

# NERO

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## BOOK AWARDS

**Nero Book Awards 2026**  
**Terms and Conditions of Entry**  
[nerobookawards.com/enter-the-awards](https://nerobookawards.com/enter-the-awards)

The Nero Book Awards are a prestigious set of multi-category Awards, launched by Caffè Nero in 2023, celebrating the craft of great writing and the joy of reading.

Uniquely, they celebrate books and writers from the UK and Ireland across four categories – Children’s Fiction, Debut Fiction, Fiction and Non-Fiction.

The Awards seek books that marry high-quality writing with universal appeal. Books that are enjoyable, highly readable and that you will want to recommend to everyone you meet. Featuring shortlists and winners and culminating with one book being crowned overall winner of The Nero Gold Prize Book of the Year, they provide readers with a recognisable mark of quality and readability.

Winners of the four Nero Book Award categories will receive £5,000. The overall Book of the Year winner, The Nero Gold Prize, receives £30,000. Nero Gold Prize winners to date have included *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray (Fiction winner, 2023), *Maurice and Maralyn* by Sophie Elmshirst (Non-Fiction winner, 2024) and *A Family Matter* by Claire Lynch (Debut Fiction winner, 2025). Final judges have included Bill Bryson, Susie Dent, Bernardine Evaristo, Daisy Goodwin and Nick Hornby.

Submissions can only be accepted from publishers based in the UK and Ireland and will not be accepted directly from authors.

Publishers are reminded that it is their responsibility to make sure that all submitted titles are eligible for the Awards.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Publishers are invited to submit up to **one title per imprint per category**.

Books submitted for the Nero Book Awards must have been first published in the UK or Ireland between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

Books previously published elsewhere first will not be eligible. The only exception to this is if a book was simultaneously published in another territory in exactly the same week as in the UK and Ireland.

The author must have been living in the UK or Ireland for at least six months **immediately prior** to publication. UK or Irish nationality is not a requirement of entry.

Both print and digital-first and audio-first format publications are eligible, provided the title is generally available in print format within the eligibility dates.

The author must have been alive on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

All books must be unified and substantial works written by a single author (or single author and illustrator). Co-authored books are not eligible. Books written by one author on behalf of another (i.e. 'ghosted' titles) will not be eligible. The only exception is where a work has been transcribed by an amanuensis.

No English translation of a work written originally in any other language is eligible.

Reissued books cannot be entered.

Self-published works are not eligible.

The work is not eligible in instances where:

- the author is the publisher
- the publisher is a company which has been specifically set up to publish the work in question, and/or the author is the person who owns the majority shareholding or otherwise controls the company
- the work has been published via a commercial arrangement through which the publisher is paid by the author
- an author or their agent requires submission as a condition of a work's publishing contract

Entries will not be eligible where the author:

- is a current member of one of the Prize's judging panels\*;
- has been involved in the management/administration of the Nero Book Awards in the past 5 years;
- has been employed by or studied at Caffè Nero or one of the Prize's partners (Booksellers Association, Brunel University London or Right to Dream) in the past 5 years;
- or is a close family relative of any such person.

\*Books will not be eligible in a category where the author (or member of their immediate family) is a member of the category judging panel. Books will be eligible where the author (or a member of their immediate family) is a member of a separate judging panel.

No entry shall be ineligible because its author has won any other prize previously.

The prize may not be divided or withheld.

The decision of the Awards Management Team as to whether a work is eligible will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into.

### **Conditions of Entry**

It is the responsibility of the publisher to ascertain that the authors of all books submitted for the Awards give their consent to entry and will abide by the terms and conditions.

