

The Man Booker Best of Beryl Prize

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, the press's phrase - the 'Booker bridesmaid' - stuck. In her honour, the Booker Prize Foundation has created a special prize, **The Man Booker Best of Beryl**, and asks the public to consider which of her five shortlisted novels deserves the accolade. No author has ever been shortlisted as many times for the prize.

You are invited to vote via an online poll on the Man Booker website themanbookerprize.com for your favourite of Dame Beryl's five shortlisted novels. The winning title will be announced in mid-April 2011.

For further information about the prize please visit themanbookerprize.com or follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/ManBookerPrize

'Dame Beryl was a very gracious non-winner and no Man Booker dinner was really complete without her. She was the eternal Booker Bridesmaid but, with this special prize created in her honour, we're delighted to be able to finally crown her a Booker Bride by letting the public choose the favourite of her books.'

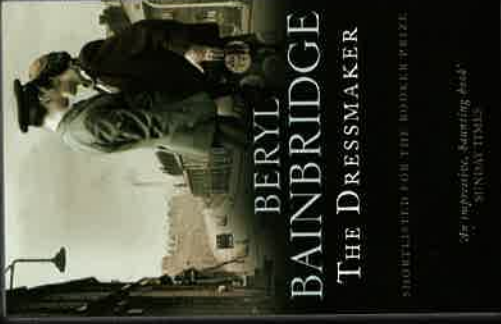
Jon Trewin, Literary Director of the Man Booker Prize

'Beryl did want to win the Booker very much despite her protests to the contrary. We are glad she is finally able to become the bride, no longer the bridesmaid.'

Jojo Davies, Beryl's daughter



Beryl Bainbridge was an author and actress. She wrote seventeen novels, two travel books and five plays for stage and television. Her novel *Master Georgie* won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and *Every Man for Himself* was awarded the Whitbread Novel of the Year Prize. She won the Guardian Fiction Prize with *The Dressmaker* and the Whitbread Prize with *Injury Time*. *The Boffle Factory Outing*, *Sweet William* and *The Dressmaker* have all been adapted for film, as was *An Awfully Big Adventure*, which starred Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman. Her final novel, *Girl in a Polka Dot Dress*, will be published by Little, Brown in June. She died in July last year.



SHORTLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE

'An imaginative, haunting book'
SUNDAY TIMES

The Dressmaker 1973

'A chilly story, written by a master hand.'
The Times

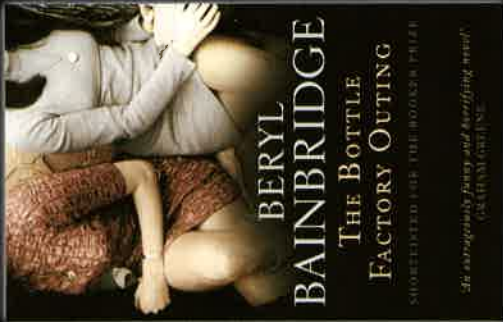
Wartime Liverpool is a place of ration books and jobs in munitions factories. Rita, living with her two aunts Nellie and Margo, is emotionally naïve and withdrawn. When she meets Ira, a GI, at a neighbour's party she falls in love almost as much with the idea of life as a GI bride as the man himself. But Nellie and Margo are not so blind...

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The Booker Prize Foundation

Vote for your favourite at
themanbookerprize.com

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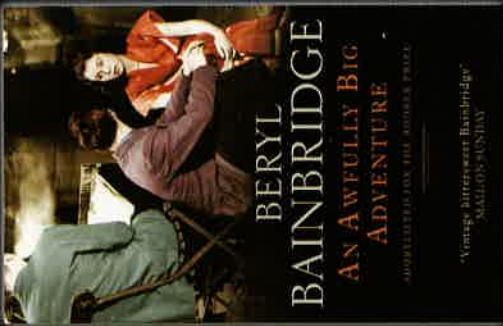


The Bottle Factory Outing
1974

'A superb novel. It is taut in construction, expansive in characterisation, vibrant in atmosphere and profoundly comic.'
The Times

Freda and Brenda spend their days working in an Italian-run wine-bottling factory. A work outing offers promise for Freda and terror from Brenda; passions run high on that chilly day of freedom, and life after the outing never returns to normal. *The Bottle Factory Outing* is an offbeat, haunting yet hilarious novel.

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themanbookerprize.com



An Awfully Big Adventure
1990

'Vintage, bittersweet Bainbridge.'
Mail on Sunday

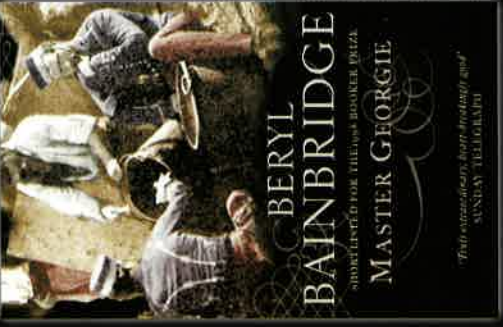
It is 1950 and the Liverpool repertory theatre company is rehearsing its Christmas production of Peter Pan, a story of childhood innocence and loss. Stella has been taken on as assistant stage manager and quickly becomes obsessed with Meredith, the dissolute director. But it is only when the celebrated O'Hara arrives to take the lead that a different drama unfolds. In it, he and Stella are bound together in a past that neither dares to interpret.



Every Man for Himself
1996

'Extraordinary ... both a psychologically convincing re-creation and a wholly new and highly individual work of art ... beautifully written.'
Independent

For four fraught, mysterious days of her doomed maiden voyage in 1912, the Titanic sails towards New York, glittering with luxury, freighted with millionaires and hopefuls. In her labyrinthine passageways are played out the last, secret hours of a small group of passengers, their fate sealed in prose of startling, sublime beauty, as this haunting masterpiece moves inexorably to its known and terrible end.



Master Georgie
1998

'Truly extraordinary, heartbreakingly good.'
Sunday Telegraph

When Master Georgie - George Hardy, a surgeon and photographer - sets off from the cold squalor of Victorian Liverpool for the heat and glitter of the Bosphorus to offer his services in the Crimea, there straggles behind him a small caravan of devoted followers: Myrtle, his adoring adoptive sister; lapsed geologist Dr Potter; and a photographer's assistant and sometime fire-eater Pompey Jones, all of them driven onwards through a rising tide of death and disease by a shared and mysterious guilt.

The Man Booker Prize

Beryl



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