

Mo Siewcharran Prize 2026 – Terms and Conditions

1. This competition is being organised by Bookouture an imprint of Storyfire Ltd ('Bookouture') of Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DZ. The following prizes will be awarded to the top three entries:

a. The winner of the first prize (the 'Winner') will receive:

- i. £2,500 prize money;
- ii. a 1000 word piece of editorial feedback
- iii. a one-hour follow-up online editorial session with a senior Bookouture editor
- iv. an interactive session (either in-person or online) with the Bookouture team about digital publishing
- v. an introductory meeting with a literary agent; and
- vi. a hamper of Bookouture books

b. The first runner-up will receive:

- i. £1,500 prize money;
- ii. a 1000 word piece of editorial feedback
- iii. a one-hour follow-up online editorial session with a Bookouture editor; and
- iv. a hamper of Bookouture books

c. The second runner-up will receive:

- i. £750 prize money;
- ii. a 1000 word piece of editorial feedback; and
- iii. a hamper of Bookouture books

2. The Winner's entry will also be taken forward to a Bookouture Acquisitions Meeting and considered for full digital publication under our no advance, 45% royalty rate model. Bookouture does not guarantee that the Winner will be offered a publishing contract. Bookouture reserves the right to consider any of the entries for publication.

3. The prizes will be awarded to the entrants who submit the Proposals (as defined in Clause 6 below) for the best original English-language commercial fiction proposal, judged against the Content Criteria (as described in Clause 4 below) from entrants who meet the Entry Criteria (as described in Clause 5 below).

4. The entries will be judged on the basis of the following criteria (the ‘Content Criteria’).

We’re looking for a well-written and entertaining piece of writing that sits firmly in the commercial fiction sub-genres of either psychological thriller fiction or romance fiction (this includes romantic comedy, romantasy, and historical romance). It should be a page-turning story that speaks to readers of the genre. It should include an attention-grabbing concept and have a compelling plot that drives readers through the story. The proposal should have a memorable cast of characters that readers care for and must be aimed at adults.

5. In order to be eligible for the competition, entrants must meet the following criteria (the ‘Entry Criteria’). Entrants must be aged 18 or over, be from a Black, Asian, mixed heritage and/or background, and be resident in the United Kingdom. Entrants must not have an agent at the point of submission and must be previously unpublished (that is, they must not have had any book previously published by a publisher in any format or be under a contract to have their work published). Self-published writers are eligible to enter the competition, provided that if they are offered a publishing contract they are willing to remove the relevant work from any retailers where it is currently selling.

6. Entrants to the competition must submit a proposal for a book that fulfils the Content Criteria consisting of (i) up to the first 10,000 words of the novel and (ii) a synopsis of the full plot of the novel of no more than 700 words (together the ‘Proposal’). The Proposal must be in English.

7. Proposals must be submitted via this online form. Entries may only be submitted between 00:01AM GMT on 2nd February 2026 and 11:59PM BST on 2nd May 2026. Any entries received outside these specified times and dates, and any entries that do not meet the requirements of these Terms and Conditions, will not be eligible for entry to the competition.

8. A longlist of up to ten Proposals (the ‘Longlisted Proposals’) will be chosen from entries received in accordance with these Terms and Conditions by employees of Hachette UK Limited (Bookouture’s parent company). The Longlisted Proposals will be submitted to a panel of judges comprising Leodora Darlington (author of The Exes), Jenn Li (book influencer), Ellen Gleeson (Publishing Director at Bookouture), Hennah Sandhu (co-chair of Thrive, Hachette UK’s network for Black, Asian and Mixed Heritage employees and allies) and Silé Edwards (Literary Agent at Andrew Nurnberg Associates) (together the ‘Judges’). The Judges will select a shortlist of up to five Proposals (the ‘Shortlisted Proposals’). The Shortlisted Proposals will be announced on or before 17th September 2026. The Winner and two runners-up will then be selected by the Judges from the Shortlisted Proposals and announced at an awards ceremony on 24th September 2026 as detailed in Clause 10. The Judges’ decision is final.

9. By submitting their Proposal, each entrant undertakes and warrants that their Proposal consists of their own original work and will not infringe anyone else's intellectual property rights. If a third party's material is used, such as lyrics of a song, the entrant will secure the necessary permission and will provide it to Bookouture on request. Each entrant further warrants that their Proposal will not contain any material which is defamatory, private or confidential or which is unlawful in any way. Any entry in breach of this clause will be disqualified from being considered for the competition at any stage.

10. The name of the Winner and the two runners-up will be announced at a prize ceremony hosted by Bookouture in London on 24th September 2026 (the 'Prize Ceremony'). The authors of all Longlisted Proposals will be invited to attend the Prize Ceremony and Bookouture will cover their reasonable travel expenses for attending up to a maximum of £100 per person (within 30 days of presentation of valid receipts). The names of the authors of the Longlisted Proposals may also be published on The Future Bookshelf, Bookouture and other Hachette websites and in other media, including on social media.

11. The competition is not open to employees of Bookouture, Hachette UK, their families, or to anyone personally connected to the competition or to the Judges either themselves or through their families.

12. An entrant may only submit one entry. Further entries will be disqualified. Entries will not be accepted via agents, third parties or in bulk.

13. Bookouture is not responsible for contacting or responding to entrants who provide unclear or incomplete information or for entries that are lost, misdirected, delayed or destroyed.

14. Bookouture reserves the right to (i) cancel the competition and (ii) alter the details of the prizes or judging panels without notice but Bookouture will try to avoid creating any undue disappointment. No cash alternative or other alternatives to the prizes will be provided.

15. Any personal data submitted by entrants, including their names and email addresses (the 'Information'), will be used by Bookouture (who is the Data Controller) for the purposes of this competition, including without limitation for the purpose of judging the entries and providing the prizes, in accordance with these Terms and Conditions and in accordance with Bookouture's Privacy Notice which can be found here. The Information will be deleted within six months of the announcement of the Winner.

16. No purchase is necessary to enter the competition.

17. By entering the competition, each entrant agrees to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.
18. These Terms and Conditions and any disputes or claims (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of these Terms and Conditions shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, whose courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction.