



THE SELFIES BOOK AWARDS 2022 SHORT LIST ANNOUNCED

London (March 17, 2022) – BookBrunch has today announced the shortlists for the fourth year of the Selfies Book Awards. Launched by BookBrunch in 2018 to recognise excellence in the self-publishing market, the awards are sponsored by Ingram’s award-winning self-publishing platform, IngramSpark® and are run in association with the London Book Fair and Nielsen Bookdata.

The Selfies are judged not just on the quality of the writing, but also on the success of the author’s PR and marketing campaign, sales success and overall production values, including cover design. Winners receive £750 each and a profile in BookBrunch, with all the shortlisted authors gaining free entry to Authors HQ – where a series of events aimed at indie authors is being programmed – during this year’s London Book Fair at Olympia, 5-7 April.

This year’s Selfies have three prizes on offer for indie authors who published in 2021, for best adult fiction, children’s book, or memoir/autobiography.

BookBrunch managing director Jo Henry said: "Once again we’ve been blown away by the sheer professionalism and inventiveness of the indie publishing community, and it’s been very hard to choose just eight titles for each shortlist – in fact we have had to stretch to nine on the adult fiction list as the quality was so good."

In the **adult fiction category**, won last year by Halima Khatun with her wry look at 21st century family-managed dating, **The Secret Diary of an Arranged Marriage**, contenders include two authors previously shortlisted, and the list covers a wide range of genres from thrillers to comedy, sf to contemporary fiction.

The shortlisted titles are:

Christine Webber’s So Many Ways of Loving

Jill Morris’s The Big Fix

Simon McCleave’s The Menai Bridge Killing

Jill Marsh’s White Heron

Paula Harmon’s Death in the Last Reel

Heide Goody and Iain Grant’s Sealfinger

Elena Kravchenko’s Breathe

Peter Turnham’s None Stood Taller

Ivan Wainwright’s The Other Times of Caroline Tangent

In the **children’s book category**, won last year by Kate Claxton with her vibrant picture book **My Mum’s a Tiger**, illustrated by Angela Mayers, contenders include one author previously shortlisted as

well as a previous winner of this category, and showcases beautifully illustrated picture books as well as middle grade readers. The full shortlist is:

Hajera Memon's Where is Moon Buggy? illustrated by Rose Hill

Kim Ansell's Frederick the Fox, illustrated by Lisa Read

Jill Michelle Smith and Jennifer Watson's An A-Z of Extraordinary Extinct Creatures, illustrated by Jill Michelle Smith

Sally Doherty's Toby and the Silver Blood Witches

Danielle Verbeeten's Eddie the Elf

Hannah Peckham's Conker the Chameleon, illustrated by Stephanie Jayne

Jemma Hatt's The Adventurers and the Jungle of Jeopardy

J.C. Perry's The Best Nest: A Tale of Roosting Rivalry

The shortlist for the **memoir/autobiography category** offers eight very different books, including a child's Second World War diary, a sex-worker's story, a perilous journey through a post-war landscape and a mother's poignant memoir of the child she lost. The full shortlist is as follows:

War Diary: The Diary of Mike Rogers, edited by Alan Beardsley

Emily J. Johnson's Pushing Through the Cracks

Anna James' Covid Kindness UK:2020; a celebration of hard work, adaptability and kindness

Joan Leech's Married to the Man Who Washed Himself Away, edited by Michael McGearry

Melissa Todd's My Body Is My Business

Else Elfriede Burt's Return to Neckarstrasse

Hannah Powell's The Cactus Surgeon: Using Nature to Fix A Faulty Brain

Ninette Hartley's Dear Tosh

Expert judging panels are now reading the shortlisted titles and assessing the publishing expertise of the authors to select their best indie-published books of 2021. The winners will be announced on **Tuesday, April 5th** at 4.30 pm in Author HQ at the **London Book Fair**, Olympia. For further information, or for an invitation to this event, please email selfies@bookbrunch.co.uk.

