



# The Women's Prize Trust 2024 Discoveries Shortlist: "A showcase of different genres"

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**Thursday 2 May 2024, 09:00 BST:** The Women's Prize Trust – the registered charity that creates equitable opportunities for women in the world of books and beyond – today announces the 2024 prize shortlist for its Discoveries writing programme, now in its fourth year.

The Discoveries programme, run by the Women's Prize Trust in partnership with Curtis Brown literary agency, the Curtis Brown Creative writing school (both part of The Curtis Brown Group) and Audible, aims to find and support aspiring female novelists from across the UK and Ireland.

Six unpublished and unrepresented women writers have been selected for this year's Discoveries prize shortlist on the strength of the opening 10,000 words and synopsis of their novel-in-progress. Chosen from almost 3,000 entrants, the shortlisted writers include: a former psychiatric nurse who decided to pursue writing when made redundant; an amateur playwright-turned-lawyer; and a History of Art masters graduate who grew up in Istanbul. They are joined by an editorial assistant from Leicester, an Irish student, and a London-based communications professional.

The shortlisted novels-in-progress range in genre across fantasy, historical fiction, voice-led social realism and societal comment, coming-of-age stories and contemporary romance. From monsters in the dark, to some very real monstrous figures of the 1970s; from 'the one that got away', to a complex open marriage; from an intense co-dependent friendship in the present day, to the unexpected appearance of an enemy from the troubled past.

**The shortlisted authors are (in alphabetical order by surname):**

- **Niamh Connolly** for *Game Theory*
- **Alison Dudeney** for *Marsh End: The Darkness That Follows*
- **Alice Fletcher** for *The Hungry Dark*
- **Zeynep Kazmaz** for *Viscid Residue*
- **Georgia Moorhouse** for *Henry*
- **Nalisha Vansia** for *Not This Again*

These six writers were shortlisted by a judging panel chaired by **Kate Mosse**, novelist, playwright and Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction; **Jess Molloy**, Curtis Brown literary agent; **Anna Davis**, Founder and Managing Director of the Curtis Brown Creative writing school; and award-winning authors **Natasha Brown** and **Rowan Hisayo Buchanan**.

**Kate Mosse, Chair of the Discoveries judging panel, said:** *"Our shortlist judging meeting was passionate, exciting, full of delight and debate, a real pleasure. The shortlist is a showcase of how women writers are embracing different genres and forms of storytelling, from gothic fantasy to historical reimagining, from Britain in the 1970s to Ireland in the present day, the world of art to complex relationships in their complicated glory. We cannot wait to read the full novels and are certain that these six are writers to watch."*

All six shortlisted authors will receive a one-to-one mentoring session with a Curtis Brown agent and a free place on the six-week online writing course of their choice with Curtis Brown Creative (worth £220). The shortlisted writers will also take part in a studio session on writing and recording for audio with Audible. The six shortlisted writers will also be joined by a further ten writers comprising this year's Discoveries longlist for a specially designed two-week Writing Development Course, delivered by Curtis Brown Creative and tutored by acclaimed author Charlotte Mendelson (herself a former Women's Prize shortlisted writer).

**Anna Davis, Curtis Brown Creative, and Jess Molloy, Curtis Brown, said:** *"We both feel so privileged to take part in running and judging the Discoveries Prize: The sheer quality and diversity of material shared with our team of experienced industry readers this year was phenomenal – and this goes way beyond the shortlist that we're celebrating today. We salute the almost 3,000 entrants who sent us the openings of their novels-in-progress, and we hope each and every one of them has embarked on a journey that will take them to amazing places. As to our wonderful 2024 shortlist – well, suffice it to say that the Discoveries programme is very aptly named. We are so excited to see what these six talented women writers will go on to achieve."*

The winner will be announced on 23 May and will receive an offer of representation from Curtis Brown and £5,000. One promising writer from the shortlist will be named the Discoveries Scholar

and win a free scholarship to attend a three-month Writing Your Novel course with Curtis Brown Creative (worth £1,800).

To inspire as many budding writers as possible to enter and to help writers finesse their submissions, the Women's Prize Trust, Curtis Brown Literary Agency and Curtis Brown Creative writing school curate a programme of outreach events and online content, including panels at literary festivals around the UK and online webinars hosted by Curtis Brown Creative.

