

Granta's Best of Young British Novelists 2013

Naomi Alderman (1974) is the author of three novels: *Disobedience*, *The Lessons* and *The Liars' Gospel*. She writes and designs computer games and is co-creator of *Zombies, Run!*, the best-selling iPhone fitness game and audio adventure. A professor of creative writing at Bath Spa University, she has been paired with Margaret Atwood in the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. She is currently working on her fourth novel. 'Soon and in Our Days' is a new story.

Tahmima Anam (1975) is the author of the Bengal Trilogy, which chronicles three generations of the Haque family from the Bangladesh war of independence to the present day. Her debut novel, *A Golden Age*, was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book. It was followed in 2011 by *The Good Muslim*. 'Anwar Gets Everything' is an excerpt from the final instalment of the trilogy, *Shipbreaker*, published in 2014 by Canongate in the UK and HarperCollins in the US. She lives in Hackney, east London, with her husband, the musician and inventor Roland Lamb.

Ned Beaman (1985) was born in London. His debut novel, *Boxer, Beetle*, won the Goldberg Prize for Outstanding Debut Fiction and the Writers' Guild Award for Best Fiction Book. His second novel, *The Teleportation Accident*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. His third novel, *Glow*, from which this excerpt is taken, is published in 2014 by Sceptre in the UK.

Jenni Fagan's (1977) critically acclaimed debut novel, *The Panopticon*, was published in 2012 and named one of the Waterstones Eleven, a selection of the best fiction debuts of the year. Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and her collection *The Dead Queen of Bohemia* was named 3:AM magazine's Poetry Book of the Year. She holds an MA in creative writing from Royal Holloway, University of London, and currently lives in a coastal village in Scotland. 'Zephyrs' is an excerpt from her novel in progress.

Adam Foulds (1974) is a poet and novelist from London. He has published two novels, *The Truth About These Strange Times* and *The Quickenings Maze*, and *The Broken Word*, a narrative poem set during the Mau Mau uprising in Kenya at the end of British imperial rule. He is the recipient of a number of literary awards, including the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year, the Costa Poetry Prize, the Somerset Maugham Award, the South Bank Show Prize for Literature, the Encore Award and the European Union Prize for Literature. *The Quickenings Maze* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2009. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2010. 'A World Intact' is an excerpt from his new novel, *In the Wolf's Mouth*, published in 2014 by Jonathan Cape in the UK and Farrar, Straus and Giroux in the US.

Xiaolu Guo (1973) studied at the Beijing Film Academy and received her MA from the National Film School in London. She has published seven novels in both English and Chinese. *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers* was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction. Her other novels include *UFO in Her Eyes* and *20 Fragments of a Ravenous Youth*. She directed the award-winning films *She, a Chinese* and *Once Upon a*

Time Proletarian. 'Interim Zone' is an excerpt from *I Am China*, her new novel forthcoming from Chatto & Windus in the UK.

Sarah Hall (1974) was born in Cumbria and currently lives in Norwich, Norfolk. She is the author of four novels: *Haweswater*, *The Electric Michelangelo*, *The Carhullan Army* (published in the US as *Daughters of the North*) and *How to Paint a Dead Man*; a collection of short stories, *The Beautiful Indifference*; original radio dramas; and poetry. She has won several awards, including the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Novel, the Betty Trask Award, the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, the Edge Hill University Short Story Prize, and has twice been recipient of the Portico Prize. She has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Prix Femina Etranger, the Arthur C. Clarke Award for science fiction, the BBC National Short Story Award and the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award. 'The Reservation' is an excerpt from a novel in progress.

Steven Hall (1975) was born in Derbyshire. His first novel, *The Raw Shark Texts*, won the Borders Original Voices Award and the Somerset Maugham Award, and has been translated into twenty-nine languages. 'Spring' and 'Autumn' are excerpts from his upcoming second novel, *The End of Endings*.

Joanna Kavenna (1973) grew up in various parts of Britain and has also lived in the US, France, Germany, Scandinavia and the Baltic States. She is the author of three novels: *Inglorious*, *The Birth of Love* and *Come to the Edge*; and one work of non-fiction, *The Ice Museum*. In 2008 she was awarded the Orange Prize for New Writing. Her work has appeared in publications including the *New Yorker*, the *London Review of Books*, the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Spectator* and the *Telegraph*. She has held writing fellowships at St Antony's College, Oxford, and St John's College, Cambridge. 'Tomorrow' is an excerpt from a forthcoming novel.

Benjamin Markovits (1973) grew up in London, Oxford, Texas and Berlin. He left an unpromising career as a professional basketball player to study the Romantics. Since then he has taught high-school English, worked at a left-wing cultural magazine and published six novels, including a trilogy on the life of Lord Byron. Markovits has lived in London since 2000 and is married, with a daughter and a son. He teaches creative writing at Royal Holloway, University of London. 'You Don't Have to Live Like This' is an excerpt from his new novel, about a group of university friends who get involved in a scheme to regenerate Detroit.

Nadifa Mohamed (1981) was born in Somalia and moved to Britain in 1986. Her first novel, *Black Mamba Boy*, published in 2010, was longlisted for the Orange Prize; shortlisted for the *Guardian* First Book Award, the Dylan Thomas Award, the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the PEN/Open Book Award; and won the Betty Trask Award. 'Filsan' is an excerpt from her new novel, *The Orchard of Lost Souls*, forthcoming from Simon & Schuster in the UK and Farrar, Straus and Giroux in the US.