THE SHORTLISTS IN FULL

The 2022 Selfies Book Awards Adult Fiction shortlist:

So Many Ways of Loving by Christine Webber: Three women in their 50s and 60s travel through the most momentous year of their lives, and as they do so, they are reminded of just how much we depend upon family, friends and pets. A poignant and insightful tale of widowhood and other challenges of later life.

The Big Fix by Jill Morris: Millions in cash. Hundreds of designer watches. A small black book... Liam gets more than he bargained for after breaking into a plush West London townhouse.

When he finds out who lives there, the notes in the book begin to make sense and its contents become the most valuable of all his ill-gotten gains – but may get him into very deep water indeed.

The Menai Bridge Killing by Simon McCleave: When a young couple go on the run at the same time as a brutal murder, DI Ruth Hunter of the North Wales Police realises that the two incidents are connected. As her team scour Snowdonia for the runaways, she realises they are dealing with two fragile, vulnerable young people - not Snowdonia's answer to Bonnie and Clyde as the media have labelled them.

White Heron by Jill Marsh: Ann Sheldon knows pain and trauma are occupational hazards. She takes one for the team, suffers personal loss and licks her wounds in private. Then they throw her under a bus. When friend becomes foe, fighting is not an option. Her only hope is to run. Run and hide.

Death in the Last Reel by Paula Harmon: London 1911. After the violent murder of three policemen in the line of duty, tensions between London constabulary and Whitechapel anarchists simmer. Meanwhile accusations and counter accusations of espionage further weaken relations between Germany and Britain. Who is behind a threat to the capital?

Sealfinger by Heide Goody and Iain Grant: Meet Sam Applewhite, security consultant for DefCon4's east coast office. She's clever, inventive and adaptable, but now she's facing an impossible mystery. A client has gone missing and no one else seems to care. Who would want to kill an old and lonely woman whose only sins are having a sharp tongue and a belief in ghosts? Can Sam find out the truth, even if it puts her friends' and family's lives at risk?

Breathe by Elena Kravchenko: December 26, 2004: The Indian Ocean tsunami has flooded great swathes of western Thailand. Carl's best friend and his wife are missing. He travels from London to Thailand to discover what has happened to them, only to learn there is nothing one man can do in the devastation the wave left behind.

None Stood Taller by Peter Turnham: Lily Heywood is just one more victim of the 1941 London Blitz. Defying expectations of social class, she embarks on an incredible journey from the ashes of the Blitz to the top of the British establishment.

The Other Times of Caroline Tangent by Ivan Wainwright: If you could travel back in time to see any concert, who would you go to see? Caroline Tangent's husband, Jon has invented a time machine so they can visit iconic gigs in history: Woodstock '69, David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust, Edith Piaf in 1930's Paris - an inexhaustible bucket-list. Until, on a trip, one of them does something unthinkable which will change both their lives forever.

The 2022 Selfies Book Awards Children's Books shortlist:

Where is Moon Buggy? By Hajera Memon, illustrated by Rose Hill: Learn the phases of the moon and look for Moon Buggy as he travels across the night sky in this sparkly, shiny, high-contrast buggy book. An original interactive book to introduce the very young to the night sky.

Frederick the Fox by Kim Ansell, illustrated by Lisa Read: Follow the adventures of Frederick the Fox on his journey to find happiness. How far does he have to go and did he ever really need to go anywhere at all?

An A-Z of Extraordinary Extinct Creatures by Jill Michelle Smith and Jennifer Watson, illustrated by Jill Michelle Smith: Discover some of the Earth's forgotten creatures from archaeopteryx to zygomaturus on a journey through the extinct alphabet.

Toby and the Silver Blood Witches by Sally Doherty: Twelve year old Toby has little time for friends or football since his mum fell ill. All he wants is to stay at home and keep an eye on her. But mysterious things are happening beyond his garden hedge. Who is the figure at the window behind the barbed wire fence? And why is there a strange woman in his attic with a broken broom and bothersome pet bat?

