



MEDIA RELEASE | **STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.30PM GMT 31ST JANUARY 2023**

RATHBONES FOLIO PRIZE ANNOUNCES THREE REMARKABLE SHORTLISTS IN NEW STRUCTURE WHICH CELEBRATES ‘A PRIZE UNLIKE ANY OTHER’

The **2023 Rathbones Folio Prize** has impressively launched its new structure with three specific category shortlists that speak to the global talent of the literary world across fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The prize foundation has refreshed its format to address the changing landscape of literary prizes, and by creating a more focussed structure, it offers readers and retailers a clearer and broader range of recommendations – and celebrates the fifteen most exceptional and exciting books across each format.

The all-female shortlist for fiction, features stories about human connections taking place in Yorkshire, the South of France, and Maine, to non-fiction which explores contemporary Britain and social inequality, love and loss, and a true story from Auschwitz, and five extraordinary poetry collections from debut poets and established artists; the fifteen titles shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize in 2023 highlight **the prize’s unique multi-genre reach across the global literary landscape.**

Spanning three continents, this year’s Rathbones Folio Prize recognises internationally renowned talent from the UK, USA, Canada and Australia. Each category winner, selected from a shortlist of five, will receive a £2,000 prize and, as a Rathbones Folio Prize Finalist, will be entered into the competition to be chosen as the overall Rathbones Folio Prize winner, receiving an additional **£30,000.**

Chair of the Judges, Ali Smith said: *‘It’s been a real pleasure, the process of choosing the cross genre shortlists with Jackie and Guy for the Rathbones Folio Prize this year. It’s a prize unlike any other in that the books in the running are specifically chosen from a long list nominated solely by writers. So we started with a list of great books, we’ve delighted in our reading and our meetings with each other over the past months, and we’re hoping our shortlists will excite other readers and writers as much as they’ve excited us.’*

The Rathbones Folio Prize – known as the “writers’ prize” – is the only award governed by an international academy of distinguished writers, ensuring a unique quality and consistency in the nomination and judging process.

The winner of the Rathbones Folio Prize will be announced in a ceremony at the British Library on **Monday 27 March**. The shortlisted authors will take part in events across the country, with each category shortlist being celebrated in a dedicated event, and an evening of shortlist sessions at the British Library on March 26th. Further details will be released in due course.

FICTION SHORTLIST

NoViolet Bulawayo
Glory (Chatto & Windus)

Sheila Heti
Pure Colour (Harvill Secker)

Daisy Hildyard
Emergency (Fitzcarraldo)

Michelle de Kretser
Scary Monsters (Allen & Unwin)

Elizabeth Strout
Lucy by the Sea (Viking)

NON-FICTION SHORTLIST

Will Ashon
The Passengers (Faber)

Amy Bloom
In Love (Granta)

Jonathan Freedland
The Escape Artist (John Murray)

Margo Jefferson
Constructing a Nervous System (Granta)

Darren McGarvey
The Social Distance Between Us (Ebury)

POETRY SHORTLIST

Victoria Adukwei Bulley
Quiet (Faber)

Fiona Benson
Ephemeron (Jonathan Cape)

Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa
Cane, Corn & Gully (Out-Spoken Press)

Zaffar Kunial
England’s Green (Faber)

Yomi Sode
Manorism (Penguin Poetry)

Executive Director Minna Fry and Co-founder and Chair of the Prize Andrew Kidd, said: ‘The principal aim of the Prize has always been to celebrate the best books published in a given year, regardless of form, and to get those books into the hands of as many readers as possible. Now, with the Prize’s new structure of three shortlists across three genres, our three brilliant judges have been able to shine a light on more titles than ever before, and we are thrilled by the breadth, inventiveness, urgency and energy of the fifteen books they’ve selected.’

Last year, Irish novelist Colm Tóibín was awarded the Rathbones Folio Prize for his novel *The Magician* (Viking), a haunting, intimate portrait of the exiled German Nobel winner Thomas Mann. Previous winners of the prize are **Carmen Maria Machado** (2021), **Valeria Luiselli** (2020), **Raymond Antrobus** (2019), **Richard Lloyd Parry** (2018), **Hisham Matar** (2017), **Akhil Sharma** (2015) and **George Saunders** (2014).

Paul Stockton, CEO of Rathbone Investment Management said: ‘Rathbones is delighted to be sponsoring the first year of the Rathbones Folio Prize in its new, expanded format, and we congratulate the fifteen writers who have been chosen by an outstanding panel of judges to grace the Prize’s three shortlists. Like managing investments, writing has the capacity to show us our world in new and surprising ways. We are proud to support a Prize that celebrates the full range of genres through which ideas can be explored and stories told.’

Join the conversation via: rathbonesfolioprizeweb.com | [@RathbonesFolio](https://twitter.com/RathbonesFolio)

Images for media, including author headshots and shortlist photography are available to access [here](#).

The Judges



Ali Smith (Chair) is the author of many novels including *How to be both*, *Artful*, *There but for the, The Accidental*, *Hotel World*, the Seasonal Quartet series and *Companion piece*. *Hotel World* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the Orange Prize. *The Accidental* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize. *How to be both* won the Bailey’s Prize, the Goldsmiths Prize and the Costa Novel of the Year Award, and it was shortlisted for the Folio Prize and Man Booker Prize. *Autumn* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2017 and *Winter* was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2018.

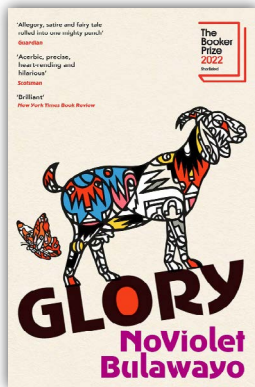


Jackie Kay was born in Edinburgh. She was the third modern Makar, the Scottish poet laureate, from 2016 to 2021. A poet, novelist and writer of short stories, she has enjoyed great acclaim for her work for both adults and children. Her first novel, *Trumpet*, won the Authors’ Club First Novel Award and the Guardian Fiction Prize. She is also the author of three collections of stories, *Why Don’t You Stop Talking*, *Wish I Was Here*, and *Reality, Reality*; two poetry collections, *Fiere* and *Bantam*; a play, *The Lamplighter*; and her multi-award-winning memoir, *Red Dust Road*. She is Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University and divides her time between Glasgow and Manchester, where she was Chancellor of the University of Salford from 2014 to 2021.



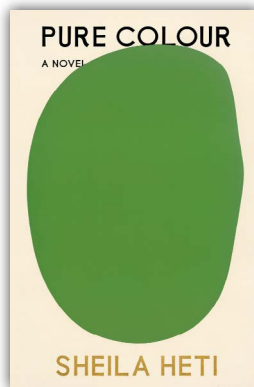
Guy Gunaratne is a novelist based between London and Malmö. Their first novel *In Our Mad and Furious City* won the International Dylan Thomas Prize (2019), the Jhalak Prize (2019) and Authors Club Award (2019). It was also shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize and longlisted for the Booker Prize, as well as the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction. Guy was appointed the Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts at Trinity College, Cambridge (2019- 2022). They have also served on various literary prize judging panels including the Goldsmiths Prize (2019) and the Republic of Consciousness Prize (2021). Their second novel *Mister, Mister* will be published 2023.

2023 FICTION SHORTLIST



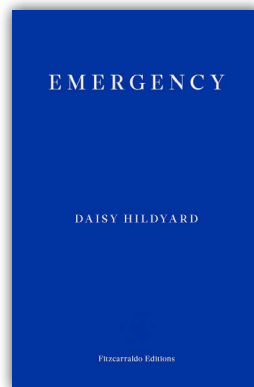
Glory

NoViolet Bulawayo



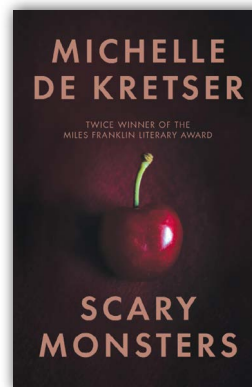
Pure Colour

Sheila Heti



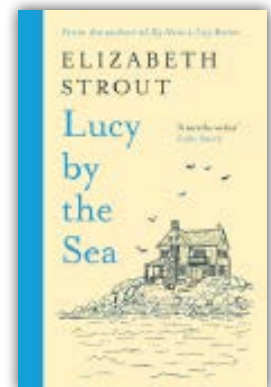
Emergency

Daisy Hildyard



Scary Monsters

Michelle de Kretser



Lucy by the Sea

Elizabeth Strout

NoViolet Bulawayo *Glory* (Chatto & Windus)