Any eligible book that is entered for the Nero Book Awards shall not qualify unless its publisher agrees:

- if an entered book is selected as a Category Award Winner, the publisher will contribute the following towards general promotional activity:
  - Annual turnover for the last financial year above £5 million – £5,000 (plus VAT)
  - Annual turnover for the last financial year below £5 million – £1,000 (plus VAT)

- if an entered book should win the Nero Gold Prize Book of the Year, the publisher will contribute a further £5,000 (plus VAT) for promotional activity.
- if an entered book should be shortlisted, the publisher will provide a minimum of 10 copies for promotional purposes
- if an entered book is a Category Award Winner, the publisher will provide a further minimum 20 copies for promotional purposes
- if an entered book should win Book of the Year, the publisher will provide an additional minimum of 20 copies for promotional purposes

## **Category Criteria**

### **Debut Fiction Award**

This Award is for an author's first published work of full-length fiction. Novels are welcomed from any genre of fiction. Authors who have been previously published in other genres are eligible as long as the book being entered is their first published full-length novel.

### **Fiction Award**

This Award welcomes all forms and all genres of full-length fiction.

### **Non-Fiction Award**

All forms and all genres of book-length non-fiction are eligible. Narrative non-fiction, biography, memoir and autobiography qualify in this category. Books eligible will be generally defined as trade non-fiction and exclude anthologies, specialist academic, educational, scientific, technical, medical and professional publishing. Judges will be looking for books with a strong storytelling element and page-turning quality.

### **Children's Fiction Award**

Entries should be books primarily written for children between the ages of 9 (experienced readers) to 15. Only the first title in a series is eligible.

## **Submission Process**

Publishers are invited to submit one title per imprint per category.

Titles will be accepted for submission from **10am BST, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

The deadline for submissions is **5pm BST, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026**.

Publishers should complete an **online entry form** for each title they are submitting available from [nerobookawards.com/enter-the-awards](http://nerobookawards.com/enter-the-awards).

All entries to be submitted via the entry form and must include an attached PDF file for each title. Please name the file as the book title + author name.

In addition, three hard copies of each submitted title should be sent to the Awards administrator as soon as possible arriving by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at the latest, unless an exemption is agreed by the Administrator. Where a finished or proof copy is not available, bound copies are accepted.

Please send physical copies to:

FAO Booksellers Association, Nero Book Awards, 14 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1X 8HN

Books published between 31<sup>st</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2026 must be submitted in PDF form – either proof or finished edition – as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, providing a supporting entry form has been received by the Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June deadline and permission obtained and confirmed by the Awards administrator prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Three hard copies – either bound proof or finished edition – should be sent to FAO Booksellers Association, Nero Book Awards, 14 Gray's Inn Rd, London WC1X 8HN, arriving no later than Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Entries can only be accepted from publishers based in the UK and Ireland and will not be accepted directly from authors.

Print copies will not be returned to the publisher. The Administrator will not acknowledge receipt and does not accept responsibility for late, lost or damaged entries.

If a publisher submits a bound proof, they must first seek permission to send a final copy to the Awards, during the submissions process. Any unauthorised additional submissions will be returned at the expense of the publisher.

Publishers agree to provide access to an audio file and/or .mobi file for judging purposes, on request.

All entries are strictly confidential and may not be used to publicise an author either at the point of submission or in the future, unless they are shortlisted or win.

### **Additional Submissions & Call-Ins**

In exceptional circumstance, publishers may request to submit additional titles.

Publishers should make this request, in writing, to the Nero Book Awards management and judges at the same time as the standard submission, stating why the additional title should be considered. The request letter, along with a completed entry form (downloaded via the submission page) and AI sheet should be sent to [nerobookawardsadmin@booksellers.org.uk](mailto:nerobookawardsadmin@booksellers.org.uk) with the subject 'Passion Pitch - BOOK TITLE by AUTHOR'.

**Requests for additional submissions are limited to one title per imprint per category.** The judges' decision on whether or not to accept each addition is final.

The Awards administrators may also call in titles not previously submitted if felt appropriate, provided they conform with the criteria cited in these terms and conditions and subject to the publisher's agreement (which will be taken to include that of the author/s) to submit copies on request.

### **Promotion and Marketing**

It is a condition of entry that;

- if an entered book is shortlisted, the publisher will provide within two weeks of the shortlist announcement an electronic text and audio version to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) for the purposes of producing and distributing, on a not-for-profit basis, accessible copies to visually impaired persons. Should one of your submissions be shortlisted, please inform rights owners that accessible copies are being produced and distributed.
- if an entered book should be shortlisted, Category Award winner or overall winner of the Nero Gold Prize Book of the Year, the publisher will ensure copies of their titles are available in bookshops and libraries at the time of relevant announcements.

