

THE BOOKER PRIZE 2001

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THE BOOKER PRIZE 2001: OFFICIAL LONGLIST ANNOUNCED

For the first time ever, the Booker Prize judging panel has decided to publish their longlist of books from which the eventual shortlist will be selected.

The total number of books submitted for this year's prize was 102. Books from the call-in list and additional books requested by the judges totalled 17, bringing the total number of entries to 119.

From this, the judges have selected a longlist of 24 books, as follows:

| Author | Title | Publisher |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Beryl Bainbridge | According to Queeney | Little, Brown |
| Derek Beaven | If the Invader Comes | 4 th Estate |
| Melvyn Bragg | A Son of War | Sceptre |
| Peter Carey | True History of the Kelly Gang | Faber and Faber |
| Ciaran Carson | Shamrock Tea | Granta Books |
| Stevie Davies | The Element of Water | Women's Press |
| Nadine Gordimer | The Pickup | Bloomsbury |
| Patricia Grace | Dogside Story | Women's Press |
| Abdulrazak Gurnah | By the Sea | Bloomsbury |
| Nick Hornby | How to be Good | Viking |
| + Zvi Jagendorf | Wolfy and the Strudelbakers | Dewi Lewis Publishing |
| James Kelman | Translated Accounts | Secker & Warburg |
| / Ian McEwan | An Atonement | Jonathan Cape |
| / Eoin McNamee | The Blue Tango | Faber and Faber |
| / Andrew Miller | Oxygen | Sceptre |
| David Mitchell | Number 9 Dream | Sceptre |
| Ferdinand Mount | Fairness | Chatto & Windus |
| V. S. Naipaul | Half a Life | Picador |
| Philip Pullman | The Amber Spyglass | Scholastic |
| Rachel Seiffert | The Dark Room | William Heinemann |
| + Ali Smith | Hotel World | Hamish Hamilton |
| + Manil Suri | The Death of Vishnu | Bloomsbury |
| Jane Urquhart | The Stone Carvers | Bloomsbury |
| Marina Warner | The Leto Bundle | Chatto & Windus |

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1st novels



Chair of judges, Kenneth Baker, comments:

"There has always been speculation about the Booker Prize longlist, so I am very glad my fellow judges have agreed unanimously to produce an official longlist for the first time ever. We hope the list will highlight the wide-ranging depth and quality of books submitted for this year's Booker."

The judging panel for 2001 is: Kenneth Baker, writer and former Secretary of State for Education (chair); novelist and critic, Philip Hensher; Michèle Roberts, novelist and poet; Kate Summerscale, biographer and Literary Editor of The Daily Telegraph; and Professor Rory Watson, academic and writer.

Diary Dates – The Booker Prize 2001

- **Tuesday, 18 September 2001 – Shortlist Announcement**
The shortlist for the Booker Prize 2001 will be announced at a press conference at the Savile Club, London, W1.
- **Wednesday 17 October 2001 – Winner Announcement**
The winner of the Booker Prize 2001 will be announced at an Awards Dinner in Guildhall, London, televised live on BBC TWO.

Further information and breaking news on the Booker Prize is available at www.thebookerprize.com.

Notes to Editors

- Every year publishers are allowed to submit two books for the Booker Prize. Every Booker Prize-winner and any author who has appeared on the shortlist for the last ten years is automatically considered.
- The Booker Prize shortlist always generates interest, especially amongst publishers, booksellers, readers and the media. The aim of releasing the longlist - which up until now has been kept confidential – is to build on the excitement and anticipation of the Booker year even further in advance of the winner's announcement in October.

- Book wholesalers Bertrams, Gardners and THE will offer their services as a clearing house for the Booker Prize shortlist, ensuring that the six shortlisted books are distributed to bookshops immediately after the shortlist announcement along with a shortlist poster for in-store displays.
- The Booker Prize for Fiction was set up by Booker plc in 1968 to reward merit, raise the stature of the author in the eyes of the public, and increase the sales of the books. It is administered by BookTrust (the independent charity which promotes books and reading) and Martyn Goff OBE.
- Booker is the largest cash & carry company in the UK with 179 branches nationwide and a turnover of £3.5 billion. It is the key link between branded manufacturers and the independent sector.
- In June 2000, Booker plc merged with Iceland plc to form the Iceland Group plc. The Iceland Group plc employs 30,000 people in the UK and has an annual turnover of £5.5 billion. Group activity is centred on four areas; food retailing – Iceland Foods plc; home shopping – Iceland.co.uk; food service – Woodward Foodservice Ltd; and food wholesaling – Booker Cash & Carry Ltd.
- The winner of the Booker Prize receives a total of £21,000. The other five shortlisted authors each receive a cheque for £1,000, bringing the total prize value to £26,000.

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