



\*\*\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9.00AM ON THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

*Selfies Book Awards judges announced for 2021*

BookBrunch are delighted to announce the judges for the 2021 Selfies Book Awards, established by BookBrunch in 2018 to recognise the very best in self-publishing in the UK. The awards are sponsored by IngramSpark and run in association with the London Book Fair and Nielsen Book. The first Selfies award, for adult fiction, was announced at the London Book Fair in March 2019 and was won by Jane Davis for her novel *Smash all the Windows*.

Now in its third year, the adult fiction category is being judged by **Joanna Swainson** of Hardman & Swainson, **Malcolm Edwards** and **Eleanor Pigg** of Nielsen Book.

The judges for the children's book category, now in its second year, are **Helen McAleer** of Helen McAleer Ltd, **Natasha Radford** of the Chicken & Frog Bookshop and **Jennie Marlow** of the London Book Fair.

The judges for the inaugural year of the memoir/autobiography category are **Richard Charkin** of Mensch Publishing, **Gordon Wise** of Curtis Brown and **Ben Hughes** of IngramSpark.

The shortlists for this year's Selfies Book Awards will be announced in early March, and the winners will be announced in mid April. The winner in each category will receive a cheque for £750 and a profile in BookBrunch, while all shortlisted authors will have free access to access to the 2021 London Book Fair's author content. In addition, shortlisted authors can go into a prize draw for one winner of two free hours of mentoring from the Really Useful Company; for more information see the [website](#).

The Selfies Book Awards are also run in the U.S. in association with BookLife/Publishers Weekly, with submissions for the 2021 awards (for adult fiction or children's books self-published in 2020) open until the 8<sup>th</sup> March: more information on the [website](#).

**Joanna Swainson** co-founded Hardman & Swainson in 2012, having previously worked as a reader and in-house editor at Christopher Little. She represents authors writing across a range of genres including literary, historical, crime and thriller and speculative fiction, and also non-fiction. **Malcolm Edwards's** long career started in 1976. He was most recently Publisher of Andre Deutsch, and before that Chairman of Gollancz. He was for many years Deputy CEO and Publisher at the Orion Publishing Group. As an editor he worked closely with authors including J.G. Ballard, Anthony Horowitz and Ursula Le Guin, and was named Editor of the Year at the 1996 British Book Awards. **Eleanor Pigg** started at Nielsen Book in 1999 as an Editorial Assistant looking after publishers such as Random House, Hodder & Stoughton, Scholastic and Butterworth-Heinemann. In 2006 she joined the UK & Ireland ISBN Agency as a Registration Services Advisor before becoming Manager in 2018. Eleanor also manages the SAN Agency allocating SAN identifiers to the book industry.

**Helen McAleer** runs a media consultancy specialising in IP, publishing and TV production working with clients including publishing houses Macmillan Children's Books, UK and US. She spent several years at the Walker Books Group and before that was Deputy Managing Director of BBC Worldwide's Children's Business. Helen began her career working for Random House and Penguin Books working on books by such esteemed authors as Roald Dahl, Quentin Blake and Raymond Briggs to name just a few. **Natasha Radford** trained as a teacher and became a bookseller over 8 years ago. She has an MA in Children's Literature, and believes that bookselling and teaching are the perfect pairing. **Jennie Marlow** has worked within content marketing for over five years and is now the Content Manager for The London Book Fair, writing, editing and delivering engaging content for the event. Before this, Jennie worked in an assortment of roles from writing for an online magazine to freelancing for a publishing house.

**Richard Charkin** is a former president of the IPA and the UK PA and for 11 years was executive director of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. He has held many senior posts at major publishing houses, including Macmillan, Oxford University Press, Current Science Group, and Reed Elsevier. He is president of The Book Society and a non-executive director of Bonnier Books UK, Liverpool University Press, Institute of Physics Publishing, and Cricket Properties as well as having his own business, Mensch Publishing. **Gordon Wise** joined Curtis Brown in 2005, where he is now Joint MD of the Book Department. He began working in the book industry in 1989 as a bookseller, becoming an editor and, later, publishing director, at companies including Pan Macmillan and John Murray/Hachette. He was Agent of the Year at the British Book Industry Awards and President of the Association of Authors' Agents. In non-fiction, he focuses on work that inspires, tells a story and entertains. **Ben Hughes** has been the Business Development Manager for IngramSpark in the UK since 2020. In this role, he oversees all business relating to IngramSpark including the customer service team and developing services to meet the needs of authors in an ever-changing publishing landscape. With experience across physical and digital bookselling and publishing, Ben previously worked for the Lightning Source part of the Ingram business and at Penguin Random House in various sales and operational roles.