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The Promise Damon Galgut
Chatto & Windus €19.60 Damon
Galgut probably should have

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won the Booker Prize for his brilliant novel *The Good Doctor* in 2003. It was shortlisted at least and was followed by ...

Damon Galgut's *The Promise*

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is a masterpiece of guile
and empathy

South African writer Damon
Galgut, shortlisted for the
Man ... he was also awarded
the Barry Ronge Fiction
Prize in 2015 for his book
Arctic Summer. Jennings'

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nominated work tells the
story ...

SA authors nominated for
Booker Prize
Booker Prize longlist has
been officially announced,

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with 13 novels in the running to claim the iconic title and its £50,000 prize money.

The full list of all 13 books in contention for the

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Booker Prize 2021 -
including Klara and the Sun
Elizabeth Day speaks to
Damon Galgut about his new
novel, *The Promise*, a multi-
generational, multi-voice
story that follows one
family through forty years

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of South African history.

Show more ...

Damon Galgut

What a shocker! Fire the
Booker judges! How dare they
produce a longlist so free

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of controversy? Have they forgotten their job is to disappoint us through their foolish choices and omissions?

The Booker Prize longlist:

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are these the best books of
2021?

“Over the course of one hot
summer, his provocative
presence provides ... our
internal and external
worlds.” The Promise by
Damon Galgut “The Promise

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charts the crash and burn of
a white ...

The full list of all 13
books in contention for the
Booker Prize 2021 -
including Klara and the Sun

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“Over the course of one hot summer, his provocative presence provides ... “From the days of giant passenger ships sliding past Arctic icebergs, to the daring pilots of WWII, to present-day ...

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I was back in a hospital
bed, with a doctor sitting
beside me. 'Try to describe

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how you feel,' he said. 'I
feel dislocated,' I told
him. 'Not part of life.'

'Whose life?' 'Mine.

Everybody's. Life.' And the
familiar sensation started
up in my belly, the shaking
spread into my arms. I

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covered my face with my hands, but I couldn't block out what I saw.' A year ago Patrick Winter, a young South African, was sent to Namibia to complete his military service and to defend his country against

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'terrorism'. Now he is back, to meet Godfrey, his mother's freedom fighter boyfriend, and to witness the country's first free elections. But Patrick needs to confront and process much more than a country in

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transition, and in doing so he is forced to revisit his past and to face the pain and the demons that haunt him.

A young man makes three journeys that take him

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through Greece, India and Africa. He travels lightly, simply. To those who travel with him and those whom he meets on the way - including a handsome, enigmatic stranger, a group of careless backpackers and a

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woman on the edge - he is the Follower, the Lover and the Guardian. Yet, despite the man's best intentions, each journey ends in disaster. Together, these three journeys will change his whole life. A novel of

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longing and thwarted desire,
rage and compassion, In a
Strange Room is the
hauntingly beautiful
evocation of one man's
search for love, and a place
to call home.

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“A lovely, lethal, disturbing novel” of the dashed hopes of post-apartheid South Africa and the small betrayals that doom a friendship (The Guardian). An extraordinary parable of the corruption of

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the flesh and spirit, The Good Doctor has inspired enthusiastic interest around the world and has assured Damon Galgut's place as a major international talent. When Laurence Waters arrives at his new post at a

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deserted rural hospital,
staff physician Frank Eloff
is instantly suspicious.
Laurence is everything Frank
is not—young, optimistic and
full of big ideas. The whole
town is beset with new
arrivals and the return of

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old faces. Frank reestablishes a liaison with a woman, one that will have unexpected consequences. A self-made dictator from apartheid days is rumored to be active in cross-border smuggling, and a group of

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soldiers has moved in to track him, led by a man from Frank's own dark past.

Laurence sees only possibilities—but in a world where the past is demanding restitution from the present, his ill-starred

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idealism cannot last.

“Galgut’s prose, its gentle rhythms and straightforward sentences edging toward revelation, is utterly seductive and suspenseful .

