



Award-winning authors

Compiled by
GRIZÉLL AZAR-LUXTON

Rose Tremain

Novelist Rose Tremain was born in 1943 in London. She was educated at the Sorbonne and is a graduate of the University of East Anglia, where she taught creative writing from 1988-95. Her publications include novels and short story collections, and she is also the author of a number of radio and television plays, including **Temporary shelter**, (which won a Giles Cooper Award), and **One night in winter**, first broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in December 2001. She was awarded an honorary Litt.D by the University of East Anglia in 2000.

Her first novel, **Sadler's birthday**, was published in 1976. This was followed by **Letterlo sister Benedicta** (1978), **The cupboard** (1981) and **The swimming pool season** (1985), which won the Angel Literary Award. **Restoration** (1989) won the Angel Literary Award, the **Sunday Express** Book of the Year Award and was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction. It was made into a film in 1996.

Her other novels include **Sacred country** (1992), winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction and the prestigious Prix Femina Etranger (France), **The way I found her** (1997), and **Music and silence** (1999), winner of the Whitbread Novel Award, a historical novel set in the early seventeenth century.

She has published several collections of short stories, including **The colonel's daughter and other stories** (1984), **The garden of the Villa Mollini and other stories** (1987) and **Evangelista's fan and other stories** (1994).

She was chosen as one of the 20 Best of Young British Novelists in a promotion by the literary magazine **Granta** in 1983, and was a judge for the Booker Prize for Fiction



Photo: John Rawson

in 1988 and in 2000. She reviews and broadcasts regularly for press and radio, and lives in Norfolk and London. Her novel, **The colour** (2003), set in New Zealand at the time of the West Coast Gold Rush in the 1860s, was shortlisted for the 2004 Orange Prize for Fiction.

Her latest book is a collection

of short stories: **The darkness of Wallis Simpson** (2005).

Rose Tremain is an outstanding example of the way in which a fine 'literary' writer can sometimes develop into a popular one. Her novels are both sophisticated and entertaining: they can captivate readers with sensuous - and at times sensual - pleasures in return for the demands she makes. Her body of work is diverse: eight novels to date, several volumes of short stories, a children's book, as well as award-winning radio and television plays.

Bibliography

***Collected short stories.**- Sinclair-Stevenson, 1996.

The colonel's daughter and other stories.- H. Hamilton, 1984.

The colour.- Chatto, 2003.

The cupboard.- Macdonald, 1981.

***The darkness of Wallis Simpson.**- Bloomsbury, 2005.

Evangelista's fan and other stories.- Sinclair-Stevenson, 1994.

The garden of the Villa Mollini and other stories.- H. Hamilton, 1987.

Journey to the volcano.- Piper Bks., 1988.

Letter to Sister Benedicta.- Macdonald & Jane's, 1978.

Music and silence.- Chatto, 1999.

Restoration.- H. Hamilton, 1989.

Sacred country.- Sinclair-Stevenson, 1992.

Sadler's birthday.- Macdonald & Jane's, 1976.

The swimming pool season.- H. Hamilton, 1985.

CONTENTS

Award-winning authors

Three successful authors in the spotlight as compiled by Grizéll Azar-Luxton 16

Donkerbosverdwaa! belydenis van 'n depressielyer

'n Insiggewende bespreking van hierdie pryswenner deur Ronél Kritzinger 18

Gory stories: Some books about forensics, medicine and crime

Book Selector Margaret Iskandar's delightful discussion on matters forensic 18

Booklist: Gory stories

An extensive booklist on the topic by Margaret Iskandar 21

The way I found her.- Sinclair-Stevenson, 1997.

Prizes and awards

1984 Dylan Thomas Award (for four short stories, three from **The colonel's daughter**).

1984 Giles Cooper Award (radio play)

Temporary shelter.

1985 Angel Literary Award **The swimming pool season.**

1989 Angel Literary Award **Restoration.**

1989 Sunday Express Book of the Year

Restoration.

1990 Booker Prize for Fiction (shortlist)

Restoration.

1992 James Tait Black Memorial Prize (for fiction) **Sacred country.**

1993 Prix Femina Etranger (France) **Sacred country.**

1999 Whitbread Novel Award **Music and silence.**

2004 Orange Prize for Fiction (shortlist) **The colour.**

With acknowledgement to Dr Jules Smith.

Kate Atkinson

Kate Atkinson was born in York in 1951 and studied English Literature at Dundee University. After graduating in 1974, she researched a postgraduate doctorate on American Literature. She later taught at Dundee and began writing short

stories in 1981. She began writing for women's magazines after winning the 1986 **Woman's Own** Short Story Competition. She was runner-up for the Bridport Short Story Prize in 1990 and won an Ian St James Award in 1993 for her short story **Karmic mothers**, which she later adapted for BBC2 television as part of its *Tartan Shorts* series.