**Kate Mosse is available for comment. For PR information or images, please contact:  
Christian Lewis: [Christian@womensprize.com](mailto:Christian@womensprize.com)**

#### **Notes to editors about Discoveries:**

- Discoveries was launched in 2020 in honour of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Prize for Fiction and in recognition of untapped diverse and exceptional writing talent across the country.
- The closing date for submissions was 8 January 2024.
- The 2024 Discoveries longlist was announced on 18 April 2024.
- The overall Discoveries prize-winner, as well as the Discoveries Scholar, will be announced on 23 May 2024.
- Discoveries 2024 was open to all women aged 18 and above, residing in the UK or Ireland and writing in English. The programme accepts novels-in-progress in any genre of adult fiction and is free to enter. Entrants must be unagented and unpublished.
- Discoveries 2025 will call for entries in September 2025.
- More information about Discoveries can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

## **About the Women's Prize Trust**

The Women's Prize Trust is the registered charity that enriches society by creating equitable opportunities for women in the world of books and beyond. We work with women writers at all stages of development, and all readers, to unlock potential, boost confidence, and increase skills and knowledge. The charity is behind the Women's Prize for Fiction, the largest celebration of women's creativity in the world, and the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, the inaugural prize launched to champion women's expertise and authority in narrative non-fiction writing. As a result, we are developing a global community of women writers and readers, reducing social isolation and enhancing mental health and wellbeing.

Claire Shanahan is Executive Director of the Women's Prize Trust; Anna Rafferty is Chair of the Board; Kate Mosse CBE is Founder Director for the Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

In addition to commercial sponsorship, individual donors, trusts and foundations support the work of the Trust. More information about donating to the Trust can be found [here](#).

## **About Audible**

A leading creator and provider of premium audio storytelling, Audible offers customers a new way to enhance and enrich their lives every day. Audible content includes more than 700,000 audio programs from leading audiobook publishers, broadcasters, entertainers, magazine and newspaper publishers, business information providers, as well as Audible Original titles. On any given day, Audible listeners average about two hours of listening to Audible content. For more information, visit [www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com)

## **About Curtis Brown**

Founded in 1899 by Albert Curtis Brown, the company has a long and distinguished history as a world-renowned literary agency representing many famous writers, Daphne du Maurier, John le Carré and A. A. Milne.

Today, Curtis Brown also houses many other industry-leading divisions including a global Talent agency, representing leading actors and performers, as well as Unscripted and Entertainment and Musical Theatre & Production Arts. CBG is also home to a prestigious Theatre, Film and Television department (representing leading screenwriters, directors, producers, playwrights, and writer-performers) as well as a Media Rights department.

The Curtis Brown Group is now home to over 250 members of staff and a vibrant ecosystem of companies that span the arts and culture sector. The Curtis Brown Group includes boutique literary

agencies C&W (formerly Conville & Walsh) and Ed Victor Ltd, our in-house writing school Curtis Brown Creative, talent agencies Tavistock Wood and Markham Froggatt & Irwin and production company Cuba Pictures.

In June 2022, The Curtis Brown Group was acquired by United Talent Agency (UTA).

Jonny Geller is CEO of The Curtis Brown Group.

Contact for information: Zoe Ogden, Communications Manager

[zoe.ogden@curtisbrowngroup.co.uk](mailto:zoe.ogden@curtisbrowngroup.co.uk)

### **About Curtis Brown Creative**

Curtis Brown Creative (CBC) is one of the UK's most successful writing academies, running courses online and in London. It's the only creative writing school to be owned and run by a major literary and talent agency (The Curtis Brown Group). Since CBC was founded in 2011 by Anna Davis (still its Managing Director), over 220 students have become commercially published authors, including Bonnie Garmus (*Lessons in Chemistry*), Emilia Hart (*Weyward*), Kate Foster (*The Maiden*), Kirsty Capes (*Careless*), Sean Lusk (*The Second Sight of Zachary Cloudesley*) and Stacey Thomas (*The Revels*). Its Breakthrough Writers' Programme is a major initiative offering free mentoring, courses and scholarships to under-represented writers.

Learn more: <https://www.curtisbrowncreative.co.uk/>