Narrated by a vivid chorus of animal voices that unveil the tyranny and ruthlessness required to uphold absolute power, *Glory* is the tale of an uprising and a country's implosion. And at the centre of it all, a young goat named Destiny, returning home to bear witness to a revolution.

NoViolet Bulawayo grew up in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Her first novel, *We Need New Names*, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. She currently writes full-time, from wherever she finds herself.

Sheila Heti *Pure Colour* (Harvill Secker)

In this first draft, a woman named Mira leaves home to study. There, she meets Annie, whose tremendous power opens Mira's chest like a portal- to what, she doesn't know. When Mira is older, her beloved father dies, and she enters that strange and dizzying dimension that true loss opens up.

Sheila Heti is the author of ten books, including the novels *Motherhood* and *How Should a Person Be?*, which *New York* magazine deemed one of the 'New Classics' of the twenty-first century and which was longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction. She lives in Toronto and Kawartha Lakes, Ontario.

Michelle de Kretser *Scary Monsters* (Allen & Unwin)

Michelle de Kretser's electrifying take on scary monsters turns the novel upside down- just as migration has upended her characters' lives. Three scary monsters- racism, misogyny and ageism- roam through this mesmerising novel. Its reversible format enacts the disorientation that migrants experience when changing countries changes the story of their lives.

Michelle de Kretser was born in Sri Lanka and emigrated to Australia when she was 14. She lives in Sydney.

Lucy by the Sea *Elizabeth Strout* (Viking)

In March 2020 Lucy's ex-husband William pleads with her to leave New York and escape to a coastal house he has rented in Maine. Lucy reluctantly agrees, leaving the washing-up in the sink, expecting to be back in a week or two. Weeks turn into months, and it's just Lucy, William, and their complex past together in a little house nestled against the sea.

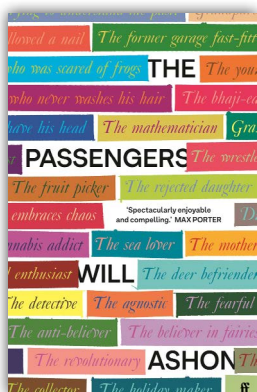
Elizabeth Strout is the Pulitzer prize-winning author of *Olive Kitteridge*. She has been shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize twice, nominated for the Booker Prize twice; longlisted in 2016 and shortlisted in 2022, and is also a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize. She lives in New York City and Portland, Maine.

Daisy Hildyard *Emergency* (Fitzcarraldo)

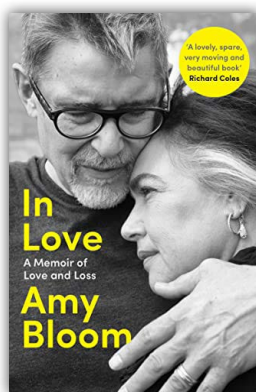
Emergency is a novel about the dissolving boundaries between all life on earth. Stuck at home alone under lockdown, a woman recounts her 1990s childhood in rural Yorkshire. A story of remote violence and a work of praise for a persistently lively world, evocative and unsettling, Daisy Hildyard's *Emergency* reinvents the pastoral novel for the climate change era.

Daisy Hildyard's first novel, *Hunters in the Snow*, received the Somerset Maugham Award and a '5 under 35' honorarium at the USA National Book Awards. Her essay *The Second Body*, a brilliantly lucid account of the dissolving boundaries between all life on earth, was published by Fitzcarraldo Editions in 2017.

