



'The best gifts come in small packages'
Anne Enright

**AMERICAN AND WOMEN WRITERS
DOMINATE LIST ANNOUNCED FOR THE
2018 SUNDAY TIMES EFG SHORT STORY AWARD LONGLIST**

**9 Americans, 4 British and 2 Irish writers in 15-strong longlist
that includes Allegra Goodman, Miranda July, Joseph O'Neill,
Yiyun Li, Victor Lodato and Curtis Sittenfeld**

www.shortstoryaward.co.uk

Female and American writers are at the core of the 15-strong longlist for the 2018 Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award, which includes ten women, nine American writers and four British authors. At £30,000 for the winner, this is the world's richest and most prestigious prize for an English-language single short story and regularly attracts some of the finest literary talent from around the world. Past winners and shortlisted authors have included Junot Diaz, Hilary Mantel, CK Stead, Emma Donoghue, David Vann, Colum McCann, Anthony Doerr, Edith Pearlman, Petina Gappah, Elizabeth Strout and Ali Smith.

In this, its ninth year, the longlist again reflects its reputation as an award that prides itself on

showcasing outstanding new voices as well as more established literary authors; past discoveries have included Sally Rooney, whose debut novel 'Conversations with Friends' was published in 2017 by Faber to immense critical acclaim, and Lisa McInerney, whose first novel 'Glorious Heresies' won the 2016 Bailey Women's Prize for Fiction.

This year we welcome new British writers Lisa Blower, Nicolas Burbidge and Naomi Booth, while more established names are represented by authors such as American Allegra Goodman, who is the author of five novels and two collections of short stories, US writer and filmmaker Miranda July, whose collection of stories, 'No One Belongs Here More Than You', won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and has been published in twenty-three countries; bestselling American author of 'Sisterland' Curtis Sittenfeld, whose longlisted story is contained in her new collection out in Spring 2018, and Joseph O'Neill, winner of the 2009 Pen Faulkner Prize for Fiction and author of 'Netherland' which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. He has a new collection of short stories, 'Good Trouble', due to be published in June 2018.

Previous winners of the prize who have also made the longlist again this year include British writer Jonathan Tel, and US author Yiyun Li. US writer Victor Lodato, shortlisted last year, also returns to the longlist for a consecutive year. Doubleday publish Lodato's novel this February.

The themes and locations of the stories selected are ambitious, mature and engaged, touching on contemporary topics such as Trumpism, populism, and the refugee crisis as well as marriage, sexuality and revenge. The stories move from present day Berlin to 1980's Dublin and the AIDS epidemic in New York City.

This year there were a record 810 eligible entries, the highest number yet, perhaps reflecting the surging popularity of the short story form this year; sales were up 40% in 2017.

The 15 longlisted writers and the titles of their short stories are:

ABDUL – Lisa Blower

BERLIN LENDS A HAND – Jonathan Tel

BLACK DIAMOND – Judy Chicurel

BUCK MAD – P. Kearney Byrne

CLUSTER – Naomi Booth

COOKING A WOLF – Nicolas Burbidge

DO-OVER – Curtis Sittenfeld

F.A.Q.S – Allegra Goodman

HERMAN MELVILLE, VOLUME 1 – Victor Lodato

LIFE ON EARTH – Molly McCloskey

ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE – Yiyun Li

PEANUTS ARE NUTS – Courtney Zoffness

THE LIBERATOR – Tania James

THE METAL BOWL – Miranda July

THE SINKING OF THE HOUSTON – Joseph O'Neill

The winner will receive £30,000, and the five other shortlisted writers will each receive £1,000. The shortlist will be announced in *The Sunday Times* on Sunday 18th March. The winner will be announced at a gala dinner at Stationers' Hall in London on Thursday 26th April. Readers can read extracts from the longlist at the prize's website: www.shortstoryaward.co.uk

The judging panel for the Award has always been strong – past judges include AS Byatt, Sir Richard Eyre, Nick Hornby, Will Self, Sarah Waters and Sir Melvyn Bragg. This year's is one of the most impressive yet and comprises esteemed short story writer and novelist Tessa Hadley; broadcaster and author Mark Lawson; critically acclaimed author and short story writer Petina Gappah; and journalist and author Sebastian Faulks. Andrew Holgate, Literary Editor of *The Sunday Times*, completes the line-up.

