

Fiction at
its finest

www.themanbookerprize.com

13 October 2015

Guildhall
Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HH

'The writers on the shortlist present an extraordinary range of approaches to fiction.'

Michael Wood, 2015 Chair of judges

'It's the most extraordinary honour, and it has such consequence... you are fully aware that you are no longer standing in the same place you had been previously as a writer.'

Richard Flanagan, 2014 Man Booker Prize winner

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction

The Booker Prize Foundation and Man Group welcome you to the presentation of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction in the historic surroundings of London's Guildhall. For 47 years, the prize has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction.

This year's shortlist features two authors from the United Kingdom, two from the United States and one apiece from Jamaica and Nigeria. Tom McCarthy is the only shortlisted author to have been nominated before, having been shortlisted for C in 2010.

The 2015 judges, chaired by Michael Wood, have praised this shortlist – which features one debut writer and a wide cultural heritage - for 'an extraordinary range of approaches to fiction'.

Tonight one of these six books will be chosen as the year's best novel, joining a distinguished canon of 48 former winners. 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 along with a specially commissioned designer edition of their book. Both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a worldwide readership plus a dramatic increase in book sales.

The BBC, as the broadcast partner of the prize, will announce the winner on the News at Ten. In addition, viewers worldwide will be able to watch proceedings unfold through the BBC website.

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The
Booker
Prize
Foundation

Programme

6.30pm

Champagne Reception in the Old Library

7.15pm

Call to Dinner in the Great Hall

7.30pm

Welcome speeches by Jonathan Taylor,
Chair of The Booker Prize Foundation
Emmanuel Roman, Chief Executive of Man
HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

8.00pm

Dinner

9.40pm

Michael Wood, Chair of judges, announces the winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction, followed by presentation to the winner by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and Emmanuel Roman.

The winner announcement will be broadcast on BBC News across television, radio and online

11.00pm

Carriages

Menu

Celeriac Espuma

Celeriac espuma, deep fried quail egg, wild rice crispies, cheddar panna cotta, braised celeriac, caramelized onion puree, golden chanterelle, trompette mushrooms (v)

Beef

Pan fried Aberdeen Angus beef fillet, potato rosti, cauliflower puree, butternut squash purée, wild mushroom and Swiss chard gellet, butter poached romanesco, red wine jus

Cauliflower (v)

Roasted cauliflower, potato rosti, butternut squash puree, wild mushroom and Swiss chard gellet, butter poached romanesco, red wine jus

Orange Carpaccio

Orange carpaccio, blood orange parfait, watercress puree and shoots with cardamom almond brittle and honey roasted fig

Musetti After Dinner Coffee and Petit Fours

Pouilly Fuisse, Domaine de la Creuze Noire

Costa Mediana Amarone Della Valpolicella

Shortlisted authors



A Brief History of Seven Killings

Marlon James
Oneworld Publications

It's like a Tarantino remake of "The Harder They Come" but with a soundtrack by Bob Marley and a script by Oliver Stone and William Faulkner...epic in every sense of that word: sweeping, mythic, over-the-top, colossal and dizzyingly complex.' *New York Times*

Marlon James, 44, was born in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1970. Marlon's first novel, *John Crow's Devil*, was a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and the Commonwealth Writers Prize, and was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice. His second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, won the 2010 Dayton Literary Peace Prize and was a finalist for the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award. James' writing has appeared in *Esquire*, *Granta*, *Publisher's Weekly* and *The Caribbean Review of Books*. James currently lives in Minneapolis, USA.

