
John Mullan
Sue Perkins
Michael Prodger

2010

Winner
Howard Jacobson
The Finkler Question
Bloomsbury

Accepting the prize, Jacobson joked he had been writing unused acceptance speeches for years. ‘I note that my language in these speeches grows less gracious with the years. You start to want to blame the judges who have given you the prize for all the prizes they didn’t give you. But they aren’t, of course, the same judges. Tonight, I forgive everyone - they were only doing their job, those judges…’

Shortlisted authors
Peter Carey
Parrot and Olivier in America
Faber & Faber

Emma Donoghue
Room
Picador

Damon Galgut
In a Strange Room
Grove Atlantic

Andrea Levy
The Long Song
Headline Review

Tom McCarthy
C
Cape

Judges
Sir Andrew Motion (Chair)
Rosie Blau
Deborah Bull
Tom Sutcliffe
Frances Wilson
Dame Stella Rimington chaired her panel of judges through a controversial year which culminated in Julian Barnes being crowned winner for his first novel for six years, *The Sense of an Ending*. The bookies’ favourite to win, Barnes had been shortlisted three times previously and had in the past described the Man Booker Prize as ‘posh bingo’. His winning book went on to sell over 300,000 hardback copies in the UK alone.

**Shortlisted authors**

Carol Birch  
*Jamrach’s Menagerie*  
Canongate

Patrick deWitt  
*The Sisters Brothers*  
Granta Books

Esi Edugyan  
*Half-Blood Blues*  
Serpent’s Tail

**Winner**  
Julian Barnes  
*The Sense of an Ending*  
Jonathan Cape

Hilary Mantel triumphed for a second time with her successor to *Wolf Hall*, *Bring Up the Bodies*. In so doing, she achieved three ‘firsts’ - not only was she first woman and the first British author to win the prize twice, but she was also the first person to win the prize for two novels in a trilogy. The RSC acquired the theatrical rights to both. 2013 was also significant in that three out of the six shortlisted authors were published by small, independent houses.

**Shortlisted authors**

Tan Twan Eng  
*The Garden of Evening Mists*  
Myrmidon Books

Deborah Levy  
*Swimming Home & Other Stories*  
Faber & Faber

Alison Moore  
*The Lighthouse*  
Salt Publishing

**Winner**  
Hilary Mantel  
*Bring Up the Bodies*  
Fourth Estate

**Judges**

Dame Stella Rimington (Chair)  
Matthew d’Ancona  
Susan Hill  
Chris Mullin  
Gaby Wood

**Judges**

Sir Peter Stothard (Chair)  
Dinah Birch  
Amanda Foreman  
Dan Stevens  
Bharat Tandon
Robert Macfarlane (Chair) is a Fellow in English at Cambridge University, specialising in contemporary literature, and is well-known both as a critic and writer.

Robert Douglas-Fairhurst is a biographer and critic who is a Fellow and Tutor in English at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Natalie Haynes is a writer and broadcaster who writes a column for The Independent, and blogs for The Guardian.

Martha Kearney has developed a reputation as one of the BBC’s most respected journalists. She presents The World At One on Radio Four and The Review Show on BBC2.

Stuart Kelly is a writer, critic and reviewer for The Scotsman, Scotland On Sunday, The Guardian and The Times. He was recently appointed Director of the Glasgow Literature Festival.
2013 Judges left to right: Stuart Kelly, Natalie Haynes, Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, Robert Macfarlane (Chair), Martha Kearney
To mark the 25th anniversary of the prize, three former chairs of the judges – Malcolm Bradbury, David Holloway and W.L. Webb – were asked to choose their ‘Booker of Bookers’. Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children* originally won the prize in 1981. Rushdie described it as ‘the greatest compliment I have ever been paid as a writer.’

**Winner**
Salman Rushdie
*Midnight’s Children*
Vintage

**Judges**
Malcolm Bradbury
David Holloway
W.L. Webb
To mark the 40th Anniversary of the prize, a panel of judges was asked to select a shortlist of the best books to have won the prize in the previous four decades. For the first time in the prize’s history, the overall winner was selected by an online public vote.

