



THE SELFIES BOOK AWARDS UK WINNERS ANNOUNCED

London (March 30, 2020) - BookBrunch has today announced the winners for the second Selfies Awards, the prize for the best self-published adult fiction and – for the first time in 2020 – children’s book published in the UK in 2019. Launched by BookBrunch in 2018, the Selfies are sponsored by Ingram’s award-winning self-publishing platform, IngramSpark® and supported by the London Book Fair and Nielsen Book.

The winner of the adult category was Clare Flynn with her historical love story *The Pearl of Penang*, while Jemma Hatt takes home the children's prize with middle-grade escapade *The Adventurers and the Cursed Castle*. The winner in both categories receives a prize of £1,000 and a copy of Scott Pack’s new book *Tips from a Publisher*. Hatt thanked her cover designer Andrew Smith and editor Amanda Horan, and a 'shocked' Flynn - whose brother was able to attend the ceremony from Australia - followed suit as she thanked her editor Debi Alper and cover designer Jane DixonSmith.

Originally scheduled to be announced at the London Book Fair, the ceremony was moved to an online ceremony when the Fair was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hosted by BookBrunch and Jo Henry on Zoom, the event was attended not only by all the shortlisted authors and illustrators but their friends and family members from across the world.

The Selfies Awards are judged on the quality of the writing; the production values of the book; an enticing cover and blurb that successfully addresses the target audience; and an effective and creative marketing and publicity strategy that has the potential for great sales. The judges were Robin Cutler of IngramSpark, Scott Pack of Unbound and Henry for the adult prize, while Jill Coleman, director of children's books at BookTrust, author Ken Wilson-Max, and Moon Lane Ink CIC bookseller Meera Ghanshamdas made up the judging panel for the children's prize.

Henry said that the standard of submissions had been excellent, and that it had been a ‘real privilege’ to have so many wonderful books to read on the shortlist during January and February.

Cutler was able to confirm that IngramSpark was still fully operational as an 'essential business'; she also praised the quality of the submissions, adding that she had found it hard as a judge of the adult prize to pick a winner.

The first Selfies Award was presented to Jane Davis for her eighth self-published novel, *Smash All the Windows*, at LBF in March 2019. She attended yesterday's award ceremony and underlined the importance of a prize that awards book production and book production standards as well as story.

The shortlist for the 2020 adult fiction Selfies Award was:

- *Notes from the Lost* by Cathy Hartigan

- *Secrets at St. Brides* by Debbie Young
- *Going Up* by A. E. Radley
- *Jaffle Inc.* by Heide Goody and Iain Grant
- *The Pearl of Penang* by Clare Flynn
- *Katharina Fortitude* by Margaret Skea

The shortlist for the 2020 children's Selfies Award was:

- *The Christmas Tree Wish* by Karen Inglis, illustrated by Anne Swift
- *Grandad's Fish-pond* by John Carter, illustrated by Keith Phelpstead
- *Vlad and the Space Race* by Kate Cunningham, illustrated by Sam Cunningham
- *The Wonder Girls* by Jan Carr
- *The Adventurers and the Cursed Castle* by Jemma Hatt
- *The Little Cockroach* by Susie Violet, illustrated by Alex Patrick

Following the success of The Selfies Awards in the UK, a similar awards program has been launched in the U.S. in partnership with Publishers Weekly / BookLife and Combined Book Exhibits. The shortlists for these inaugural awards will be announced in April. For further details please contact www.selfiesbookawards.com.