

Press Release

German Book Prize 2021: 20 titles nominated

Longlist published / 230 titles were in the running / Shortlist to be announced on 21 September / Blog reviews on www.deutscher-buchpreis-blog.de

Twenty novels are in the running for the German Book Prize 2021. Since the call for submissions went out, the jury has reviewed 230 titles published – or yet to be published – between October 2020 and 21 September 2021, when the shortlist will be announced.

Jury spokesperson Knut Cordsen (culture editor, Bayerischer Rundfunk) released the following statement:

“This year, the jury had more titles to choose from than ever before in the history of the German Book Prize. A quarter of the novels were fiction debuts, a broad bouquet of new literary voices. The jury is pleased that our selection for the longlist recognises narrative experimentation alongside realistic novels, the comic and the surreal. These 20 books take into account origins and history as well as questions that are of central importance in the present.”

The nominated novels (in alphabetical order) are:

- Henning Ahrens: **Mitgift** (Klett-Cotta, August 2021)
- Shida Bazyar: **Drei Kameradinnen** (Kiepenheuer & Witsch, April 2021)
- Dietmar Dath: **Gentzen oder: Betrunken aufräumen** (Matthes & Seitz Berlin, August 2021)
- Franzobel: **Die Eroberung Amerikas** (Paul Zsolnay, January 2021)
- Georges-Arthur Goldschmidt: **Der versperrte Weg** (Wallstein, June 2021)
- Dana Grigorcea: **Die nicht sterben** (Penguin, March 2021)
- Norbert Gstrein: **Der zweite Jakob** (Carl Hanser, February 2021)
- Dilek Güngör: **Vater und ich** (Verbrecher, July 2021)
- Monika Helfer: **Vati** (Carl Hanser, January 2021)
- Felicitas Hoppe: **Die Nibelungen** (S. Fischer, September 2021)
- Peter Karoshi: **Zu den Elefanten** (Leykam, May 2021)
- Christian Kracht: **Eurotrash** (Kiepenheuer & Witsch, March 2021)
- Thomas Kunst: **Zandschower Klinken** (Suhrkamp, February 2021)
- Gert Loschütz: **Besichtigung eines Unglücks** (Schöffling & Co., July 2021)

- Yulia Marfutova: **Der Himmel vor hundert Jahren** (Rowohlt, March 2021)
- Sasha Marianna Salzmann: **Im Menschen muss alles herrlich sein** (Suhrkamp, September 2021)
- Mithu Sanyal: **Identitti** (Carl Hanser, February 2021)
- Ferdinand Schmalz: **Mein Lieblingstier heißt Winter** (S. Fischer, July 2021)
- Antje Rávik Strubel: **Blaue Frau** (S. Fischer, August 2021)
- Heinz Strunk: **Es ist immer so schön mit dir** (Rowohlt, July 2021)

In addition to Knut Cordsen, the members of the jury are: Bettina Fischer (director Literaturhaus Cologne), Anja Johannsen (director Literarisches Zentrum Göttingen), Richard Kämmerlings (literary correspondent, *Die Welt*), Sandra Kegel (head of literature and arts section, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*), Beate Scherzer (bookseller, Proust Wörter + Töne) and Anne-Catherine Simon (editor of literature and arts section, *Die Presse*).

The next step will be for the members of the jury to select six titles from the longlist for inclusion on the shortlist, which will be announced on 21 September 2021. The six shortlisted authors will only find out who among them has won the German Book Prize on the evening of the award ceremony itself. The winner will receive 25,000 euros, the five finalists 2,500 euros each. The prize will be awarded in the Kaisersaal of the Frankfurt Römer on 18 October 2021 at the start of the Frankfurter Buchmesse and will be broadcast live.

The German Book Prize is awarded by the Stiftung Buchkultur und Leseförderung des Börsenvereins des Deutschen Buchhandels (Foundation for Book Culture and the Promotion of Reading of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association). The main partner of the German Book Prize is the Deutsche Bank Foundation. Additional partners include the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and the city of Frankfurt am Main. The television network Deutsche Welle supports the German Book Prize in its media activities both at home and abroad.

Get to know the longlist: reading samples, audio samples, video clips, blog reviews

Beginning this week, the paperback “Deutscher Buchpreis 2021. Die Nominierten” (“German Book Prize 2021. The Nominees”) is available free of charge in many bookshops throughout Germany. It contains reading samples from and further information about all the nominated books, curated by *Börsenblatt*, the trade magazine of the technology and information provider MVB, and invites readers to discover the stories and their authors.

The podcast radio detektor.fm has produced audio samples from the 20 longlisted titles, available on www.deutscher-buchpreis.de/longlist and www.detektor.fm/deutscher-buchpreis and on the detektor.fm app. All audio samples are available for listening directly on the platforms Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Deezer and Spotify. Starting on 20 August, the radio station will present a different nominated title daily from Monday through Friday at 10:15 a.m. on the programme “detektor.fm – am Vormittag” and at 5:40 p.m. on the programme “detektor.fm – der Tag”. The German Book Prize audio samples are also available as a podcast on the platforms Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Deezer and Spotify. In September and October, as a cooperating partner of the German Book Prize, the podcast www.papierstaupodcast.de will discuss all nominated titles, the shortlist and the novel of the year.

Beginning in September, the nominated authors and their novels will be presented in short video clips. These will be available on the website of the German Book Prize, on YouTube and on Instagram.

In the coming weeks, under the hashtag #buchpreisbloggen, 20 literary bloggers will each present one of the nominated titles. The reviews will be published on www.deutscher-buchpreis-blog.de and shared through the social media channels of the German Book Prize.

Press photo of the jury: www.boersenverein.de/pressefotos

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From left to right: Sandra Kegel, Anja Johannsen, Beate Scherzer, Anne-Catherine Simon, Richard Kämmerlings, Bettina Fischer, Knut Cordsen

More information about the German Book Prize 2021 can be found at www.deutscher-buchpreis.de

The hashtag for the German Book Prize 2021 is **#dbp21**.

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