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## Man Booker Prize Finalists Announced

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Judges chose 12 finalists for the Man Booker Prize, one of the most important for English-language fiction, selecting novels that they said dealt with themes like “goodness, madness and bewildering urban change.” The list was released on Wednesday and was culled from 145 books. The prize organization will announce a short list of six on Sept. 11 and the winner on Oct. 16.

Four finalists are debut novelists; nine are British, with the other three from India, South Africa and Malaysia. The prize is given each year to an author from Britain, Ireland or one of the Commonwealth nations.

“We did not set out to reject the old guard but, after a year of sustained critical argument by a demanding panel of judges, the new has come powering through,” Peter Stothard, the chairman of the committee of judges, said in a statement.

The finalists are: Nicola Barker, “The Yips” (Fourth Estate); Ned Beaman, “The Teleportation Accident” (Sceptre); André Brink, “Philida” (Harvill Secker); Tan Twan Eng, “The Garden of Evening Mists” (Myrmidon Books); Michael Frayn, “Skios” (Faber & Faber); Rachel Joyce, “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry” (Doubleday); Deborah Levy, “Swimming Home” (And Other Stories); Hilary Mantel, “Bring Up the Bodies” (Fourth Estate); Alison Moore, “The Lighthouse” (Salt); Will Self, “Umbrella” (Bloomsbury); Jeet Thayil, “Narcopolis” (Faber & Faber); and Sam Thompson, “Communion Town” (Fourth Estate).

Last year’s prize went to Julian Barnes for his novel “The Sense of an Ending.”