

## David Leadbeater's *The Relic Hunters* Crowned Winner of the First English Language Kindle Storyteller Award

July 26, 2017



*Leadbeater receives a £20,000 cash prize, a dedicated marketing campaign, access to mentoring and the chance to have his book translated for readers around the world*

*From thousands of entries and a shortlist of six titles, readers and a panel of literary judges decided Leadbeater's thriller stood above the rest*

*Judge Lily Cole announced Leadbeater as the winner at a ceremony at the Ned in London last night*

**Luxembourg—26th July 2017**—David Leadbeater has been crowned the winner of the inaugural UK Kindle Storyteller Award, with his Crime Thriller [The Relic Hunters](#) securing him the £20,000 cash prize. Alongside the money, David will receive a marketing campaign to support the book on Amazon.co.uk, access to a mentor and the opportunity to have his book translated.

*The Relic Hunters* is an archeological action adventure story that follows relic smuggler Guy Bodie across the world as he tracks down famous objects

throughout history, with the help of his team along the way. Before this book, Leadbeater, from York, had already written twenty three Kindle International Bestsellers reaching readers across the globe.

"Winning the Kindle Storyteller Award has been a life-changing experience," said David Leadbeater. "It's an honour to be chosen as the winner and truly wonderful to have *The Relic Hunters* selected from such a strong shortlist. It is thanks to my readers that I have won this prize and for that I am truly thankful. I am excited for the next chapter in my storytelling career and hopefully with the profile this prize has given me, my stories will reach more readers."

What made this prize truly unique was the customers' role in the process. From thousands of entries, a shortlist of six authors was selected based on a number of factors driven by customer interest in the titles. Alongside the winning title, the shortlist included a range of genres from historical fiction to fantasy to non-fiction.

The panel of judges who decided upon the winning book included actress and literacy campaigner, Lily Cole; best-selling author Rachel Abbott; Irish author, former literary agent and founder of The Alliance of Independent Authors, Orna Ross; the Metro's Books Editor Claire Allfree; as well as members of the Amazon Books team - UK Head of Kindle Singles and Chair of Judges, Andrew Rosenheim; UK Kindle Content Director, Amy Worth; and UK Editorial Director for Amazon Publishing, Emilie Marneur.

Lily Cole said of her involvement: "I love the democratic accessibility of this prize. It has encouraged more people to write and independently publish, and invited readers to participate in rewarding new writers!"

Amy Worth, UK Kindle Content Director and one of the judges, said: "Though it was a very difficult decision to choose one book from such a terrific shortlist, the judges and I were particularly excited about David's book. It is a real page-turner, full of action and is a brilliant example of great storytelling."

The Kindle Storyteller Award is in its inaugural year and was established to recognise newly published work in the English language across any genre. The prize was open to all authors who published their book through Kindle Direct Publishing on Amazon.co.uk between 20th February and 19th May 2017.

"It was extremely encouraging to see so many brilliant stories entered in to this competition and even more encouraging to see just how well these stories resonated with readers," said Alessio Santarelli, EU Kindle Content Director, Amazon. "We hope that this award has encouraged aspiring authors around the world to continue writing and developing stories that are engaging readers worldwide."

Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) is a fast, free and easy way for authors to publish their books in print and digital to a global audience, and receive up to 70 per cent royalties on their work. On any given day, up to 25 per cent of the Top 100 books on the UK Kindle store are published by authors who have decided to keep control by going it alone through KDP. Readers can access the shortlisted titles in print or on the Kindle Store on any device with the free Kindle app for iPhone, iPad, Android phones and tablets, PC and Mac, and on Kindle e-readers and Fire Tablets.

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