Helen Oyeyemi (1984) is the author of *The Icarus Girl* and *The Opposite House*. Her third novel, *White is for Witching*, was awarded a 2010 Somerset Maugham Award, and her fourth, *Mr Fox*, won the 2012 Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation Award. ‘Boy, Snow, Bird’ is an excerpt from a new novel of the same title, published in 2014 by Picador in the UK and Riverhead in the US.

Ross Raisin (1979) was born in Silsden, West Yorkshire. His first novel, *God’s Own Country*, was published in 2008 and was awarded the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year Award in 2009, the Guildford First Novel Prize, a Betty Trask Award and shortlisted for six other awards including the *Guardian* First Book Award and the International IM PAC Dublin Literary Award. His second novel, *Waterline*, was published in 2011. His short stories have appeared in *Granta*, *Prospect*, *Esquire*, *Dazed & Confused*, the *Sunday Times* and on BB C Radio 3 and 4. ‘Submersion’ is a new story.

Sunjeev Sahota (1981) was born in Derby and currently lives in Leeds with his wife and daughter. His first novel, *Ours are the Streets*, was published in 2011. ‘Arrivals’ is an excerpt from *The Year of the Runaways*, his unfinished second novel, forthcoming from Picador.

Taiye Selasi (1979) was born in London to Nigerian and Ghanaian parents. She holds a BA from Yale and an MPhil from Oxford. Selasi made her fiction debut in *Granta* in 2011 with ‘The Sex Lives of African Girls’, which was selected for *Best American Short Stories* in 2012. Her first novel, *Ghana Must Go*, was published in March 2013. An avid traveller and documentary photographer, Selasi lives in Rome. ‘Driver’ is a new story.

Kamila Shamsie (1973) is the author of five novels. The first, *In the City by the Sea*, was published by Granta Books in 1998 and shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize. Her most recent novel, *Burnt Shadows*, was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction and translated into more than twenty languages. She grew up in Karachi and now lives in London. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a trustee of English PEN and a member of the Authors Cricket Club. ‘Vipers’ is an excerpt from a forthcoming novel.

Zadie Smith (1975) was born in London. She is the author of the novels *White Teeth*, *The Autograph Man* and *On Beauty*, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2005 and won the Orange Prize for Fiction in 2006. She is also the author of *Changing My Mind: Occasional Essays* and the editor of several anthologies, including *The Book of Other People*. Her most recent novel is *NW*, chosen as one of the ‘Ten Best Books of 2012’ by the *New York Times*. She was one of *Granta*’s Best of Young British Novelists in 2003. ‘Just Right’ is an excerpt from an unfinished novella.

David Szalay (1974) was born in Canada. His family moved to the UK soon after, and he has lived here ever since. He has published three novels: *London and the South-East*, *The Innocent* and *Spring*. He is currently working on a number of new projects – ‘Europa’ is an excerpt from one of these.

Adam Thirlwell (1978) was born in London. He is the author of two novels, *Politics* and *The Escape*; a novella, *Kapow!*; and a project with international novels that includes an

essaybook, *Miss Herbert*, which won a Somerset Maugham Award, and a compendium of translations edited for *McSweeney's*. He was selected as one of *Granta's* Best of Young British Novelists in 2003. His work has been translated into thirty languages. 'Slow Motion' is from a novel in progress.

Evie Wyld (1980) runs Review, a small independent bookshop in Peckham, south-east London. Her first novel, *After the Fire, a Still Small Voice*, won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and a Betty Trask Award. In 2011 she was listed as one of the *Culture Show's* Best New British Novelists. She was also shortlisted for the Orange Prize for New Writers, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. 'After the Hedland' is an excerpt from her second novel, *All the Birds, Singing*, forthcoming in June 2013 from Jonathan Cape in the UK and in 2014 from Pantheon in the US.

The Judges for *Granta's* Best of Young British Novelists 4

Ellah Allfrey, OBE is the deputy editor of *Granta* magazine. She sits on the board of Writers' Centre Norwich and is Deputy Chair of the Council of the Caine Prize.

John Freeman is the editor of *Granta*. He is a former president of the National Book Critics Circle and has published two books, *The Tyranny of E-Mail* (Scribner, 2009) and *How to Read a Novelist* (FSG, 2013).

Romesh Gunsekera is the author of seven novels, including the Booker-shortlisted *Reef* (Granta Books, 1994) and *The Prisoner of Paradise* (Bloomsbury, 2013). A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, he has judged many awards including the David Cohen Prize and the Caine Prize.

Stuart Kelly is the literary editor of *Scotland on Sunday*, a freelance critic and a writer. He is the author of *The Book of Lost Books* (Viking, 2005) and *Scott-Land* (Polygon, 2011).

AL Kennedy is the author of fourteen books, including novels, short fiction and non-fiction. She also writes drama, journalism and performs standup comedy. She was named a *Granta* Best of Young British Novelist in 1993 and again in 2003. A winner of the Costa Prize, she also is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Society of Literature.

Sigrid Rausing is the publisher of *Granta*. She is a writer and philanthropist. An anthropologist by training, her book *History, Memory, and Identity in Post-Soviet Estonia: The End of a Collective Farm* was published by OUP in 2004. Her forthcoming book is *Everything is Wonderful* (Grove Atlantic/ Bonniers, 2014)

Gaby Wood is Head of Books at the Telegraph Media Group. Prior to that, she worked as an editor and staff feature writer at the *Observer*. She is the author of *Living Dolls* (Faber, 2003) and has previously judged the Man Booker Prize. Her journalism has appeared in the *London Review of Books*, the *Guardian*, *Vogue* and the *New York Times*.