- any book winning a category Award should be made available in paperback as soon as possible. The publisher of each Award-winning book hereby agrees to put in place the measures to do so as soon as they are advised of its win.
- If a submitted book should be shortlisted, category Award winner or overall Book of the Year winner, the publisher will obtain permission from the copyright holder and agree to broadcast, record and/or make available a downloadable audio and/or audio visual and/or text file extract, to be used for publicity or promotional purposes on the Nero Book Awards website, social channels or any other partner websites or platforms. The publisher agrees to inform the Awards Comms Director of the copyright credit to be used, and to obtain the required permissions.
- That, should an entered book be shortlisted, a Category Award winner or overall Nero Gold Prize winner, the publisher will use best efforts to facilitate recorded or filmed interviews/readings with the author to be used by the Nero Book Awards on its channels to promote the Awards.
- Publishers acknowledge and agree that any and all rights in any publicity or promotional materials in which a shortlisted or winning author appears will be owned by Nero Holdings Ltd. Accordingly, the publisher shall procure that each shortlisted or winning author signs any confirmatory waiver, assignment or other document required by Caffè Nero for the purpose of giving full effect to Caffè Nero's rights in such publicity and promotional materials.
- That the publishers and authors of all shortlisted and winning books cooperate with the Nero Book Awards team in the publicity and promotion surrounding the Nero Book Awards and are available for publicity and events at the time of key announcements. The winner of the overall Book of the Year will be required to undertake interviews immediately after the announcement and in the following days.
- Publishers of all shortlisted and winning books must use their best endeavours to ensure any artwork provided by the Nero Book Awards to promote the title is used for that purpose on the appropriate books in all formats including electronic.
- The publishers of all winning books must ensure that any reprints of the Award-winning titles, together with any paperback and electronic editions of the books, carry approved Nero Book Awards crediting on the front cover.
- Publishers of all shortlisted books must ensure that any reprints or electronic versions of the shortlisted titles carry approved Nero Book Awards crediting on the front cover.
- It is a strict condition of entry that publishers agree to make it a priority to ensure that authors whose works are submitted or called in make themselves available for publicity and events from shortlist stage onwards and that Category Award winning authors must be able to participate in person in the awards ceremony. If there is any problem with the author's availability, the Awards Management Team must be informed immediately.
- Publishers will be responsible for covering travel costs and relevant expenses of author publicity relating to the Awards and bringing authors to the Awards Ceremony.

#### Liability

The publisher acknowledges and agrees that to the extent permitted by law, the Awards and any other person(s) in connection with the Awards will not be liable for any loss or damage (whether such damage or losses were foreseen, foreseeable, known or otherwise) including financially and/or to reputation and/or disappointment, suffered by any entrant or publisher or agent on behalf of an author, entering the Awards or as a result of accepting any prize.

## Privacy Policy

All data and personal information shared with the Nero Book Awards shall be handled in the strictest confidence and in accordance with Caffè Nero's privacy policy:

[caffenero.com/uk/privacy-policy](https://caffenero.com/uk/privacy-policy)

The Nero Book Awards management team reserve the right to either include or refuse entry for any reason considered justifiable and reserves the right to vary the Terms and Conditions of Entry and alter the Awards schedule as may be deemed necessary to ensure the proper administration and integrity of the Nero Book Awards, and where required for reasons beyond the control of the Nero Book Awards management team. The decision of the Awards management team on these issues shall be binding and no correspondence will be entered into.

## **SUBMISSIONS QUICK VIEW**

Entry opens: 10am BST, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Entry closes: 5pm BST Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

1 – Complete [the online entry form](#) for each title by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

2 – Send three hard copies of each submitted title to arrive no later than **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July** to:

FAO Booksellers Association

Nero Book Awards

14 Gray's Inn Rd

London

WC1X 8HN

Contact for all queries [submissions@nerobookawards.com](mailto:submissions@nerobookawards.com).

[www.nerobookawards.com](https://www.nerobookawards.com)