"In any literary judging process, it's intriguing to note the recurrent themes, which tell us what is triggering creativity at a particular political or social moment. The dominant topics in this year's selection were the Trump presidency, and the rise of Artificial Intelligence. Another fascination of this prize is that – as the entries are anonymised during the initial judging – some of the stories on these topics could, for all we knew, actually have been written by President Trump or a robot. Except that, in either case, they would not have been as original, witty or as emotionally involving as the long list has turned out to be."

Mark Lawson

"A record number of eligible entries, and a longlist dominated by women writers and Americans – the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award continues to grow and continues to surprise. And, because of its innovative policy of blind reading, the prize is once again showcasing some exciting new talent, with three relatively unknown British authors – Lisa Blower, Naomi Booth and Nicolas Burbidge – sitting alongside some significant American names (Yiyun Li, Curtis Sittenfeld, Miranda July) in our longlist of 15."

***The Sunday Times* Literary Editor Andrew Holgate**

The Award accepts entries of 6,000 words or under published in English from fiction authors from anywhere in the world who have been published in the UK or Ireland. The Award reflects *The Sunday Times*' support for outstanding writing and the rich literary heritage of the newspaper, and the ongoing commitment of EFG, a leading international private bank, to the literary world. The Award is managed by the Society of Authors.

Previous winners include US author Bret Anthony Johnston (2017), Chinese American writer Yiyun Li (2015), three Pulitzer prizewinners – US author Adam Johnson (2014), US-Dominican author Junot Diaz (2013) and US author Anthony Doerr (2011) – Kevin Barry from Ireland (2012), UK author Jonathan Tel (2016) and CK Stead from New Zealand (2010).

The Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award 2018 key dates:

- **Sunday 11th February 2018** **Longlist announced**
- **Sunday 18th March 2018** **Shortlist announced**
- **Thursday 26th April 2018** **Winner announced**

Reading event:

Wednesday 25 April 2018

Readings of the shortlisted stories at Foyles, Charing Cross Road, London.

Tickets will be available from www.foyles.co.uk or in-store. TBC

For full details of the Award visit: www.shortstoryaward.co.uk

Or via [Twitter](#) (@shortstoryaward and #STEFG) and [Facebook](#)

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Author biographies

Lisa Blower ABDUL

Lisa Blower is an award-winning short story writer and novelist. Her work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Comma Press*, *The New Welsh Review*, *The Luminary*, *Short Story Sunday*, and on Radio 4. She won the Guardian National Short Story Competition in 2009. Her debut novel 'Sitting Ducks' (Fair Acre Press) was shortlisted for the inaugural Arnold Bennett Prize 2017 and longlisted for the Guardian Not the Booker 2016. She has written a second novel 'Green Blind' and just completed her debut short story collection 'It's Gone Dark over Bill's Mother's', which draws heavily on her childhood in Stoke on Trent. She is now working on her third novel, 'Pondweed'. Blower is a creative writing lecturer at Bangor University, where she studied for her PhD. She lives in Shrewsbury.

Naomi Booth CLUSTER

Naomi Booth is a fiction writer and academic, born in Bradford and based in York, where she lives with her partner and daughter. Her first work of fiction, 'The Lost Art of Sinking' (Penned in the Margins, 2015), was selected for New Writing North's Read Regional campaign and won the Saboteur Award for Best Novella 2016. Her debut novel 'Sealed' (Dead Ink Books 2017) has been described as "an accomplished, slow-burning meditation on motherhood, pregnancy and love... a marvellous first novel" (Guardian). Her short story Cluster was longlisted for the Galley Beggar Short Story prize. She read English at the University of Cambridge and spent several years working in publishing before completing a PhD in Creative and Critical Writing at the University of Sussex. She has since lectured in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Sussex and York St John University, where she is Subject Director for Creative Writing. She works alongside creative writing colleagues within the [York Centre of Writing](#).

Nicolas Burbidge COOKING A WOLF

Nicolas Burbidge's short stories have appeared in *The Bridport Prize Anthology* and *Shooter Literary Magazine*. He has an MA in Creative & Life Writing at Goldsmiths, University of London and has worked in the media and charity sectors for 20 years. He lives in London with his partner and daughter.

Judy Chicurel BLACK DIAMOND

Judy Chicurel's writing has appeared in national and regional publications, including *The New York Times*, *Newsday* and *Granta*. Her plays have been performed in NYC theatres and festivals, including the NYC International Fringe Festival, New Perspectives Theatre and Metropolitan Playhouse. She is a member of the New York Writers' Coalition, and was a 2011 Fellow in the CUNY Graduate Center Writers' Institute Fiction Writing Program. Her novel, 'If I Knew You Were Going to be This Beautiful, I Never Would Have Let You Go', was published in 2014 and was longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. She is currently a part-time grants consultant for a non-profit public defender. Chicurel lives with her husband in Brooklyn, New York.