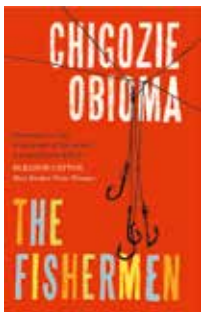


Satin Island

Tom McCarthy
Jonathan Cape

'A Kafka for the Google Age.' *Daily Telegraph*

Tom McCarthy, 46, was born in 1969 and grew up in London, UK. His creation, in 1999, of the International Neconautical Society (INS), a 'semi-fictional organisation' that combines literature, art and philosophy, has led to publications, installations and exhibitions in galleries and museums around the world. McCarthy regularly writes on literature and art for numerous publications. His books include *Remainder* (2006), *Men in Space* (2007), and *C* (2010), which was shortlisted for that year's Man Booker Prize. McCarthy currently lives in London.

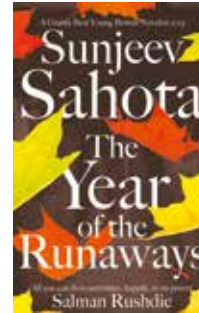


The Fishermen

Chigozie Obioma
ONE, Pushkin Press

'A striking, controlled and masterfully taut debut... The tale has a timeless quality that renders it almost allegorical and it is the more powerful for it.' *Financial Times*

Chigozie Obioma, 28, was born in 1986 in Akure, Nigeria. His short stories have appeared in the *Virginia Quarterly Review* and *New Madrid*. He was a Fall 2012 OMI Fellow at Ledig House, New York. He has lived in Nigeria, Cyprus and Turkey, and currently resides in the United States, where he has completed an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Michigan and is now assistant professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. *The Fishermen* is his first novel.

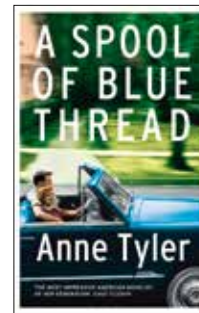


The Year of the Runaways

Sunjeev Sahota
Picador

'Should be compulsory reading. A magnificent achievement.' *Daily Mail*

Sunjeev Sahota, 34, was born in 1981 in Derbyshire, UK. His debut novel, *Ours are the Streets*, was called 'nothing short of extraordinary', *Observer*; 'a moral work of real intelligence and power', *The Times*. Sahota is a *Granta* Best of British Novelist 2013 and currently lives in Sheffield, UK.

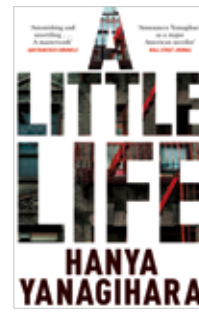


A Spool of Blue Thread

Anne Tyler
Chatto & Windus

'The writing is beautiful, unshowy, spare yet bountiful, the distilled style of a long lifetime of creating great novels.' *Spectator*

Anne Tyler, 73, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, in 1941 and grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. She published her first book, *If Morning Ever Comes*, in 1964. In 1985, *The Accidental Tourist* was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1986 and was made into a film starring William Hurt and Geena Davis. *Breathing Lessons* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1989. Tyler lives in Baltimore, USA.



A Little Life

Hanya Yanagihara
Picador

'A *Little Life* is an astonishing achievement: a novel of grand drama and sentiment, but it's a canvas Yanagihara has painted with delicate, subtle brushstrokes.' *The Independent*

Hanya Yanagihara, 41, was born in Los Angeles, California, USA, in 1975. Yanagihara is the author of *The People in the Trees*, shortlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction and *A Little Life*. She is deputy editor at *T: The New York Times Style Magazine* and lives in New York City.

The Sponsor – Man Group

Man Group has sponsored the Man Booker Prize since 2002. A leading alternative investment management firm founded in 1783, Man Group was recognised as a partner who mirrored the quality, integrity and longevity of the Booker Prize. The prize underscores Man Group's charitable focus on literacy and education as well as the firm's commitment to excellence and entrepreneurship. Together with the wider charitable activities of the Booker Prize Foundation, the prize plays a very important role in promoting literary excellence on a global scale that the firm is honoured to support.

