

# The Branford Boase Award



**\*\* UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2020 \*\***

**COSTA BOOK AWARD WINNER JASBINDER BILAN ONE OF 20 DEBUT AUTHORS IN CONTENTION FOR THE 2020 BRANFORD BOASE AWARD**

## **Longlist for the 2020 Branford Boase Award announced**

[www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk](http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk) / #BBA2020 / #newtalent

The longlist for the **2020 Branford Boase Award** is announced today (Tuesday 28th January 2020). Set up in memory of award-winning author Henrietta Branford and her editor Wendy Boase, one of the founders of Walker Books, the **Branford Boase Award** is given annually to the author of an outstanding debut novel for children and has a notable record in picking out the most talented authors at the start of their career. Over its twenty-one-year history winners and shortlisted authors have included **Siobhan Dowd, Meg Rosoff, Mal Peet, Frank Cottrell Boyce** and **Patrick Ness** as well as **Frances Hardinge, M G Leonard** and **Philip Reeve**.

Uniquely, the **Branford Boase Award** also honours the editor of the winning title and highlights the importance of the editor in nurturing new talent.

In another outstanding year for debuts, 59 books were submitted and by more than two dozen different publishers; 20 books have made it onto the longlist. These include Jasbinder Bilan's **Costa** winner **Asha and the Spirit Bird**; Sharna Jackson's bestseller **High-Rise Mystery**, edited by Robin Stevens for **Knights Of**; as well as books from independent presses **Everything with Words, Firefly Press** and **Floris Books**.

### **The 2020 Branford Boase Award longlist in full:**

**The Middler** by Kirsty Applebaum, edited by Kirsty Stansfield (Nosy Crow)

**Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties** by Humza Arshad and Henry White, edited by Holly Harris and Sharan Matharu (Puffin)

**The Space We're In** by Katya Balen, edited by Lucy Mackay-Sim (Bloomsbury)

**Asha and the Spirit Bird** by Jasbinder Bilan, edited by Kesia Lupo (Chicken House)

**A Pocketful of Stars** by Aisha Bushby, edited by Liz Bankes and Sarah Levison (Egmont)

**Charlie Changes into a Chicken** by Sam Copeland, edited by Ben Horslen (Puffin)

**Potkin and Stubbs** by Sophie Green, edited by Emma Matthewson (Bonnier Books)

**The Garden of Lost Secrets** by A M Howell, edited by Rebecca Hill and Becky Walker (Usborne)  
**Bearmouth** by Liz Hyder, edited by Sarah Odedina (Pushkin Press)  
**The Girl who Lost her Shadow** by Emily Ilett, edited by Eleanor Collins and Jennie Skinner (Floris Books)  
**A Good Girl's Guide to Murder** by Holly Jackson, edited by Lindsey Heaven (Electric Monkey)  
**High-Rise Mystery** by Sharna Jackson, edited by Robin Stevens (Knights Of)  
**Frostheart** by Jamie Littler, edited by Naomi Colthurst (Puffin)  
**Lori and Max** by Catherine O'Flynn edited by Rebecca Lloyd (Firefly Press)  
**Nevertell** by Katharine Orton, edited by Annalie Grainger (Walker Books)  
**The Midnight Hour** by Benjamin Read and Laura Trinder, edited by Rachel Leyshon (Chicken House)  
**The Tzar's Curious Runaways** by Robin Scott-Elliott, edited by Mikka Haugaard (Everything with Words)  
**Bloom** by Nicola Skinner, edited by Nick Lake (HarperCollins Children's Books)  
**The Million Pieces of Neena Gill** by Emma Smith-Barton, edited by Naomi Colthurst (Puffin)  
**Starfell: Willow Moss and the Lost Day** by Dominique Valente, edited by Harriet Wilson (HarperCollins Children's Books)

This year the judges are **Layla Hudson** of **Round Table Books**, Brixton; **Sue Bastone**, vice-chair **SLA**; **Victoria Dilly**, creator of the **Book Activist** blog; and **Muhammad Khan**, author of **I Am Thunder**, winner of the 2019 **Branford Boase Award**. The panel is chaired by **Julia Eccleshare**, children's director of the Hay Festival.

**Julia Eccleshare** says: "As the **Branford Boase Award** enters its 21<sup>st</sup> year, we are delighted to have another exciting and particularly diverse set of books to consider. Here are comedies, murder mysteries, adventures set in imaginary worlds, in faraway countries and in landscapes familiar to us all. The wealth of talent on display continues to inspire us and we are very much looking forward to discussing the longlist with our judges."

The **Branford Boase Award** is sponsored by **Walker Books**.

The **shortlist** for the Award will be announced on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The winner will be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> July at a ceremony in London.

The **Henrietta Branford Writing Competition**, the annual competition for young people which runs in conjunction with the **Branford Boase Award**, is also open.

For further information please contact **Andrea Reece** on 07807893369 or [andrea.reece@zen.co.uk](mailto:andrea.reece@zen.co.uk)

#### **Notes to Editors:**

The annual **Branford Boase Award** celebrates the most promising book for seven year-olds and upwards written by a first-time novelist and also highlights the

importance of the editor in the development of new authors. The shortlisted authors may have published other books in another genre – for example, poetry or a picture book – but eligibility for the prize requires that this is their first children’s novel.

As well as encouraging publishers to find and promote new writers, the Award sets out to alert readers of all ages to the work of interesting newcomers.

The **Branford Boase Award** was set up in 2000 in memory of the outstanding and prize-winning author **Henrietta Branford** and **Wendy Boase**, editorial director and one of the founders of Walker Books. They worked together on a number of Henrietta’s novels, a partnership they greatly enjoyed. Both Henrietta and Wendy died of cancer in 1999.

Running alongside the Branford Boase Award, the **Henrietta Branford Writing Competition** encourages writing talent in under 18s.

The Award is the joint idea of **Julia Eccleshare** and **Anne Marley**. Julia is children’s director of the Hay Festival and a regular contributor to Radio 4’s Front Row and Open Book programmes. Anne was Head of Children’s, Youth & Schools Services for Hampshire Library & Information Service for many years. She has served on numerous children’s book award panels, including the CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Awards.

The **2019 Branford Boase Award** was won by Muhammad Khan and his editor Lucy Pearse with **I Am Thunder** (Macmillan).

**For more information about the award, including a full list of past winners, and the Henrietta Branford Writing Competition visit [www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk](http://www.branfordboaseaward.org.uk) .**

Or contact Andrea Reece on 07807893369 or [andrea.reece@zen.co.uk](mailto:andrea.reece@zen.co.uk)

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