Salman Rushdie was named winner of the Best of the Booker award for *Midnight’s Children* with 36 per cent of the votes. Rushdie commented: ‘Marvellous news! I’m absolutely delighted and would like to thank all those readers around the world who voted for *Midnight’s Children*.’

**Shortlisted authors**
- Pat Barker
  *The Ghost Road*
  Viking
- Peter Carey
  *Oscar and Lucinda*
  Faber & Faber
- J.M. Coetzee
  *Disgrace*
  Seckler & Warburg
- J.G. Farrell
  *The Siege of Krishnapur*
  Weidenfeld & Nicolson
- Nadine Gordimer
  *The Conservationist*
  Cape

**Judges**
- Victoria Glendinning (Chair)
- Mariella Frostrup
- John Mullan
The Lost Man Booker Prize was a one-off prize to honour the books that missed out on the opportunity to win the Booker Prize in 1970. In 1971, just two years after it began, the Booker Prize ceased to be awarded retrospectively and became a prize for the best novel of the year of publication. At the same time the award moved from April to November, resulting in a wealth of fiction published for much of 1970 not being considered for the prize.

In 2008, 40 years on, a panel of three judges - all of whom were born in or around 1970 - was appointed to select a shortlist of six novels from that year. They were poet and novelist Tobias Hill, television newsreader, Katie Derham, and the journalist and critic, Rachel Cooke.

The winner of the Lost Man Booker Prize was J.G. Farrell with *Troubles*. His family accepted a designer-bound copy of the novel on his behalf.

**Winner**
Salman Rushdie
*Midnight’s Children*
*Vintage*

**Shortlisted authors**
Nina Bawden
*The Birds on the Trees*
*Virago*
Shirley Hazzard
*The Bay of Noon*
*Virago*
Mary Renault
*Fire From Heaven*
*Arrow*
Muriel Spark
*The Driver’s Seat*
*Penguin*
Patrick White
*The Vivisector*
*Vintage*

**Judges**
Tobias Hill
Katie Derham
Rachel Cooke
The late, much-loved, novelist Dame Beryl Bainbridge was shortlisted five times for the Booker Prize, but never actually won. Despite many other literary accolades, she was famous for being the ‘Booker Bridesmaid.’ In her honour, the Booker Prize Foundation created a special prize, The Man Booker Best of Beryl, and asked the public to consider which of her five shortlisted novels best deserved to win this special tribute prize.

The winning novel, as chosen by the public, was Master Georgie - originally shortlisted for the 1998 Man Booker Prize and described by the Sunday Telegraph as ‘Truly extraordinary, heartbreakingly good.’ The novel tells the story of George Hardy, a surgeon and photographer who leaves Victorian Liverpool to offer his services in the Crimea. He is followed by a small caravan of devoted followers, each driven onwards through the rising tide of death and disease by a shared and mysterious guilt.

All five novels have now been reissued by Abacus.

**Shortlisted novels**
An Awfully Big Adventure
Duckworth
Every Man for Himself
Duckworth
Master Georgie
Duckworth
The Bottle Factory Outing
Duckworth
The Dressmaker
Duckworth
The Man Booker International Prize
2013

Winner
Lydia Davis USA

The Man Booker International Prize recognises one writer for his or her achievement in fiction. Worth £60,000, the prize is awarded every two years to a living author who has published fiction either originally in English or whose work is generally available in translation in the English language. The winner is chosen solely at the discretion of the judging panel and there are no submissions from publishers.

Launched in 2005, The Man Booker International Prize is significantly different from the annual Man Booker Prize for Fiction in that it highlights one writer’s overall contribution to fiction on the world stage. In focusing above all on literary excellence, the judges consider a writer’s body of work rather than a single novel.

