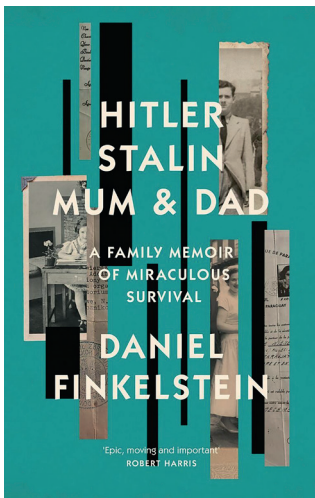


# 'A masterclass in biography'

Slightly Foxed



Slightly Foxed and The Biographers' Club are delighted to announce that the winner of the Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize 2023 is



Daniel Finkelstein

*Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad*

'My family believe deeply in the relationship between truth and liberty. So literary endeavours have a big role to play in protecting freedom. I accept this award on behalf of my family, all who suffered with them and all who sacrificed to set them free. I am deeply honoured to receive such a distinguished award.' **Daniel Finkelstein**

"'Truth lies at the feet of liberty' – what a brilliant opening line. This is an important, powerful and deeply humane account of one family surviving the criminal, murderous policies of both Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, and of one man's prescience in cataloguing Nazi crimes. *Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad* is a masterclass in biography.' **Judge Clare Mulley**

## THE PRIZE

The Prize awards £2,500 to the judges' choice of the best first biography published each year. The winner was announced at a prize-giving celebration on **Tuesday 19th March 2024 at Maggs Bros Ltd, 48 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3BR**. This is the 10th year that Slightly Foxed has sponsored the Prize.

## THE SHORTLIST

*Quartet: How Four Women Changed the Musical World* by Leah Broad (Faber)

*Messalina: The Life and Times of Rome's Most Scandalous Empress* by Honor Cargill-Martin (Head of Zeus)

*Hitler, Stalin, Mum & Dad* by Daniel Finkelstein (William Collins)

*A Pebble in the Throat: Growing up between Two Continents* by Aasmah Mir (Headline)

*Go the Way Your Blood Beats* by Emmett de Monterey (Viking)

'Each of the five exceptional books on the Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize shortlist 2023 engages with memoir and biography in a way that resonates powerfully. Whether they reveal history that has been overlooked, mine personal memories that hold universal truths, or use a fresh and distinctive approach to bring new insights to better-known subjects, each one has been rigorously researched, beautifully written, and presents an original and compelling life story.'

Judges Philip Eade, Sue Gaisford and Clare Mulley

For press enquiries and interview requests, please contact **Stephanie Allen/Jennie Harrison-Bunning** at Slightly Foxed: [press@foxedquarterly.com](mailto:press@foxedquarterly.com) / 020 7033 0258

## 2023 Judges

**Philip Eade** is the author of three biographies, *Sylvia, Queen of the Headhunters* (2007), *Young Prince Philip* (2011) and *Evelyn Waugh: A Life Revisited* (2016), all of which appeared in *The Sunday Times's* ten best biographies of the year; the last two were also Book of the Week on BBC Radio 4.

**Sue Gaisford** reviewed non-fiction for the *Economist* for twenty years before moving to the *Independent*. She now reviews for the *Financial Times* and the *Tablet*, where she became Literary Editor.

**Clare Mulley** is an award-winning author and broadcaster. Her three books, *The Woman Who Saved the Children*, *The Spy Who Loved* and *The Women Who Flew for Hitler*, are all under option and widely translated. Clare writes and reviews for various papers including the *Spectator* and the *TLS*, and has twice been chair of the judges for the Historical Writers Association non-fiction prize.

## About *Slightly Foxed*

**The Magazine:** Founded in 2004 by former John Murray editors Gail Pirkis and Hazel Wood, *Slightly Foxed* is the highly acclaimed yet good-humoured and unstuffy literary magazine that introduces its readers to good books from both the past and the present. It has a readership of approximately 18,000 booklovers in around 80 countries worldwide. Contributors have included Penelope Lively, Robert Macfarlane, Olivia Potts, Alexandra Pringle, Mick Herron, Kate Young, Quentin Blake, Melissa Harrison, Michael Holroyd and Adam Sisman, Sarah Perry, Daisy Hay, Tim Pears, Justin Marozzi and Margaret Drabble. The 80th issue was published in December and in 2024 *Slightly Foxed* is celebrating its 20th birthday.

**The Books:** *Slightly Foxed's* non-fiction list of cloth-bound limited-editions was launched in 2008 and encompasses some of the twentieth century's best memoirs, biographies and classic children's fiction, with works by Edward Ardizzone, 'BB', Gerald Durrell, Graham Greene, Helene Hanff, Luke Jennings, Michael Holroyd, Hilary Mantel, Gavin Maxwell, V. S. Pritchett, Dodie Smith and Rosemary Sutcliff, among others.

**The Podcast:** The *Slightly Foxed* podcast was launched five years ago and has around 15,000 listens to each episode. Relaxed, conversational, and beautifully produced, the podcast is an audio version of the magazine, full of interesting discussion and book recommendations. Recent episodes include a life in writing with Margaret Drabble, the shocking story of Charles and Mary Lamb, a feast of food writing with Olivia Potts, the Golden Age of crime writing, the works of Barbara Pym with her biographer Paula Byrne and much more besides. With 48 episodes released to date the podcast has had 700,000+ all-time listens. You can hear all available episodes on the website or by searching for 'Slightly Foxed' on iTunes, Spotify or other podcast platforms. <https://foxedquarterly.com/the-slightly-foxed-podcast-all-episodes>

**Produced in England:** *Slightly Foxed* magazine and all of the company's books are printed and bound in the UK by traditional printers and book-binders. Watch a short film here: 'Birth of a Book' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuFV5196dYQ>

**For more information about Slightly Foxed contact Stephanie Allen/Jennie Harrison-Bunning**  
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## About The Biographers' Club

The Biographers' Club, founded in 1997, is committed to supporting, promoting and connecting biographers at all levels. It administers three prestigious annual prizes: The *Slightly Foxed* Best First Biography Prize, The Elizabeth Buccleuch Prize and The Exceptional Contribution to Biography Award. Membership gives access to Club talks, prize-givings and other networking opportunities.

**The Prize:** This is the tenth year of *Slightly Foxed's* sponsorship of the Prize for the best first biography or literary memoir published each year, with a winner's award of £2,500. Previous winners include: joint winners, Katherine Rundell, *Super-Infinite* and Osman Yousefzada, *The Go-Between*; Lea Ypi, *Free*; Heather Clark, *Red Comet*; Jonathan Phillips, *The Life and Legend of the Sultan Saladin*; Bart van Es, *The Cut Out Girl*; Edmund Gordon, *The Invention of Angela Carter*; Hisham Matar, *The Return*; Alan Cumming, *Not My Father's Son*; Claudia Renton, *Those Wild Wyndhams*.

**For more information about The Biographers' Club contact Ariane Bankes/Nick Clee**  
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