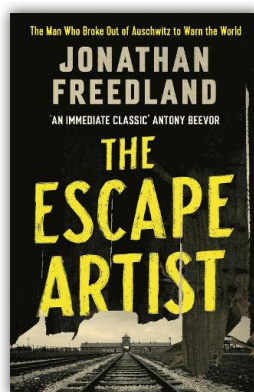
2023 NON-FICTION SHORTLIST



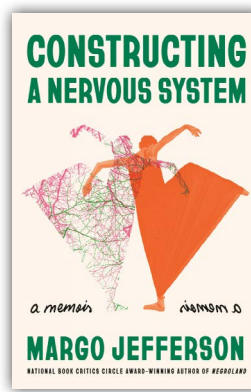
The Passengers
Will Ashon



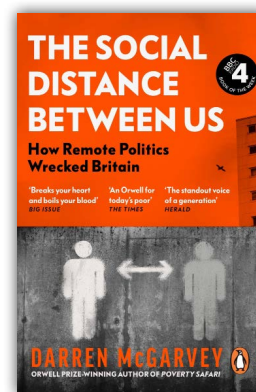
In Love
Amy Bloom



The Escape Artist
Jonathan Freedland



Constructing a Nervous System
Margo Jefferson



The Social Distance Between Us
Darren McGarvey

Will Ashon *The Passengers* (Faber)

Between October 2018 and March 2021, Will Ashon collected voices – people talking about their lives, needs, dreams, loves, hopes and fears – all of them with some connection to the British Isles. *The Passengers* is a book about how we give shape to our lives, and find meaning in the chaos.

Will Ashon was born in Leicester in 1969. He has published two novels with Faber & Faber, *Clear Water* and *The Heritage*. His debut non-fiction work, *Strange Labyrinth*, was published by Granta in 2017 followed by *Chamber Music* in 2018.

Amy Bloom *In Love* (Granta)

In January 2020, Amy Bloom travelled with her husband Brian to Switzerland, where he was helped by Dignitas to end his life. Written with piercing insight and wit, *In Love* is Bloom's intimate, authentic and startling account of losing Brian, first slowly to the disease of Alzheimer's, and then on becoming a widow.

Amy Bloom is the author of three collections of short stories and four novels. She is the Shapiro-Silverberg Professor of Creative Writing at Wesleyan University.

Jonathan Freedland *The Escape Artist* (John Murray)

In April 1944 nineteen-year-old Rudolf Vrba and fellow inmate Fred Wetzler became the first Jews ever known to break out of Auschwitz. Under electrified fences and past armed watchtowers, evading thousands of SS men and slaving dogs, they trekked across marshlands, mountains and rivers to freedom. Vrba's mission: to reveal to the world the truth of the Holocaust.

Jonathan Freedland is a Guardian columnist and former foreign correspondent. He was named Columnist of the Year in 2002, Commentator of the Year in 2016 and won an Orwell Prize for Journalism in 2014. He is the author of 11 books, two of them non-fiction, including his first book, the award-winning *Bring Home the Revolution*.

Margo Jefferson *Constructing a Nervous System* (Granta)

In this intimate and innovative memoir, Pulitzer prize-winning author Margo Jefferson gives us her own personal and intellectual formation. From Josephine Baker's radiant transformations, to Willa Cather's aesthetics of whiteness, Jefferson shows us how we can find space in cultures that will not make room for us, and how even in times of stricture, we learn to construct ourselves.

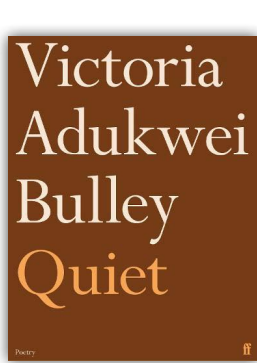
The winner of a Pulitzer Prize for criticism, **Margo Jefferson**, was for years a theatre and book critic for Newsweek and The New York Times. She is the author of *On Michael Jackson* and is a professor of writing at Columbia University School of the Arts.

