

The Man Booker Prize 2002 - media quotes

'I found myself wondering about the name of the new award. Were the sponsors pleased that the Man Booker Prize had been won by a man? It is not as if the Orange Prize will ever be won by an orange.' Ian Hislop

'The Oscars of the publishing world' The Straits Times

'I feel ecstatic. I feel exhilarated...I am absolutely delighted, this is a writer's dream to win such a prestigious prize as the Booker.' Yann Martel

'The Booker Prize is a bond between Britain, the Commonwealth and Ireland. It fosters and nurtures native writing and reading. Without the Booker much of the rich cultural diversity of the books it has promoted to the attention of the reading public would have remained submerged.' The Guardian

'From the moment the judges are chosen in the spring, to the shortlist announcement in September and then the prize-giving ceremony in October, it becomes the best parlour game in literary London' Sunday Times

'The dear old Booker Prize for Fiction, which was first awarded in 1969, is one of the great British institutions...some episodes in its history of prize-night dinners have entered out folklore.' The Times

On the 'brouhaha' that erupted when it was learned that the Man Booker Prize for Fiction might consider expanding the prize into the US - should it be deemed feasible and desirable:

'Get off it. Does anyone over there really believe that American literary fiction in this Year of Our Lord 2002 is so superior to the of Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth that it would swamp the Booker competition? What have these people been reading, or smoking? What a joke!' Washington Post

'American fiction now speaks, with the most infrequent exceptions, only to its own Inner Child. It is fiction from the Commonwealth that dares, that takes the big leaps, that makes the reader think and feel. Man, if I were Booker, I'd say: Bring on the Yanks.' Washington Post

'The Booker Prize is one of the most prestigious literary awards in the English-speaking world, bringing fame, acclaim, and an almost guaranteed surge in book sales.' The Philadelphia Inquirer

'I've got a note of what I'd say for my Booker Prize speech.' Helen Fielding, author of *Bridget Jones's Diary*