Her first novel, **Behind the scenes at the museum** (1995), won the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year award, beating Salman Rushdie's **The Moor's last sigh** and Roy Jenkins' biography **Gladstone**.

The book has been adapted for radio and theatre and has been adapted for television by the author. Her second novel, **Human croquet**, was published in 1997 and relates the story of another family, the Fairfaxes, through flashback and historical narrative.

Kate Atkinson made a spectacular debut with **Behind the scenes at the museum** (1995), winning the prestigious Whitbread Prize as overall Book of the Year; and her two subsequent novels have also been enthusiastically reviewed. Her books are exotic and highly entertaining hybrids, for which the term 'tragic comedy' seems insufficient.

She has written two plays for the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh: a short play, **Nice** (1996), and **Abandonment**, which premiered as part of the Edinburgh Festival in August 2000. She currently lives in Edinburgh and is an occasional contributor to newspapers and magazines. Her third novel, **Emotionally weird**, was published in 2000. In 2002 her collection of short stories, **Not the end of the world** (2002), was published, and her latest book is **Case histories** (2004).

Bibliography

- ***Abandonment**.- Nick Hern Books, 2000.
- Behind the scenes at the museum**.- Doubleday, 1995.
- Case histories**.- Doubleday, 2004.
- Emotionally weird**.- Doubleday, 2000.
- Human croquet**.- Doubleday, 1997.
- ***Not the end of the world**.- Black Swan, 2003.

Prizes and awards

- 1986 Woman's Own Short Story Competition.
- 1990 Bridport Short Story Prize (runner-up).



Photograph: Peter Ross

1993 Ian St James Award (short story competition) **Karmic mothers**.

1995 Whitbread Book of the Year **Behind the scenes at the museum**.

1996 Lire Book of the Year (France) **Behind the scenes at the museum**.

1996 Yorkshire Post Book Award (Best First Work) **Behind the scenes at the museum**.

1997 EM Forster Award (American Academy of Arts and Letters).

2004 Whitbread Novel Award (shortlist) **Case histories**.

With acknowledgement to Dr Jules Smith.

Andrea Levy

Andrea Levy has achieved literary success in a relatively short space of time with her first three novels **Every light in the house burnin'** (1994), **Never far from nowhere** (1996) and **Fruit of the lemon** (1999). However, an understanding of her work cannot simply be reduced to the 1990s. Born in London to Jamaican parents in 1956, Levy draws on a wealth of experience to create her critically-acclaimed fictions.

She is the author of four novels, each of which explore - from different perspectives - the problems faced by black British-born children of Jamaican emigrants.

Her first novel, the semi-autobiographical **Every light in the house burnin'** (1994), is the story of a Jamaican family living in London in the 1960s. Her second, **Never far from nowhere** (1996), is set during the 1970s and tells the story of two very different sisters living on a London council estate. In **Fruit of the lemon** (1999), Faith Jackson, a young black Londoner, visits Jamaica after suffering a nervous breakdown and discovers a previously unknown personal history. Levy's most recent novel, **Small island** (2004), won the 2004 Orange Prize for Fiction, the 2004 Whitbread Book of the Year; and the 2005 Commonwealth Writers' Prize.



Photo: The Bookseller

This is a novelist as much at home fictionalising the 'internal' histories of Black Britons as she is telling the transatlantic tale of the Caribbean Diaspora. Levy is an English novelist who remains defiantly outside the limits of Englishness. 'Saying that I am English does not mean I want to be assimilated; to take on the white culture to the exclusion of all others... I cannot live without rice and peas. I now dance when Jamaica wins anything..'

Andrea Levy has been a judge for the Saga Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction. She lives with her partner, a graphic designer, in north London.

Bibliography

- ***Every light in the house burnin'**.- Headline, 1994.
- Fruit of the lemon**.- Review, 1999.
- Never far from nowhere**.- Headline, 1996.
- Small island**.- Review, 2004.

Prizes and awards

- 1998 Arts Council Writers' Award **Fruit of the lemon**.
 - 2004 Orange Prize for Fiction **Small island**.
 - 2004 Whitbread Novel Award **Small island**.
 - 2004 Whitbread Book of the Year **Small island**.
 - 2005 British Book Awards Decibel Writer of the Year (shortlist).
 - 2005 British Book Awards Literary Fiction Award (shortlist) **Small island**.
 - 2005 Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best Book) **Small island**.
 - 2005 Romantic Novelists' Association Award (shortlist) **Small island**.
- With acknowledgements to Dr James Procter.*

Source

- www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth97
- www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth4
- www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth149

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