Allegra Goodman F.A.Q.s

Allegra Goodman is an American writer based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Three of her novels have been published in the UK by Atlantic Books. They are 'The Chalk Artist', 'The Cookbook Collector' and 'Intuition' (shortlisted for the Wellcome Prize in 2009). Her other novels are 'Paradise Park' and 'Kaaterskill Falls' (a National Book Award finalist in 1996). Her short fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Commentary* and *Ploughshares* and has been anthologized in *The O. Henry Awards* and *Best American Short Stories*, and she has written two collections of short stories, 'The Family Markowitz' and 'Total Immersion', and a novel for younger readers, 'The Other Side of the Island'. Her essays and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, *The Boston*

Globe and *The American Scholar*. She grew up in Honolulu, and studied English and philosophy at Harvard, received a PhD in English literature from Stanford, and was a recipient of a Whiting Writer's Award (1991), the Salon Award for Fiction (1997) and a fellowship from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2006–2007). She lives with her husband and has four children.

Tania James THE LIBERATOR

Tania James is the author of three works of fiction, most recently the novel 'The Tusk That Did the Damage' (Harvill Secker), plus 'Aerogrammes and Other Stories' and 'Atlas of Unknowns'. 'Tusk' was named Best Book of 2015 by *The San Francisco Chronicle* and was shortlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize. James's stories have appeared in Freeman's *Anthology*, *Granta*, *One Story* and *Tin House*. Her criticism has appeared in *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The New York Times Book Review*. She is associate professor at George Mason University's Creative writing Program and lives in Washington DC.

Miranda July THE METAL BOWL

Miranda July is a filmmaker, artist and writer. Her most recent book is 'The First Bad Man', her debut novel; Andrew Solomon described it as "an audaciously original, often hilarious map of the ever-expanding reach of unhinged imagination in America". July's collection of stories, 'No One Belongs Here More Than You', won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and has been published in twenty-three countries. 'It Chooses You' was her first book of non-fiction. She wrote, directed and starred in *The Future and Me and You and Everyone We Know* — winner of the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and a Special Jury Prize at Sundance. July's short fiction has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review* and *Zoetrope*. She is the recipient of a 2016 USA Artist fellowship award and is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. Raised in Berkeley, California, July lives in Los Angeles.

P Kearney Byrne BUCK MAD

P Kearney Byrne has won the Francis MacManus (2012), Bryan MacMahon (2014) and WOW (2016) Awards. In 2013 she was longlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award and was a finalist in the 2015 Hamlin Garland Award (Beloit Fiction Journal, USA). She has been published or has work forthcoming in *Compose Journal*, *Vitality*, *Litmag* and *Per Contra*. Kearney Byrne has an MA in Creative Writing from University College, Dublin and was subsequently awarded the John McGahern Award (2016) with a residency at Tyrone Guthrie Centre and an Irish Arts Council Emerging Writer Award (2017) to assist in the completion of a novel begun on the MA. Originally from Dublin, she and her partner now live in Co Leitrim in a straw-bale eco-house on nine acres of land. She is also a psychotherapist.

Yiyun Li ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

Yiyun Li is the author of four works of fiction, 'Kinder Than Solitude', 'The Vagrants', 'A Thousand Years of Good Prayers' and 'Gold Boy, Emerald Girl' (all from Fourth Estate in UK); a children's book, 'The Story of Gilgamesh' (Pushkin Press); and a memoir, 'Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life' (Hamish Hamilton). She grew up in China, and came to the United States to pursue a science career in immunology before she became a writer. She is the recipient of many awards, including the PEN/Hemingway Award, Guardian First Book Award, Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award, Benjamin H. Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a MacArthur Foundation fellowship. She was named by *The New Yorker* as one of the "20 under 40" fiction writers to watch. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *A Public Space*, *Granta*, *The Best American Short Stories* and *The O. Henry Prize Stories*. She teaches creative writing at Princeton University.

