

For immediate release



The Royal Society
of Literature

*The
Encore
Award*

The Encore Award 2018

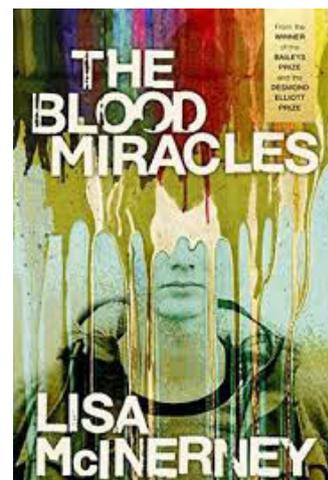
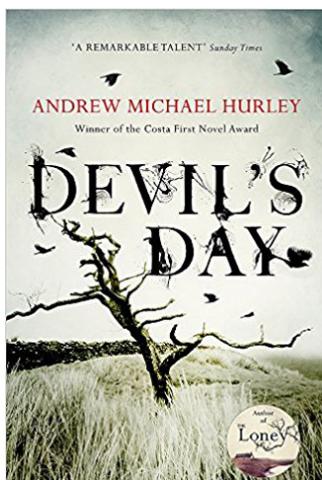
£10,000 for the best second novel of the year
is jointly awarded to

Andrew Michael Hurley *Devil's Day* (John Murray)

and

Lisa McInerney *The Blood Miracles* (John Murray)

'Prize juries are reluctant to split awards - probably because it looks either as though they can't make up their minds, or that there was deadlock. Happily, neither occurred in this case: we simply couldn't put a cigarette paper between these two splendid novels and wanted to acknowledge and reward them both. But we'd also like to make absolutely clear that our decision doesn't diminish the rest of what was a brilliant shortlist - each author more than earned their place and we'd like to congratulate all of them heartily. Third novels all round, please.' **Alex Clark (Chair of judges)**



'I'm really honoured to jointly receive the Encore award. In many ways, a second novel is a much greater challenge for a writer than the first, so I'm pleased that *Devil's Day* has struck a chord with readers.'

Andrew Michael Hurley

'It's such a boost to be recognised with an Encore Award. Writing a second novel is made so much more intense by the worry that the first was the proverbial lightning captured in a bottle; the Encore provides an emphatic reiteration of welcome, so I'm very pleased and grateful.'

Lisa McInerney



Andrew Michael Hurley's debut novel, *The Loney*, won the Costa First Novel Award 2015 and went on to be named Debut of the Year and Overall Book of the Year at the British Book Industry Awards in May 2016. Andrew Michael Hurley joined Manchester Metropolitan University as Lecturer in Creative Writing (Fiction) in 2016.

'Hurley is expert at filling the reader with a sense of menace without falling into write-by-numbers Gothickry: for all their ominous mystery, the Endlands feels like a real place inhabited by real people, a place that none of us might ever visit, but we will all recognise.' **Alex Clark**

'There is an all-consuming sense of the nearness of evil in *Devil's Day*... a powerfully immersive tale in the very best manner of modern English gothic.' **Julia Copus (Judge)**

'We were spellbound by Andrew Michael Hurley's menacing and masterful novel *Devil's Day*. Both a parable about rootless modernity and a forensic portrait of a fraying marriage, this is a gothic tale with contemporary edge, told by one of the finest writers at work today.' **Ted Hogkinson (Judge)**



Lisa McInerney's debut novel, *The Glorious Heresies*, won the 2016 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and the 2016 Desmond Elliott Prize. It was shortlisted for an Irish Book Award, longlisted for the 2016 Dylan Thomas Award, and named as a book of the year by *The Irish Times*, *Sunday Independent* and *Sunday Business Post*. Lisa McInerney's work has also been featured on BBC Radio 4 and in various anthologies.

'What a wild ride *The Blood Miracles* is! It's the novel's ability to capture the rush of thoughts in its characters' heads that sets it apart, and confirms its author as a spot-on chronicler of contemporary urban Ireland.' **Alex Clark**

'It's been a while since I've come across a character as convincingly complex as Ryan Cusack, who seems driven in equal measure by instincts for survival and self-destruction. McInerney's witty and inventive prose is capable of spinning you round and turning old notions of right and wrong inside out. It left me reeling.' **Julia Copus**

'*The Blood Miracles* shows us surprising moments of revelation on the way down. McInerney's potent prose illuminates euphoric highs and brutal lows, to reveal lives touched by transcendence. This is a follow-up which stands alone by a writer of immense powers.' **Ted Hodgkinson**

Notes to Editors

Other books on the 2018 shortlist

Claire Fuller	<i>Swimming Lessons</i>	(Fig Tree)
Fiona Melrose	<i>Johannesburg</i>	(Corsair)
Chibundu Onuzo	<i>Welcome To Lagos</i>	(Faber & Faber)
Natasha Pulley	<i>The Bedlam Stacks</i>	(Bloomsbury Circus)

Previous Encore Award winners (*joint winners)

2017	Ian McGuire	<i>The North Water</i>
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 Beaman	<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>
1999	Christina Koning	<i>Undiscovered Country</i>
1998*	Alan Warner	<i>These Demented Lands</i>
	Timothy O'Grady	<i>I Could Read the Sky</i>
1997	David Flusfeder	<i>Like Plastic</i>
1996	A.L. Kennedy	<i>So I Am Glad</i>
1995	Dermot Healy	<i>A Goat's Song</i>
1994	Amit Chaudhuri	<i>Afternoon Raag</i>
1993	Colm Tóibín	<i>The Heather Blazing</i>
1992	Iain Sinclair	<i>Downriver</i>
1991	Carey Harrison	<i>Richard's Feet</i>
1990*	Paul Watkins	<i>A Lesser Dependency</i>
	Peter Benson	<i>Calm at Sunset, Calm at Dawn</i>

The Encore Award was first presented in 1990 to celebrate the achievement of outstanding second novels. This year's judges are critic, journalist and broadcaster Alex Clark (Chair), poet and children's author Julia Copus and Ted Hodgkinson, Senior Programmer for Literature and Spoken Word at Southbank Centre. The Award is administered by the RSL. 2018 is the first time in 20 years that the Award has been made to two writers.

The Award was presented by past winner A. L. Kennedy at the ICA on 9 May 2018.

The Royal Society of Literature, founded in 1820, is the national charity for the advancement of literature. It celebrates and nurtures all that is best in British literature, past and present. In addition to the Encore Award, the RSL administers the RSL Ondaatje Prize for writing on a sense of place, the RSL Literature Matters Awards, the V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize and the RSL Giles St Aubyn Awards for Non-Fiction. The RSL runs regular events and manages a schools outreach programme.

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