

# GORDON BURN PRIZE

## Longlist announced for Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24

The twelve-strong longlist for the Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24 has been revealed today (Thursday 7 December), recognising fiction and non-fiction books that are fearless in their ambition and execution.

Founded in 2012 by New Writing North, Faber & Faber and the Gordon Burn Trust, the Gordon Burn Prize has built a reputation for identifying and celebrating brilliant books that often find their readers outside the mainstream. The prize will be awarded in March 2024 in Gordon Burn's home city, Newcastle upon Tyne, with support from Newcastle University and NCLA, the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts.

The prize remembers the writer Gordon Burn who died in 2009, seeking to celebrate those who follow in his footsteps. A journalist and author of ten books, Burn's work includes the novels *Alma Cogan* and *Fullalove* and non-fiction titles *Pocket Money: Inside the World of Snooker* and *Happy Like Murderers: The Story of Fred and Rosemary West*. Like Gordon's own work, the books recognised by the Gordon Burn Prize often push boundaries, cross genres, or otherwise challenge readers' expectations.

Preti Taneja won the prize in 2022 for *Aftermath*, a work of narrative non-fiction that blurs genres and form to understand terror, trauma and grief. Previous winners have included Hanif Abdurraqib's collection of essays on black culture, *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*; Peter Pomerantsev's *This is Not Propaganda*, a study on the war against reality; David Keenan's novel *For the Good Times*, set during the height of the Troubles in 1970s Belfast; Denise Mina's true crime novel *The Long Drop*; and *In Plain Sight: The Life and Lies of Jimmy Savile*, by Dan Davies.

The longlist was selected by the Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24 judges:

- **Terri White (chair)**, journalist, screenwriter and author of the memoir *Coming Undone*.
- **Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff**, journalist, columnist, and editor of books including *Black Joy* and *Mother Country: Real Stories of the Windrush Children*.
- **Andrew Hankinson**, journalist and author of *Don't applaud. Either laugh or don't. (At the Comedy Cellar.)* and *You Could Do Something Amazing with Your Life [You are Raoul Moat]*.
- **Sheena Patel**, author of *I'm a Fan*, member of the 4 BROWN GIRLS WHO WRITE writing collective, and assistant director for film and TV.



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The judges will also select the shortlist, which will be announced in January 2024, and the winner, which will be announced on 7 March 2024. The winning writer will receive £10,000 and the chance to undertake a writing retreat at Gordon Burn's cottage in Berwickshire.

**Terri White, chair of the Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24 judges, said:** "Drawing up the Gordon Burn Prize longlist for 2023-24, with our wonderful judges Sheena, Andrew and Charlie, was an honour and my god, a brain-melting challenge.

As ever, the Gordon Burn Prize recognises work that innovates, interrogates, subverts and surprises; has voice, vision and verve. That challenges form, kicks back against what we're told is 'literary' - in content and shape - and prioritises the original and the authentic.

Our longlist of 12 takes in fiction, memoir, true crime, investigative journalism, folklore, poetry and work that frankly doesn't care about our definitions (and limitations) of genre. Books that explore intergenerational trauma, the contemporary thirst for true crime, re-imagining of histories, our relationship with celebrity culture, the impact of coming of age online, and the radical nature of an ordinary life. That all, in some way, speak to living in 2023, and vitally, keep the spirit of Gordon Burn alive and well.

If the vigorous, lively, rather loud long-listing was anything to go by, I'm going to need a long lie-down before we get to shortlisting. Which is exactly what judging for the Gordon Burn Prize should be like: knackered, exhilarating, exacting and a little bit too much."

**Professor Jo Robinson, Head of the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, Newcastle University, said:** "Newcastle University, and NCLA, are delighted to be working with New Writing North to support the Gordon Burn Prize in 2023-24 and beyond."

**The Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24 longlist is:**

- *Chain-Gang All-Stars*, Nana Kwame Adeji-Brenyah (Harvill Secker)
- *Killing Thatcher*, Rory Carroll (Mudlark)
- *Bellies*, Nicola Dinan (Doubleday)
- *Is This OK?*, Harriet Gibsone (Picador)
- *If I Survive You*, Jonathan Escoffery (4<sup>th</sup> Estate)
- *Busy Being Free*, Emma Forrest (Weidenfeld & Nicholson)
- *Wifedom*, Anna Funder (Viking)
- *Cuddy*, Benjamin Myers (Bloomsbury Circus)
- *O Brother*, John Niven (Canongate Books)
- *Ordinary Human Failings*, Megan Nolan (Jonathan Cape)
- *Kick The Latch*, Kathryn Scanlan (Daunt Originals)
- *Split Tooth*, Tanya Tagaq (And Other Stories)



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-- ENDS --

For all media enquiries, including high-res images and interview requests, please contact Laura Fraine, Senior Marketing and Communications Manager, New Writing North: [laurafraine@newwritingnorth.com](mailto:laurafraine@newwritingnorth.com) or 07411 164 837.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Timeline for the Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24:

Open for entry 16 June – 3 August 2023

Longlist announced December 2023

Shortlist announced January 2024

Winner announced 7 March 2024

### Previous winners of the Gordon Burn Prize:

2022 *Aftermath*, Preti Taneja

2021 *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*, Hanif Abdurraqib

2020 *This Is Not Propaganda*, Peter Pomerantsev

2019 *For the Good Times*, David Keenan

2018 *Census*, Jesse Ball

2017 *The Long Drop*, Denise Mina

2016 *All That Man Is*, David Szalay

2015 *In Plain Sight: The Life and Lies of Jimmy Savile*, Dan Davies

2014 *The Wake*, Paul Kingsnorth

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2013 *Pig Iron*, Benjamin Myers

The Gordon Burn Prize 2023-24 is open to works in English published between 1 July 2022 and 30 November 2023 by writers of any nationality.

## About New Writing North

New Writing North is the literature development agency for the North of England, and is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. It works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary activities including flagship projects such as the David Cohen Prize for Literature, the Northern Writers' Awards, Young Writers, the Gordon Burn Prize and Durham Book Festival.

[newwritingnorth.com](http://newwritingnorth.com) [@NewWritingNorth](https://twitter.com/NewWritingNorth)

## About NCLA

Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts, based in the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics at Newcastle University, is a world-class centre of excellence in the field of creative writing, contributing to the cultural life of the North East via readings, projects, teaching and research.

## About Newcastle University

[Newcastle University](http://Newcastle University), UK, is a thriving international community of more than 28,000 students from over 130 countries worldwide.

As a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities in the UK, Newcastle has a world-class reputation for research excellence in the fields of medicine, science and engineering, social sciences and the humanities.

Its academics are sharply focused on responding to the major challenges facing society today. Research and teaching are world-leading in areas as diverse as health, culture, technology and the environment.

Newcastle is committed to providing students with excellent, research-led teaching delivered by dedicated and passionate teachers.

Newcastle University is ranked 110th in the QS World Ranking 2024 and joint 168th in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2024.

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Newcastle University is ranked fourth in the UK and joint 24<sup>th</sup> in the world for sustainable development in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023.

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