

Andrea Levy



Andrea Levy is the author of 5 novels. Her first novel, "Every light in the house burnin'" is about a Jamaican family living in London in the 1960s. Her second novel "Never far from nowhere", about two very different sisters, was long-listed for the Orange Prize for fiction.

Her novel "Small island" was awarded the Orange Prize for fiction and the Whitbread Book of the year in 2004. It is a moving story which explores changing social attitudes through the interaction between a Jamaican couple, newly arrived in England, Gilbert and Hortense and, their English landlady, Queenie, and her husband. It was filmed for the BBC in 2009 starring Naomie Harris and Ruth Wilson.

Her latest novel "Long Song" set in 19th century Jamaica has been short-listed for the 2010 Man Booker Prize. It is about July, a spirited woman who is born a slave and lives through the turbulent years that lead to slavery's abolition.

Andrea Levy's father sailed to Britain aboard the "Empire Windrush" in 1948, and her mother joined him soon afterwards. Andrea was born in London in 1956. After grammar school she studied textile design and weaving at Middlesex polytechnic. She began writing in her 30s, encouraged by a writing class at the City Literature Institute. Her books reflect the experiences and the heritage of black Britons. She lives in London with her husband, Bill Mayblin, and has two grown up step daughters.