U R Ananthamurthy India
Aharon Appelfeld Israel
Intizar Hussain Pakistan
Yan Lianke China
Marie NDiaye France
Josip Novakovich Canada
Marilynne Robinson USA
Vladimir Sorokin Russia
Peter Stamm Switzerland

Judges
Christopher Ricks (Chair)
Elif Batuman
Aminatta Forna
Yiyun Li
Tim Parks
The Man Booker International Prize

2011

Winner
Philip Roth USA

List of Finalists
Wang Anyi China
John le Carré UK
Juan Goytisolo Spain
James Kelman UK
Amin Maalouf Lebanon
David Malouf Australia
Dacia Maraini Italy
Rohinton Mistry India/Canada
Philip Pullman UK
Marilynne Robinson USA
Su Tong China
Anne Tyler USA

Judges
Dr Rick Gekoski (Chair)
Carmen Callil
Justin Cartwright

2009

Winner
Alice Munro Canada

List of Finalists
Peter Carey Australia
Evan S. Connell USA
Mahasweta Devi India
E.L. Doctorow USA
James Kelman UK
Mario Vargas Llosa Peru
Arnošt Lustig Czech Republic
V.S. Naipaul Trinidad/India
Joyce Carol Oates USA
Antonio Tabucchi Italy
Ngugi Wa Thiong’O Kenya
Dubravka Ugresic Croatia
Ludmila Ulitskaya Russia

Judges
Jane Smiley (Chair)
Amit Chaudhuri
Andrey Kurkov
The Man Booker International Prize
2007

Winner
Chinua Achebe Nigeria

List of Finalists
Margaret Atwood Canada
John Banville Ireland
Peter Carey Australia
Don Delillo USA
Carlos Fuentes Mexico
Doris Lessing UK
Ian McEwan UK
Harry Mulisch Netherlands
Alice Munro Canada
Michael Ondaatje Canada
Amos Oz Israel
Philip Roth USA
Salman Rushdie UK
Michel Tournier France

Judges
Elaine Showalter (Chair)
Nadine Gordimer
Colm Tóibín

2005

Winner
Ismail Kadaré Albania

List of Finalists
Margaret Atwood Canada
Saul Bellow Canada
Gabriel García Márquez Colombia
Günter Grass Germany
Milan Kundera Czech Republic
Stanislaw Lem Poland
Doris Lessing UK
Naguib Mahfouz Egypt
Tomás Eloy Martinez Argentina
Ian McEwan UK
Kenzaburo Oe Japan
Cynthia Ozick USA
A.B. Yehoshua Israel

Judges
John Carey (Chair)
Azar Nafisi
Alberto Manguel
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The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the FTSE 250 Index. Man is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). Man also supports many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsorship of the Man Booker literary prizes. Further information can be found at www.man.com.
The people behind the prize

The trustees of the Booker Prize Foundation are former Chairman of Booker plc, Jonathan Taylor CBE (Chair); Lord Baker of Dorking CH; writer, critic and broadcaster, Bidisha; playwright and President of the Royal Literary Fund, Sir Ronald Harwood CBE; former Chair of the British Council and Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, Baroness Kennedy QC; Professor of Creative Writing, Royal Holloway College University of London and former Poet Laureate, Sir Andrew Motion; broadcaster, James Naughtie; biographer, Victoria Glendinning CBE and former Finance Director of Rentokil plc, Christopher Pearce. Martyn Goff CBE, former Man Booker Prize administrator, is President of the Foundation and Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne and Baroness Neuberger are Vice Presidents.

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The Advisory Committee is chaired by Ion Trewin, Literary Director of the Booker Prize Foundation.

Four Colman Getty handles PR, marketing and event management for The Man Booker Prizes and provides administrative back-up.

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“The most toffee-nosed among the literati may still regard the very notion of a prize as vulgar. But every year – from the unveiling of the longlist until the winner is revealed – the Man Booker gets us all talking about books, in a way that nothing else can match.”

The Guardian

“Even when the Booker isn’t controversial, it’s controversial for not being controversial enough. There’s a peculiar circularity at the heart of its cultural significance. It’s important because it’s controversial, and it’s controversial because it’s important.”

Mark O’Connell, The New Yorker blog