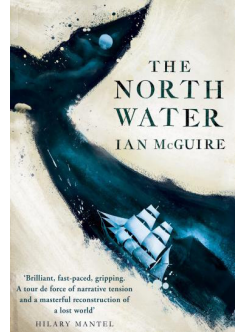


For immediate release



The Royal Society  
of Literature



## The £10,000 RSL Encore Award

for best second novel of the year is awarded to

**Ian McGuire** for *The North Water* (Scribner)

and

## The Nation's Favourite Second Novel

is *Pride and Prejudice*

### Comments on the RSL Encore Award 2017:

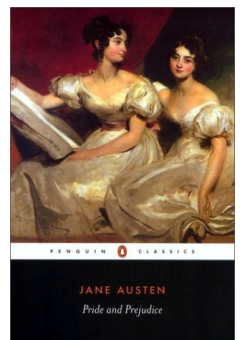
'*The North Water* works by disorientation, from its violent opening scenes to its voyage through high seas and blocks of ice; it creates a series of unstable, dangerous environments, and peoples them with the good, the bad and all points in between.' **Alex Clark (Chair of judges)**

'I am delighted and grateful to win to the RSL Encore Award for 2017. Second novels can be a struggle to write, and *The North Water* was many years in the making, so it's a great pleasure to get this recognition from the judges.'

**Ian McGuire**

### Comment on the Nation's Favourite Second Novel:

'This is the most fascinating poll, and we'll be talking about it for a long time. So many surprises. The only unsurprising result is the winner, and personally I'm thrilled that Jane Austen has come out tops.' **Deborah Moggach (author of *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and screenwriter of the 2005 *Pride and Prejudice* film)**



# Notes for Editors

## RSL Encore Award

The £10,000 Encore Award for the best second novel of the year was first awarded in 1990 and is sponsored by Lucy Astor. The award celebrates the achievement of outstanding second novels. This is the first year that the RSL has administered the award.

‘Comparisons with great seafaring novels of the past are inevitable and valid, and yet it’s the riveting, closing scenes, set on dry land and played out with cinematic immediacy, that make this book what it is. I have never read anything quite like it.’

**Julia Copus (Judge)**

‘As compulsive as it is unsettling, this is an epic for our times, in which the ghosts of empire dog the present and humanity faces the ravages of nature.’

**Ted Hogkinson (Judge)**



**Ian McGuire** grew up near Hull and studied at the University of Manchester, where he later became a founder and co-director of the university’s Centre for New Writing. *The North Water* was a *New York Times* bestseller and was nominated for the Man Booker Prize and the LA Times Book Prize 2016.

### Other books on the 2017 shortlist

Jenni Fagan	<i>The Sunlight Pilgrims</i>	(William Heinemann)
Paul Kingsnorth	<i>Beast</i>	(Faber & Faber)
Eimear McBride	<i>The Lesser Bohemians</i>	(Faber & Faber)
Sarah Perry	<i>The Essex Serpent</i>	(Serpent’s Tail)
Sara Taylor	<i>The Lauras</i>	(William Heinemann)

### Previous Encore Award winners include:

2015	Sunjeev Sahota	<i>The Year of the Runaways</i>
2014	Neel Mukherjee	<i>The Lives of Others</i>
2013	Evie Wyld	<i>All the Birds, Singing</i>
2012	Ned Beauman	<i>The Teleportation Accident</i>
2011	Joe Dunthorne	<i>Wild Abandon</i>
2010	Adam Foulds	<i>The Quickening Maze</i>
2009	Julia Leigh	<i>Disquiet</i>
2007	M.J. Hyland	<i>Carry Me Down</i>
2005	Nadeem Aslam	<i>Maps for Lost Lovers</i>
2004	Michelle de Kretser	<i>The Hamilton Case</i>
2003	Jeremy Gavron	<i>The Book of Israel</i>
2002	Ali Smith	<i>Hotel World</i>
2001	Anne Enright	<i>What Are You Like?</i>
2000	Claire Messud	<i>The Last Life</i>

# The Nation's Favourite Second Novel

Second novels are a notorious challenge for writers. Whether their first novel was a triumph or a flop, the pressure is always on the follow-up. But what do readers make of second novels? Do we even know which of our favourite novels are second novels? We decided to hold a public vote to raise literary awareness and discussion and to encourage people to read more novels. We had an open call for public suggestions in January and the final voting list of over 100 second published novels was agreed by the RSL's governing Council.

## The top ten

- 1 Jane Austen - *Pride and Prejudice*
- 2 Tan Twan Eng - *The Garden of Evening Mists*
- 3 Anne Brontë - *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
- 4 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - *Half of a Yellow Sun*
- 5 Barbara Pym - *Excellent Women*
- 6 Gabriel Garcia Márquez - *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
- 7 Mikhail Bulgakov - *The Master and Margarita*
- 8 Salman Rushdie - *Midnight's Children*
- 9 James Joyce - *Ulysses*
- 10 = Charles Dickens - *Oliver Twist*  
= J.R.R. Tolkien - *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*

'Great fanfare usually accompanies the publication of a writer's first novel, so it's wonderful that the Royal Society of Literature is celebrating the nation's favourite second novels. I was delighted to find my own novel, *The Garden of Evening Mists*, on the list, and I'm extremely honoured that it's been voted the second of the nation's most favourite second novels, behind *Pride & Prejudice*. Thank you to everybody who voted for my book, and also to those who voted for the other books.'

**Tan Twan Eng, runner-up to Jane Austen**

'What a cornucopia of reading these top ten books provide! Who would have thought the Nation's Favourite Second Novels would result in such a diverse and enticing short list. I have a fantasy of getting under the blankets and not re-emerging until I've read or re-read them all. Here's to second novels.'

**Lisa Appignanesi, Chair of the RSL**

**For further information about the RSL Encore Award  
or the Nation's Favourite Second Novel, please contact  
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