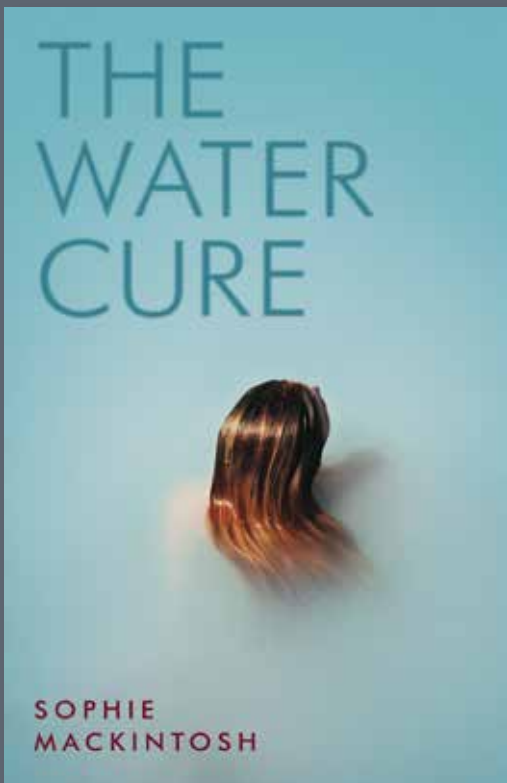




Readers' Guide



The Water Cure Sophie Mackintosh

Hamish Hamilton

www.themanbookerprize.com
#FinestFiction #ManBooker2018

THE
READING
AGENCY

M
Man

The
Booker
Prize
Foundation

About the author	Sophie Mackintosh was born in South Wales in 1988. She won the 2016 White Review Short Story Prize and the 2016 Virago/Stylist Short Story competition, and has been published in <i>Granta</i> magazine and <i>TANK</i> magazine among others. <i>The Water Cure</i> is her debut novel.
About the book	<p>Imagine a world very close to our own: where women are not safe in their bodies, where desperate measures are required to raise a daughter. This is the story of Grace, Lia and Sky, kept apart from the world for their own good and taught the terrible things that every woman must learn about love. And it is the story of the men who come to find them – three strangers washed up by the sea, their gazes hungry and insistent, trailing desire and destruction in their wake.</p> <p><i>The Water Cure</i> is a fever dream, a blazing vision of suffering, sisterhood and transformation. Sophie Mackintosh brings us face to face with the brutality of love, demanding to know the price of survival in a hostile world.</p>
What the judges thought	“This chilling, beautifully written novel explores the ways in which extreme parental protection can fail, and unpicks patriarchy at its core, forcing us to ask what it means to survive, indeed whether it is possible to survive, in a man’s world. Allegorical and plausible, the tautness and tension of the writing are staggering.”
Discussion points	<p>Although the book is dystopian, can you see any similarities with our world?</p> <p>What do you think about the way the men are presented?</p> <p>The girls are made to endure various ‘therapies’ to control their emotions. How does reading about these make you feel?</p> <p>We find out about the world through the sisters themselves, rather than anyone else. Do you think this has a particular impact on the reader?</p>
Themed reading	<p>Patrick Ness <i>The Knife of Never Letting Go</i> Stephen King & Owen King <i>Sleeping Beauties</i> Leni Zumas <i>Red Clocks</i> Naomi Alderman <i>The Power</i></p>
Useful links	<p>https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/may/24/sophie-mackintosh-the-water-cure-interview</p> <p>https://www.thelondonmagazine.org/review-the-water-cure-by-sophie-mackintosh/</p> <p>https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/the-water-cure-review-utopia-portrayed-in-spectral-organic-prose-1.3536247</p>