Darren McGarvey *The Social Distance Between Us* (Ebury Press)

Britain is in a long-distance relationship with reality. A ravine cuts through it, partitioning the powerful from the powerless, the vocal from the voiceless. This distance dictates how we identify and relate to society's biggest issues- from homelessness and poverty to policing and overrun prisons- ultimately determining how, and whether, we strive to resolve them.

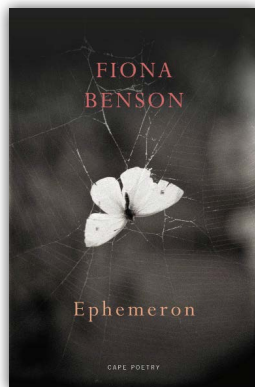
Darren McGarvey grew up in Pollok, Glasgow. He is a writer, hip-hop artist, broadcaster and campaigner. His bestselling and acclaimed first book *Poverty Safari* was awarded the Orwell Prize for political writing in 2018.

2023 POETRY SHORTLIST



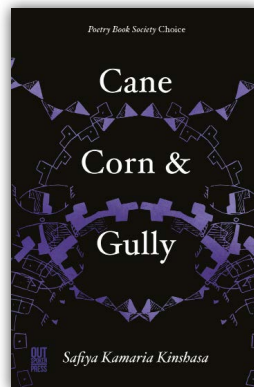
Quiet

Victoria Adukwei Bulley



Ephemeron

Fiona Benson



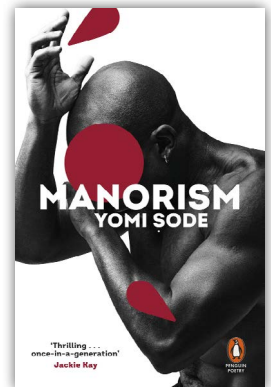
Cane, Corn and Gully

Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa



England's Green

Zaffar Kunial



Manorism

Yomi Sode

Victoria Adukwei Bulley *Quiet* (Faber)

Victoria Adukwei Bulley's debut poetry collection, *Quiet*, circles around ideas of black interiority, intimacy and selfhood, playing at the tensions between the impulse to guard one's 'inner life' and the knowledge that, as Audre Lorde writes, 'your silence will not protect you'.

Victoria Adukwei Bulley is a poet, writer and artist. An alumna of the Barbican Young Poets, she is the recipient of an Eric Gregory Award, and has held residence in the US, Brazil, and the V&A Museum in London.

Fiona Benson *Ephemeron* (Jonathan Cape)

The poems in *Ephemeron* deal with the short-lived and transitory; telling uncomfortable truths, going deep into male and female drives and desires, our most tender and vulnerable places, and speaking of them in frank, unshrinking ways- these poems are afraid, certainly, but also beautiful, resolute and brave.

Fiona Benson lives in Devon with her husband and their two daughters. She has published two previous collections which were both shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, was shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize in 2020, and was a Rathbones Folio Mentor in 2022.

Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa *Cane, Corn & Gully* (Out-Spoken Press)

Cane, Corn & Gully interrogates survival, sexual exploitation, race, gender, and class and invests in a unique discourse on the violence inflicted on the black female body (historically and presently). It explores the meaning of movement in oppressive ideological structures and serves to vindicate the rebellious acts of black women past, present and yet to come.

Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa is a British born Barbadian raised poet, dancer and choreographer. Her interdisciplinary art, braids dance and poetry on the page and stage. Safiya is currently a PhD student in Cultural Studies at the University of Leeds. *Cane, Corn & Gully* is her first poetry collection.

Zaffar Kunial *England's Green* (Faber)

Zaffar Kunial is a proven master of taking things apart, polishing the fugitive parts of single words, of a sound, a colour, the name of a flower, and putting them back together so that we see them in an entirely different light. In the poems of *England's Green*, we are invited to look at the place and the language we think we know, and we are made to think again.

Zaffar Kunial was born in Birmingham and lives in Hebden Bridge. He published a pamphlet in the Faber New Poets series in 2014 and spent that year as the Wordsworth Trust Poet-in-Residence.