. . Galgut is a master of psychological tension. . . .

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Tragic and brilliant.” –The
Globe and Mail

The family – that small
circle of beings where love
should flourish – can be an
arid and alienating
territory where hatred and

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violence may ignite. On the surface, *Small Circle of Beings*, the novella which gives its title to this collection, concerns a family living what would appear to be an idyllic life. When the couple's only

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child falls ill, tension and strain begin to take their toll, and the hairline cracks and fissures in his parents' relationship gradually widen and split open until a marriage that seemed solid and secure

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falls irretrievably apart. Galgut's economy of style and his chilling gift for understatement and the macabre are nowhere more eloquently displayed than in this gripping story. The same sensitive and

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atmospheric writing can also be seen in the shorter stories - Lovers, Shadows, The Clay Ox and Rick.

When Adam moves into the abandoned house on the dusty edge of town, he is hoping

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to recover from the loss of his job and his home in the city. But when he meets Canning - a shadowy figure from his childhood - and Canning's enigmatic and beautiful wife, a sinister new chapter in his life

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begins. Canning has inherited a vast fortune and a giant folly in the veld, a magical place of fantasy and dream that seduces Adam and transforms him absolutely, violently - and perhaps for ever.

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Damon Galgut established himself as a writer of international caliber with the publication of *The Good Doctor*, which was sold in sixteen countries and was a finalist for the Man Booker

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Prize and the winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize for the African region. The Quarry, written ten years ago but never published outside of South Africa, is another stark, intense, and crystalline novel in which

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human nature betrays itself
against the desolate
backdrop of rural South
Africa. On a lonely stretch
of road a man picks up a
hitchhiker. The driver is a
minister on his way to a new
rural congregation; the

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passenger is a fugitive.
When the minister realizes
this, the fugitive kills
him. He assumes his
vestments and identity, only
to discover that one of his
first duties as the new
minister is to preside over

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his victim's funeral. As the fugitive and the local police chief play a tense game of cat and mouse, culminating in a pursuit across the desolate veldt, Damon Galgut gives us a spare, devastating combat

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for man's most prized
attribute: freedom.

Tells the story of three
rebellious teenagers
sentenced to the Bleda
Reformatory in South
Africa, and the vengeance

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incited following the murder of one of them.

This is the first book-length study of Forster's posthumously-published novel. Nine essays focus exclusively on Maurice and

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its dynamic afterlives in literature, film and new media during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Begun in 1913 and revised over almost fifty years, Maurice became a defining text in Forster's work and a

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canonical example of queer fiction. Yet the critical tendency to read Maurice primarily as a 'revelation' of Forster's homosexuality has obscured important biographical, political and aesthetic contexts for this

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novel. This collection places Maurice among early twentieth-century debates about politics, philosophy, religion, gender, aestheticism and allegory. Essays explore how the novel interacts with literary

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predecessors and contemporaries including John Bunyan, Oscar Wilde, Havelock Ellis and Edward Carpenter, and how it was shaped by personal relationships such as Forster's friendship with

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Florence Barger. They close-read the textual variants of Forster's manuscripts and examine the novel's genesis and revisions. They consider the volatility of its reception, analysing how it galvanizes subsequent

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generations of writers and artists including Christopher Isherwood, Alan Hollinghurst, Damon Galgut, James Ivory and twenty-first-century online fanfiction writers. What emerges from the volume is the complexity

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of the novel, as a text and
as a cultural phenomenon.

It is 1979 and in a
ramshackle cottage in
Northumberland fifteen-year-
old Ruth is desperate to
leave behind the gradual

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implosion of her parents' marriage as she pursues her own quest for love and excitement. Fantasies about the son of the local farmer offer a temporary distraction from the rising tensions at home but Ruth

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soon discovers that the family are coming to terms with a very different tragedy... Told largely from the darkly humorous perspective of Ruth, Jane Feaver's novel is an engaging and profound

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insight into the
relationships within
families and the nature of
love and loss, of grief and
grieving.

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