

For immediate release:
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THE MAN BOOKER PRIZE FOR FICTION 2003 Official Shortlist Announced

www.themanbookerprize.com

Monica Ali, Margaret Atwood, Damon Galgut, Zoë Heller, Clare Morrall, and DBC Pierre are the six authors shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2003, the UK's best known literary award. The shortlist was announced by the chair of judges, Professor John Carey, at a press conference in London today (Tuesday 16 September).

The six shortlisted books were chosen from a longlist of twenty-three and are:

Author Title Publisher Price

Monica Ali *Brick Lane* Doubleday £12.99

Margaret Atwood *Oryx and Crake* Bloomsbury £16.99

Damon Galgut *The Good Doctor* Atlantic Books £10.99

Zoë Heller *Notes on a Scandal* Viking Penguin £14.99

Clare Morrall *Astonishing Splashes* Tindal Street Press £7.99

Of Colour

DBC Pierre *Vernon God Little* Faber & Faber £12.99

Professor John Carey comments:

'This is giant killers' year in the Man Booker. Three first novels and only one big name left.'

The winner receives £50,000 with a guaranteed increase in sales and recognition worldwide. Each of the six shortlisted authors, including the winner, receives £2,500 and a designer bound edition of their own book.

The judging panel for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2003 is: writer, academic and broadcaster Professor John Carey (Chair); writer, academic and critic A.C. Grayling; record-breaking mountaineer and journalist Rebecca Stephens, MBE; novelist, broadcaster and presenter Francine Stock; and novelist, biographer and literary critic D.J. Taylor.

The winner will be announced on Tuesday 14 October at an awards ceremony in the Great Court of the British Museum, London and will be broadcast live on BBC TWO and BBC FOUR.

BRICK LANE by Monica Ali *Doubleday, £12.99*

BRICK LANE is an epic yet intimate novel set in the Asian community in London's East End. Still a teenager, Nazneen finds herself in an arranged marriage with a disappointed man twenty years her senior. Away from the mud, heat and beauty of her Bangladeshi village, home is now a cramped flat in a high-rise block.

Strikingly imagined, gracious, and full of warm humour, BRICK LANE explores the role of fate in our lives - those who accept it, those who defy it - and traces the extraordinary transformation of a cautious and shy Asian girl to a bold and dignified woman.

Monica Ali was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh in October 1967. As an infant, she moved to the north of England with her family. She studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University.

She lives in London with her husband and two children.

For more information, contact Pru Jeffreys at Doubleday publicity on 020 8231 6793

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ORYX AND CRAKE by Margaret Atwood *Bloomsbury, £16.99*

The narrator of Margaret Atwood's riveting new novel is Snowman, self-named though not self-created. As the story begins, he's sleeping in a tree, wearing a dirty old bed-sheet, mourning the loss of his beautiful and beloved Oryx and his best friend Crake, and slowly starving to death.

With breathtaking command of her shocking material and with her customary sharp wit and dark humour, Atwood projects us into a less-than-brave new world, an outlandish yet wholly believable space populated by a cast of memorable characters.

Margaret Atwood was born in November 1939 in Ottawa and is the author of more than thirty books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Her novels include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Cat's Eye* - both shortlisted for the Booker Prize - *The Robber Bride*, and *Alias Grace*, which won the Gillier Award in Canada and the Premio Mondello in Italy. **Her previous novel *The Blind Assassin* won the Booker Prize in 2000.** Her work is acclaimed internationally and has been translated into thirty-three languages. She is the recipient of many literary awards and honours from various countries. *Oryx and Crake* is her eleventh novel.

Margaret Atwood lives in Toronto, with writer Graeme Gibson.

For more information, contact Katie Collins at Bloomsbury publicity on 020 7494 6012

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THE GOOD DOCTOR by Damon Galgut

Atlantic, £10.99

When Laurence Waters arrives at his rural hospital posting, Frank is instantly suspicious. Laurence is everything Frank is not - young, optimistic and full of new schemes. The two become uneasy friends, while the rest of the staff in the deserted hospital view Laurence with a mixture of awe and mistrust. The town beyond the hospital is also coping with new arrivals, and the return of old faces. The Brigadier - a self-fashioned dictator from apartheid days - is rumoured still to be alive. And down at Mama's place, a group of soldiers have moved in with their malign commandant, a man Frank has met before and is keen to avoid. Laurence wants to help - but in a world where the past is demanding restitution from the present, his ill-starred idealism cannot last.

Damon Galgut was born in Pretoria in November 1963. He wrote his first novel, *A Sinless Season*, when he was seventeen. His other books include *Small Circle of Beings*, *The Beautiful Screaming of Pigs* and *The Quarry*.

He lives in Cape Town.

For more information, contact Fiona McMorrough at FMcM Associates on 020 7405 7422

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NOTES ON A SCANDAL by Zoë Heller

Viking Penguin, £14.99

Schoolteacher Barbara Covett leads a solitary existence. When Sheba Hart joins St. George's as the new art teacher, Barbara senses the possibility of a new friendship. But as Barbara and Sheba's relationship develops, another does as well: Sheba has begun a sexual affair with an underage male pupil. When it comes to light and Sheba falls prey to the inevitable media circus, Barbara decides to write an account in her friend's defence - an account that reveals not only Sheba's secrets but her own.

Zoë Heller's second novel is a masterpiece of unreliable narration, a biting funny satire and a complex psychological portrait of two women. *Notes On A Scandal* is a highly accomplished study of loneliness, repression and the destructive power of passion.

