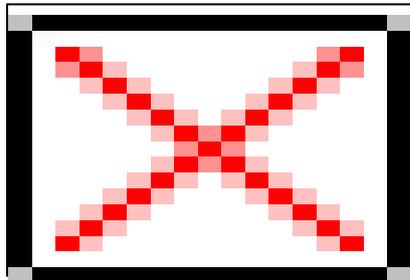
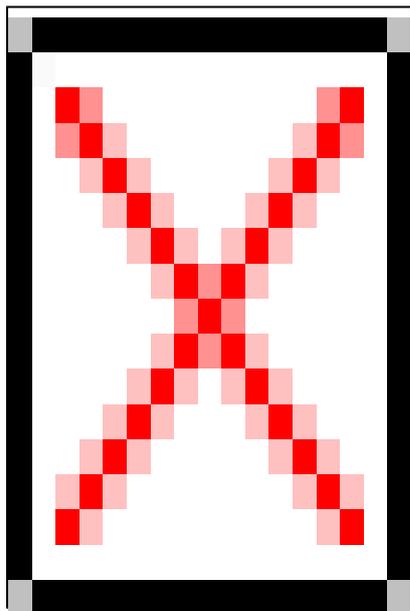




# JASBINDER BILAN WINS COSTA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD WITH HER DEBUT NOVEL



Jasbinder Bilan has won the **Costa Children's Book Award** for her debut novel **Asha and the Spirit Bird**, a story which starts in the foothills of the Himalayas and describes a young girl's brave journey to find her father. The judges described her book as 'gorgeous' and said that they 'unanimously' lost their hearts to it. Jasbinder receives £5,000 and her book is now eligible for the ultimate prize - the 2019 Costa Book of the Year.



Jasbinder completed the influential MA in Writing at Bath Spa University and in 2017 entered **Asha and the Spirit Bird** - then called **Song of the Mountain** - into the **Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition** for unpublished writers, where she was chosen to win a publishing deal with Chicken House.

**Books for Keeps** [interviewed Jasbinder about her book](#) [1] and being shortlisted for the **Costa Book Award**

Three other books were shortlisted for award: [Crossfire](#) [2] by Malorie Blackman published by Penguin; [In the Shadow of Heroes](#) [3] by Nicholas Bowling, also published by Chicken House; and [Furious Thing](#) [4] by Jenny Downham published by David Fickling Books. Don't miss the **Books for Keeps** [features on Crossfire](#) [5], [Nicholas Bowling](#) [6] and [Furious Thing](#) [7].

The winner of the **Costa Book of the Year** will be selected by a panel of judges chaired by broadcast journalist and author Sian Williams and comprising category judges Clare Mackintosh, John Boyne, Professor Suzannah Lipscomb, Jade Cuttle and Bali Rai, joined by actor, comedian and author Ben Miller, actor Hugh Quarshie and broadcaster

Anneka Rice, and will be announced at an awards ceremony hosted by presenter and broadcaster Penny Smith at Quaglino's in central London on Tuesday 28th January 2020.

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**Links:**

- [1] <http://mail.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/239/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-shortlisted-author-jasbin>
- [2] <http://mail.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/crossfire>
- [3] <http://mail.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/in-the-shadow-of-heroes>
- [4] <http://mail.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/238/childrens-books/reviews/furious-thing>
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