Eddie the Elf by Danielle Verbeeten: Have you ever wondered where all the elves go after Christmas? Sam was sad to think of his Christmas elf Eddie being packed up with the decorations and put in the attic. Little did he know of the adventures his tiny elf would embark on to save The North Pole from disaster and make it back home in time for Christmas!

Conker the Chameleon by Hannah Peckham, illustrated by Stephanie Jayne: Can you imagine what it would be like if you could tell how someone was feeling just by looking at them? But sometimes looks can be deceiving. Poor old Conker can't change his colour like the others and is feeling very fed up, but then he discovers that what makes him different also makes him special.

The Adventurers and the Jungle of Jeopardy by Jemma Hatt: A TV show has turned into a dangerous game... can six young challengers succeed against the odds? Join Lara, Rufus and the gang on their most perilous adventure yet, this time in the Costa Rican rainforest.

The Best Nest: A Tale of Roosting Rivalry by J. C. Perry: Two birds try to outdo each other in their efforts to build the best nest. After disaster strikes, a wise owl makes them realise that having the biggest, fanciest nest isn't the key to happiness.

The 2022 Selfies Book Awards Memoir/Autobiography shortlist:

War Diary: The Diary of Mike Rogers, edited by Alan Beardsley: Discovered in 2020 after spending the last 75 years in an attic, this is a powerful reminder of the horrors of war and an eloquent testament to the human spirit. Mike Rogers details the daily, and often mundane, experiences of a thirteen-year-old British boy and his family from 1939 to the end of World War 2.

Pushing Through the Cracks by Emily J. Johnson: Four years ago, Emily, a divorced mother of two, was living her best life with a new partner and blended family of six. But then addiction and mental illness entered her home uninvited, and she's left to cope alone. And when the Covid pandemic hits, Emily, a serial people-pleaser, enabler and born rescuer, almost breaks too.

Covid Kindness UK:2020; a celebration of hard work, adaptability and kindness by Anna James: 2020 was an unprecedented year, but it was also a year of exceptional hard work, adaptability and kindness when our humanity and community spirit shone in the darkness. There isn't a book big enough to include all of the people who deserve to be mentioned, so this celebrates the stories of a few on behalf of the many.

Married to the Man Who Washed Himself Away by Joan Leech, edited by Michael McGeary: Born into a working-class community in the North-East of England, Joan Burns longs for a stable home and children of her own. After a tiff with her childhood sweetheart she marries a handsome older man, but her husband's obsessive behaviour makes a normal family life impossible. When tragedy strikes, Joan realises she must escape her troubled marriage if she is to find the happiness she craves.

My Body Is My Business by Melissa Todd: Clara left Oxford university to become a stripper. Twenty-five years later, a porn star and disciplinarian, she tries to work out how she got here - and where she might go next.

Return to Neckarstrasse by Else Elfriede Burt: A journey of eight hundred miles and six weeks through the ruins of cities, towns and villages, across battlefields strewn with the unburied remains of German soldiers in the Russian eastern zone. Home again – the flat still miraculously standing, when hundreds of others around it are in ruins – how do the survivors find fuel, food and clothing, and learn how to survive?

The Cactus Surgeon: Using Nature to Fix A Faulty Brain by Hannah Powell: Living in London Hannah suffered burnout and was diagnosed with a functional neurological disorder. With no information available to help her, she found her own way to get better.

Dear Tosh by Ninette Hartley: Graffiti was his passion and one slip, while out scouting for a site, cost him his life. For the tenth anniversary of his death his mother writes him twenty-seven letters; one for each year that he lived. She tells him things she did not have the chance to say when he was alive, she talks about his childhood and teenage years, and brings him up to date with what has happened in the family, and the world, since he left.