



## Amazon.co.uk announces shortlist for writers' bursaries

October 23, 2000

**London: 23 October 2000:** Online retailer, Amazon.co.uk today announced a shortlist of seven new writers, two of which will be awarded writers' bursaries. The shortlisted authors were selected by a judging panel comprising Zadie Smith, Sarah Waters and Alain de Botton among others.

It is the first year that the bursary scheme has been run by Amazon.co.uk and it marks the company's commitment to literature and nurturing new writing talent. Two of the shortlisted writers will be selected for a bursary which will help them complete their critical second project that can make or break a writing career.

Zadie Smith, who chaired the judging panel, said, "I am very chuffed to be involved in the Amazon.co.uk bursaries. A second novel is a problematic enough thing anyway, but when the creative challenge is combined with financial difficulties, that can make the writer's task seem impossible. Amazon.co.uk's award enables writers to get a little space and time in which to concentrate on the job at hand. It is the kind of prize that is genuinely in touch with what every writer needs to fulfill their potential."

The judges decided on the shortlist of seven writers. Commenting on the quality of the entries, Sarah Waters said, "They are all strong contenders for the Amazon.co.uk awards. Collectively, they reveal the range, vitality and ambition of new British fiction."

The writers, who have each published one previous work, are competing for two 2,500 bursaries plus a three month sabbatical post. Amazon.co.uk is working in partnership with Queen Mary & Westfield College, Royal Holloway and Bedford New Colleges at the University of London who will provide all the facilities for the two winning writers to take up their sabbaticals.

The two winners will be announced on 11 December 2000 at an evening event to be held at the Hempel Hotel, London.

The full shortlist of winners is:

James Flint  
*Button.com*  
*Habitus*  
4th Estate

Susan Elderkin  
*The Boy From Never-Never-Land*  
*Sunset Over Chocolate Mountains*  
4th Estate

Jim Pollard  
*The Great Peckham Novel*  
*Rotten in Denmark*  
Smith/Doorstop Books

Justina Robson  
*Mappa Mundi*  
*Silver Screen*  
Macmillan

Richard Frost  
*Vice Versa*  
*Brain & Body*  
Allison & Busby

Anne Harries  
*Armed Response*  
*Manly Pursuits*  
Bloomsbury

### Notes to editors:

Entrants must have published one previous novel or volume of short stories within the last two years and have been recommended by their publisher, agent or Amazon.co.uk customers. Entrants must be over the age of 18.

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