Victor Lodato HERMAN MELVILLE, VOLUME 1

Victor Lodato born in New Jersey. He is the author of 'Edgar and Lucy' (Head of Zeus) and 'Mathilda Savitch' (2009), which was hailed by *The New York Times* as "a Salingeresque wonder of a first novel". The novel won the PEN USA Award for Fiction and the Barnes & Noble Discover Prize, and has been published in sixteen countries, including the UK (Fourth Estate). Victor is a Guggenheim Fellow, as well as the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Camargo Foundation (France) and the Bogliasco Foundation (Italy). He was shortlisted for the 2017 Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award. His short fiction and essays have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Granta* and *Best American Short Stories*. His new novel, 'Edgar and Lucy', is published by Doubleday in February 2018. Lodato currently divides his time between Tucson, Arizona and Ashland, Oregon.

Molly McCloskey LIFE ON EARTH

Molly McCloskey was born in Philadelphia and grew up in North Carolina and Oregon. In 1989, she moved to Ireland,

spending ten years on the west coast before moving to Dublin. She is the author of two short story collections, 'Solomon's Seal' and 'The Beautiful Changes', and a novel, 'Protection'. Her first work of non-fiction, 'Circles Around the Sun: In Search of a Lost Brother', appeared in 2011. Her new novel was published by Penguin Ireland in 2017 as 'When Light is Like Water', and in the US by Scribner in 2018 under the title 'Straying'. Her work has appeared in the *Irish Times*, *Dublin Review*, *Guardian*, *Los Angeles Review of Books* and elsewhere. She has taught writing at universities in Ireland and the US, serving as writer-in-residence at Trinity College, Dublin, University College, Dublin, and George Washington University in Washington, DC. She has also worked in the field of international development in the UN's Kenya-based Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Somalia. She currently lives in Washington, DC, and recently served as a judge for the DC-based PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

Joseph O'Neill THE SINKING OF THE HOUSTON

Joseph O'Neill is an Irish barrister living in New York. He is the author of four novels, 'Netherland' (longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2008), 'The Dog', 'This Is the Life' and 'The Breezes', as well as a memoir, 'Blood-Dark Track'. His short stories have been published in the *New Yorker* and *Harper's Bazaar*, and his literary criticism has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The Irish Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Granta* and other publications. He won the 2009 PEN/Faulkner Prize for Fiction and 2009 Kerry Fiction Award for 'Netherland'. He has a new collection of short stories, 'Good Trouble', due to be published in June 2018.

Curtis Sittenfeld DO-OVER

Curtis Sittenfeld is the bestselling author of five novels: 'Prep', 'The Man of My Dreams', 'American Wife', 'Sisterland' and 'Eligible'. Her first story collection, 'You Think It, I'll Say It', will be published in 2018. Her books have been selected by *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Entertainment Weekly* and *People* for their "Ten Best Books of the Year" lists, optioned for television and film, and translated into twenty-five languages. Her short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, and *Esquire*, and her non-fiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Atlantic* and *Slate*. A graduate of Stanford University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop, she is married with two children and lives in the American Mid-West.

Jonathan Tel BERLIN LENDS A HAND

Jonathan Tel won the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award in 2016. His published books include a story collection about Israelis and Palestinians, *Arafat's Elephant* (Counterpoint, 2002), which was shortlisted for the PEN/Hemingway Award; a novel, *Freud's Alphabet* (Counterpoint, 2003), dream-variations on Sigmund Freud's last year in 1939 London; and *The Beijing of Possibilities* (Other Press, 2009), a story sequence that unfolds in contemporary China, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Award. A finalist for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Prize in 2014, and the winner of the 2015 Commonwealth Short Story Prize, his stories have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Zoetrope*, and *Yale Review*. He has lived in San Francisco, Tokyo, London, Paris, Jerusalem, Beijing, and New York.

Courtney Zoffness PEANUTS AREN'T NUTS

Courtney Zoffness won the 2017 Arts & Letters Creative Nonfiction Prize, the 2016 American Literary Review Fiction Prize, and was an Emerging Writing Fellowship from the Center for Fiction. She has received awards from the MacDowell Colony and the Bread of Loaf Writers' Conference. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Southern Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and elsewhere. Zoffness has taught at numerous institutions, including Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, Allegheny College and the University of Freiburg, where she was a writer-in-residence. She currently directs the Creative Writing Program at Drew University in New Jersey and lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York.

Notes to Editors

Launched by Lord Evans of EFG Private Bank and *The Sunday Times* in 2010, The Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award is the richest prize for a single short story in the English language. Worth £30,000 to the winner, the international annual award aims to promote and celebrate the excellence of the modern short story, and has attracted entries from some of the world's finest writers.

About The Sunday Times

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