Yomi Sode *Manorism* (Penguin Poetry)

In poems exploring family, survival, generational trauma and the complexities of belonging, *Manorism* is an examination of the lives of Black British men and boys. At the heart of the book is the ongoing pressure of code-switching- changing one's behaviour and language to suit radically different cultural contexts and environments.

Yomi Sode is an award-winning Nigerian British writer. He is a recipient of the 2019 Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowship and was shortlisted for the Brunel International African Poetry Prize 2021.

The Prize

The Folio Prize was established in 2013 as the first major English language book prize open to writers from around the world. It is the only prize in which all the books considered for the prize are selected and judged by an academy of peers. When new sponsors, Rathbone Investment Management, came on board in 2017 the prize was expanded to include all works of literature, regardless of form.

The winner for 2022 was Colm Tóibín (Fiction), for his novel *The Magician* (Viking), a haunting, intimate portrait of the exiled German Nobel winner Thomas Mann. The Rathbones Folio Prize 2022 was celebrated earlier this year with a series of events for shortlisted authors hosted by 5x15, and increased media recognition from BBC Radio 4 Today, Times Radio, RTE Arena, *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *The Irish Times* and more.

The Rathbones Folio Prize is borderless and open to all genres – fiction, non-fiction, and poetry – which means it reflects a greater diversity and variety of voices present in our literary culture and society as a whole.

The Rathbones Folio Prize is the flagship of the Literature / Folio Prize Foundation, which also includes the **Rathbones Folio Prize Mentorships** for aspiring young writers and Rathbones Folio Prize Sessions at literary festivals across the UK.

Previous winners were George Saunders (Fiction) in 2014, Akhil Sharma (Fiction) in 2015, Hisham Matar (Non-Fiction) in 2017, Richard Lloyd-Parry (Non-Fiction) in 2018, Raymond Antrobus (Poetry) in 2019, Valeria Luiselli (Fiction) in 2020, and Carmen Maria Machado (Non-Fiction) in 2021.

Rathbones Folio has been steadily increasing its presence at literary sessions throughout the year at Literary Festivals as well as at bespoke events for Rathbones clients. In 2022 alone, the prize sponsored events at Edinburgh, Cheltenham, Chalke Valley, Jersey, Words on the Water, Aye Write, Chichester Culture Spark Festivals featuring authors from the Folio Academy including judges and shortlistees.

Branding for the prize will this year include point of sale for bookshop sections and for shortlisted book titles.

Join the conversation via: rathbonesfolioprize.com | [@RathbonesFolio](https://twitter.com/RathbonesFolio)

Notes to Editors

About The Folio Academy | The Folio Academy is a community of 300+ writers, who represent excellence in literature. Academicians include: Margaret Atwood, Carol Ann Duffy, Ian McEwan, Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith and Sir Tom Stoppard. Between them, Academicians have won thousands of literary awards, including 16 Man Booker Prizes. Academicians may be called upon to comment on literature matters in the media, to appear at festivals and public events, and may volunteer to mentor young writers in the Rathbones Folio Mentorships scheme, run in association with the charity First Story, which runs creative writing residencies in secondary schools serving low-income communities.

About The Literature/Folio Prize Foundation | The Literature/Folio Prize Foundation is a registered charity committed to bringing the most outstanding works of English language literature to public attention both through the awarding of the Prize and the Rathbones Folio Mentorships scheme, as well as other initiatives. Overseen by its trustees, the Foundation seeks to engage readers and writers throughout the English-speaking world in cultural debate and in the celebration and sustainment of the art of literature, which it believes has the capacity to enrich and change people's lives.

About Rathbone Investment Management | Rathbone Investment Management is one of the UK's leading providers of high-quality discretionary investment management services. It manages over £60.2 billion* of funds for individuals, charities and trustees, and is part of Rathbones Group Plc, an independently owned company with a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Investment management services are offered in Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Chichester, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Kendal, Liverpool, London, Lymington, Newcastle and Winchester. Offshore investment management services are offered by subsidiary Rathbone Investment Management International in Jersey.

**As at 31 December 2022, includes funds managed by Rathbone Unit Trust Management*