Zoë Heller was born in England in July 1965. Her first novel was published by Viking in 1999. Zoë Heller's work as a feature writer, critic, and columnist has appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, the *New Republic*, *Vogue*, the *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair* and the *London Review of Books*.

She lives in New York.

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ASTONISHING SPLASHES OF COLOUR by Clare Morrall

Tindal Street Press, £7.99

Caught in an over-vivid world, Kitty is tipped off-centre by the loss of her 'child that never was'. And as children all around become emblems of hope and longing and grief, she's made shockingly aware of the real reason for her pervasive sense of 'non-existence' . . .

This compelling and witty debut tells of identity struggles in a large family, the sadness of lost children, the approach of breakdown and desperation - and the optimism of an eccentric, loving marriage ('If it wasn't for me, he would be a wonderful husband').

Clare Morrall was born in Exeter in July 1952. She left Devon in her late teens to study music in Birmingham, where she has worked as a music teacher ever since. She has two adult children. Clare has written all her life and this is the fifth novel she has written, but is the first to have been published. It reflects her interest in the dynamics of motherless family life and in synaesthesia - a condition in which emotions can be seen as colours.

For more information, contact Emma Hargrave at Tindal Street Press on 0121 773 8157
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VERNON GOD LITTLE by DBC Pierre

Faber & Faber, £12.99

Vernon Gregory Little has secrets - but none of them, or so he assumes, have anything to do with the recent massacre of sixteen students at his high school. What he cannot see is that the quirky Texan backwater of Martirio is unable to face its role in the tragedy, and has become a deadly crucible as all eyes turn on Vernon. The media, his mother's social circle, and the increasingly prosperous townfolk lead Vernon a merry dance of self-incrimination, as he flees to Mexico and is captured and put on trial as Texas' most notorious serial killer. Then on the afternoon of his execution, Vernon conceives a wholly modern solution to his dilemma - one that calls for the greatest crime of all.

D B C Pierre was born in June 1961 in Australia, brought up in Mexico, and has lived on both sides of the border. He has worked as a designer and is internationally published as a cartoonist. He currently lives in Ireland.

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Notes to editors

- Every year publishers are allowed to submit two books for the Man Booker Prize. Every former Booker Prize winner and any author who has appeared on the shortlist in the last ten years is also eligible.
- The Booker Prize longlist was released for the first time in 2001.
- The Advisory Committee, which advises on any changes to the rules and on the selection of the judges, represents all sides of the book world. Its members are: Martyn Goff OBE (Chairman) who is Man Booker Prize Administrator; Harvey McGrath, Man Group plc; John Coldstream, writer; Harriet Harvey-Wood, writer; James Heneage, bookseller; Caroline Michel, publisher; Mark Harrison, Creative Director, Arts, BBC TV; Deborah Rogers, literary agent; David Sawday, Big Food Group plc; Ion Trewin, publisher; Professor Bob Usherwood, librarian.
- The Booker Prize for Fiction was originally set up by Booker plc in 1969 to reward merit, raise the stature of the author in the eyes of the public and encourage an interest in contemporary quality fiction.
In April 2002, it was announced that the Man Group had been chosen by the Booker Prize Foundation as the new sponsor of the Booker Prize. The sponsorship will run until 2006 during which time the prize will be known as the Man Booker Prize.
- Man Group plc is a leading global provider of alternative investment products and solutions as well as one of the world's largest futures brokers. The Group employs over 2,500 people in 15 countries, with key centres in London, Pfäffikon (Switzerland), Chicago, New York, Paris, Singapore and Sydney. Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (EMG.L) and is a constituent of the FTSE 100 Index. Man Investments, the Asset Management division, is a global leader in the fast growing field of alternative investment industry. It provides innovative products and tailor-made solutions for private and institutional clients. Man Financial, the Brokerage division, is one of the world's leading providers of brokerage services. It acts as a broker of futures, options and other equity derivatives for both institutional and private clients, and an intermediary in the world's metals, energy and foreign exchange markets with offices in key financial centres.
- Booker is part of The Big Food Group, which also includes Iceland Foods, [Woodward](#) Foodservice and Expert Logistics. Booker is the UK's leading cash & carry operator with 177 branches serving over 450,000 retailers and caterers across the country.

process, as BBC cameras follow the panel from the arrival of the first box of entries to the heated debates to decide the winner.

- The trustees of the Booker Prize Foundation are former Chairman of Booker plc, Jonathan Taylor (Chairman); playwright and Chairman of the Royal Society of Literature, Ronald Harwood CBE; Chair of the British Council, Baroness Kennedy QC; writer and Chief Executive of The King's Fund, Rabbi Julia Neuberger; MEP Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne; and former Finance Director of Rentokillplc, Christopher Pearce.
- The winner of the Man Booker Prize will receive £50,000. The six shortlisted authors each receive a cheque for £2,500 bringing the total prize value to £65,000.
- *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel (Canongate) won the Man Booker Prize in 2002. Now in paperback, the book has sold 1,000,000 copies and has remained in the best sellers lists since publication.
- For a full history of the prize including previous winners, shortlisted authors and judges visit the website: www.themanbookerprize.com <<http://www.manbookerprize.com>>
- The site features background information and breaking news and is the quickest way for the prize's worldwide audience to access information on the prize.
- The British Museum was founded by an Act of Parliament in 1753, the first national public museum in the world. The Museum is a collection of the cultures of the world both ancient and modern, a repository of human endeavour, as well as an active centre of education, research and discovery for its visitors. Its guiding principle since its foundation has been and will continue to be, free access for everyone.

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