Man Group is one of the world's largest independent alternative investment managers, and a leader in high-alpha, liquid investment strategies. Across its four investment managers (Man AHL, Man FRM, Man GLG and Man Numeric), Man Group has a diverse offering in hedge funds and long only products spanning equity, credit, managed futures, convertibles, emerging markets and multi-manager solutions. At 30 June 2015, Man Group's funds under management were \$78.8 billion. The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange under the ticker EMG.L and is a constituent of the FTSE 250 Index. Man Group 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 2015 Judges

Michael Wood (Chair) is an author and academic. Born in Lincoln, he studied Modern Languages at Cambridge and has gone on to teach at the universities of Cambridge, Columbia, Exeter and Princeton, where he is now Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature. He writes frequently in the *London Review of Books* and the *New York Review of Books*, and his most recent longer publications are *Literature and the Taste of Knowledge* and *Yeats and Violence*. His brief life of Alfred Hitchcock, *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, was published in March 2015.

Ellah Wakatama Allfrey is an independent critic, broadcaster and editor. She is the editor of *Africa39: New Writing from Africa South of the Sahara* (Bloomsbury, 2014). The former Deputy Editor of *Granta* magazine, she sits on the boards of the English PEN and the Writers' Centre Norwich, as well as serving as Deputy Chair of the Council of the Caine Prize and patron of the Etisalat Prize for Literature. A prolific journalist, she is a regular contributor to the book pages of NPR in the USA. In 2011 Allfrey was awarded an OBE for services to the publishing industry.

John Burnside is a novelist, short story writer and poet. His poetry collection, *Black Cat Bone*, won both the Forward and the T.S. Eliot Prizes in 2011, a year in which he also received the Petrarch Prize for Poetry.

Sam Leith is the Literary Editor of *The Spectator* and a columnist for the *London Evening Standard*, *Financial Times* and *Prospect*. He is the author of four books, including a novel, *The Coincidence Engine* (Bloomsbury) and, most recently, *You Talkin' To Me? Rhetoric from Aristotle to Obama* (Profile). He lives in London with his wife and three children.

Frances Osborne is the author of three books. Her first biography, *Lilla's Feast* (2004), has been translated into six languages and is a Kiriama Prize Notable Book. Her second biography, *The Bolter* (2008), was a *Sunday Times* No.1 bestseller and she is currently adapting it for a television drama series. Her first novel, *Park Lane* (2012), was shortlisted for the Historical Crime Writers' Association/Goldsboro' Books First Novel Award. She is currently working on a new biography.



2015 Judges left to right: Ellah Wakatama Allfrey, John Burnside, Michael Wood (Chair), Frances Osborne, Sam Leith.

Previous Winners

1969	PH Newby	Something to Answer For
1970	Bernice Rubens	The Elected Member
1971	VS Naipaul	In a Free State
1972	John Berger	G
1973	JG Farrell	The Siege of Krishnapur
1974	Nadine Gordimer	The Conservationist
	Stanley Middleton	Holiday
1975	Ruth Praver Jhabvala	Heat and Dust
1976	David Storey	Saville
1977	Paul Scott	Staying On
1978	Iris Murdoch	The Sea, The Sea
1979	Penelope Fitzgerald	Offshore
1980	William Golding	Rites of Passage
1981	Salman Rushdie	Midnight's Children
1982	Thomas Keneally	Schindler's Ark
1983	JM Coetzee	Life & Times of Michael K
1984	Anita Brookner	Hotel du Lac
1985	Keri Hulme	The Bone People
1986	Kingsley Amis	The Old Devils
1987	Penelope Lively	Moon Tiger
1988	Peter Carey	Oscar and Lucinda
1989	Kazuo Ishiguro	The Remains of the Day
1990	AS Byatt	Possession
1991	Ben Okri	The Famished Road
1992	Michael Ondaatje	The English Patient
	Barry Unsworth	Sacred Hunger
1993*	Roddy Doyle	Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha
1994	James Kelman	How Late it Was, How Late
1995	Pat Barker	The Ghost Road
1996	Graham Swift	Last Orders
1997	Arundhati Roy	The God of Small Things
1998	Ian McEwan	Amsterdam
1999	JM Coetzee	Disgrace
2000	Margaret Atwood	The Blind Assassin
2001	Peter Carey	True History of the Kelly Gang
2002	Yann Martel	Life of Pi
2003	DBC Pierre	Vernon God Little
2004	Alan Hollinghurst	The Line of Beauty
2005	John Banville	The Sea
2006	Kiran Desai	The Inheritance of Loss
2007	Anne Enright	The Gathering
2008*	Aravind Adiga	The White Tiger
2009	Hilary Mantel	Wolf Hall
2010*	Howard Jacobson	The Finkler Question
2011	Julian Barnes	The Sense of an Ending
2012	Hilary Mantel	Bring up the Bodies
2013	Eleanor Catton	The Luminaires
2014	Richard Flanagan	The Narrow Road to the Deep North

*Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* won both the 'Booker of Bookers' in 1993, a new award to mark the 25th anniversary of the prize, and the 'Best of the Booker' in 2008 to celebrate the prize's 40th anniversary. In 2010, JG Farrell's *Troubles* won the 'Lost Man Booker', a prize to celebrate books published in 1970, but not considered for the prize when its rules were changed. 'The Best of Beryl', in 2011, honoured the late Dame Beryl Bainbridge who was shortlisted for the prize five times. Her 1998 novel *Master Georgie* was chosen as the people's favourite.

The people behind the prize

The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity (no 1090049) which, since 2002, has been responsible for the award of the prize. The trustees of the Booker Prize Foundation are:

[Jonathan Taylor CBE](#) – Chair, former Chairman of Booker plc

[Lord Baker of Dorking CH](#)

[Bidisha](#) – writer, critic and broadcaster

[Victoria Glendinning CBE](#) – biographer

[Baroness Kennedy QC](#) – former Chair of the British Council and Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford

[James Naughtie](#) – broadcaster

[Christopher Pearce](#) – former Finance Director of Rentokil plc

[Dr Louise Richardson](#) – Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of St Andrews

[Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne](#), [Sir Ronald Harwood](#) and [Baroness Neuberger](#) are Vice Presidents of the Foundation.

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:

[Richard Cable](#) – publisher, Random House

[Mark Chilton](#) – Company Secretary and General Counsel of Booker Group plc

[Basil Comely](#) – BBC TV

[James Daunt](#) – Managing Director of Waterstones

[Jonathan Douglas](#) – Director of the National Literacy Trust

[Maggie Fergusson](#) – writer and Secretary of the Royal Society of Literature

[Derek Johns](#) – Non-executive Chairman, Granta

[Peter Kemp](#) – Chief Fiction Reviewer, *The Sunday Times*

[Nigel Newton](#) – publisher, Bloomsbury

[Fiammetta Rocco](#) – literary editor, *The Economist* (Man Booker International Prize Administrator and acting Literary Director)

[Emmanuel Roman](#) – Chief Executive Officer, Man Group

[Eve Smith](#) – Secretary, the Booker Prize Foundation

[Robert Topping](#) – Topping & Company Booksellers

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Acknowledgements

Each year, the shortlisted authors receive a specially commissioned handbound edition of their book, created by six Fellows of Designer Bookbinders, the principal bookbinding society in the UK. The books are presented to the shortlisted authors at the awards dinner.

The Booker Prize Foundation has a longstanding partnership with RNIB. The Foundation funds the production of the shortlisted titles in braille, giant print and audio, which the sight loss charity produce by the date the winner is announced. The accessible versions are then made available to the tens of thousands of blind and partially sighted members of the RNIB Library.

Four Colman Getty has handled the Man Booker Prizes for 22 years. The consultancy specialises in culture and campaigning PR. Further information can be found at www.fourcolmangetty.com.

'A list full of promise.'

The Guardian

'The ultimate prize to win in
the English speaking world'

J M Coetzee, Booker Prize winner
(1983 & 1999)

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