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Maya Angelou

American author, poet, and civil rights activist Marguerite Ann Johnson (Maya was a family nickname) was born in 1928. Angelou pioneered an autobiographical writing style, with the most famous book 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' being published in 1969. This was followed by six further autobiographies over the course of her life, with the final volume 'Mon & Me & Mom' being published in 2013. Angelou also wrote poetry, plays and screenplays, in addition to picture books for children. The author was also a talented actor and singer and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011 for her inspirational work in the arts.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/a/maya-angelou/>



Bernardine Evaristo

Multi-award winner, author and academic Evaristo was born in London, to a Nigerian father and English mother in 1959. In addition to fiction/verse fiction titles, the author also writes non-fiction titles, poetry, literary criticism, and for radio and theatre drama. In 2019 Evaristo became the first black woman and black British writer to win the Booker Prize in the awards fifty-year history, with the book 'I, Girl, Woman, Other'. The author is both an activist and advocate for the inclusion of artists and writers of colours. Evaristo's interest in African diaspora influences their writing and project work.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/e/bernardine-evaristo/>



Marie Lu

Chinese American author Marie Lu is best known for the dystopian 'Legend' series for Young Adults, with the first book published in 2011, a debut novel. The author has gone on to pen several other series including 'Young Elites', 'Warcross' and 'Skyhunter'. The new series 'Stars & Smoke' was published in April; an enemy to lover novel, with book two due for publication next year. Lu also wrote a Batman story for the DC Icons series in 2018.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/l/marie-lu/>

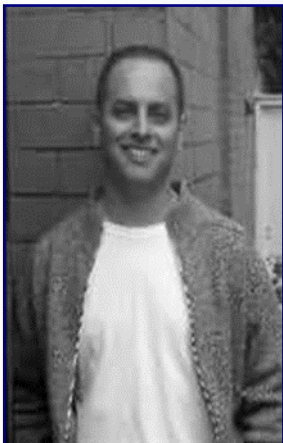
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Manjeet Mann

Mann is an award winning children's author with her debut Young Adult novel 'Run, Rebel' winning several book awards in 2020/2021. The author's follow up novel, 'The Crossing' won the Costa Children's Book Award in 2021. Both novels are written in free verse and the author's writing style proved popular with Young Adult readers. Mann is also the founder of the 'Run the World' project, which aims to 'Empower women and girls through sport and theatre.'

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/m/manjeet-mann/>



Bali Rai

Born in 1971, author Bali Rai was born and raised as a working-class Punjabi in a deprived area in Leicester. The city's multicultural heritage is often reflected in Rai's writing. Rai's first book, '(Un)arranged Marriage' was published in 2001 and in addition to writing novels for Young Adults, the author also wrote two popular series for children, 'Soccer Squad' and 'Tales from Devana High'. Rai is also a great promoter of reading for pleasure and was an ambassador for The Reading Agency's Reading Ahead programme. Rai was also a writer-in-residence for the charity BookTrust. The author has also written a number of titles for the dyslexia-friendly publisher Barrington Stoke.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/r/bali-rai/>



Arundhati Roy

Born in India in 1961, Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize in 1997 with the novel 'The God of Small Things' which became the biggest-selling book by a nonexpatriate Indian author. After several years of writing non-fiction titles with a political bent, Roy published the novel 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' in 2017. In addition, the author has also written several screenplays. An outspoken activist for human rights, Roy has been awarded several awards in recognition of their campaigning.

<https://www.fantasticfiction.com/r/arundhati-roy/>