

Literary Prizes

The Green Guest House by Mina Sharif

The Toronto writer is on the 2024 CBC Short Story Prize longlist

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Mina Sharif is a writer and activist from Scarborough, Ont. (Jyotika Chauhan)

Mina Sharif has made the [2024 CBC Short Story Prize longlist](#) for *The Green Guest House*.

The winner of the 2024 [CBC Short Story Prize](#) will receive \$6,000 from the [Canada Council for the Arts](#), have their work published on [CBC Books](#) and attend a two-week writing residency at [Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity](#). The four remaining finalists will each receive \$1,000 from the [Canada Council for the Arts](#) and have their work published on [CBC Books](#).

The shortlist will be announced on April 18 and the winner will be announced on April 25.

If you're interested in the [CBC Literary Prizes](#), the [2024 CBC Poetry Prize](#) is open for submissions until June 1. The [2025 CBC Short Story Prize](#) will open in September and the [2025 CBC Nonfiction Prize](#) will open in January.

- [The 2024 CBC Poetry Prize is now open to Canadian poets](#)

About Mina Sharif

Mina Sharif lives in Scarborough, Ont., where she advocates for the rights of Afghan people through cultural advisory services, voluntary aid work and public speaking. Her essays and commentary have appeared in various publications including Al Jazeera, Teen Vogue and Femina Magazine. As an emerging author of fiction, Sharif aims to challenge stereotypes and present a multifaceted view of Afghanistan. She was shortlisted for the Peter Hinchcliffe Short Fiction Award in 2023 and has a publication upcoming in The New Quarterly. Her working manuscript, featuring stories set in Afghanistan, includes *The Green Guest House*.

Entry in five-ish words

"The subject's perspective always matters."

The story's source of inspiration

"I wrote this piece to provide readers with a glimpse into how actions, even when possibly well-intentioned, can lead to the suppression of voices. I'm pained by how seldom Afghans are given the opportunity to tell their own stories, but I don't think its as simple as malicious intent. Writing this story helped me express that Afghanistan, and many places like it, remain minimally understood, because we've long relied on asking experts or observers instead of engaging directly with people themselves."

First lines

On the cover of *The Real Afghanistan; A Woman's Firsthand Account*, the author Sally James smiles intensely, wearing the blue Afghan dress I purchased for her. I think of how my father says a smile is real when it shows in the eyes, and her glassy eyes look empty to me. When the book arrived a week ago, I'd missed the falseness of her expression, lost in my own excitement. A woman I considered my friend had written about my country, and I was included. I open the hardcover and read the inscription.



The 2024 CBC Short Story Prize shortlist will be announced on April 18 and the winner will be announced on April 25. (Ben Shannon/CBC)

Check out the rest of the longlist

The longlist was selected from more than 1,900 submissions. A [team of 12 writers and editors from across Canada](#) compiled the list.

The jury selects the shortlist and the eventual winner from the readers' longlisted selections. This year's jury is comprised of [Suzette Mayr, Kevin Chong and Ashley Audrain](#).

The complete longlist is:

- [The White Stetson Hat by Dennis Allen](#) (Edmonton)

- [***Leave A Funny Message at the Beep* by Vincent Anioke**](#) (Waterloo, Ont.)
- [***How Far Should You Go?* by Anne Baldo**](#) (Windsor, Ont.)
- [***Kind Lady Lives Here* by Jennifer Booth**](#) (Cambridge, Ont.)
- [***A Very Full Life* by Rebecca Cuneo Keenan**](#) (Toronto)
- [***Four-Boot Fred* by Izzy Ferguson**](#) (Dundas, Ont.)
- [***The Sea Comes Pouring In* by Phil Glennie**](#) (London, Ont.)
- [***We Asked Too Much From God* by Marian Godfrey**](#) (Victoria)
- [***Old Bones* by Kate Gunn**](#) (Vancouver)
- [***dark* by Mirabelle Chiderah Harris-Eze**](#) (Calgary)
- [***Lamentations* by Miriam Ho Nga Wai**](#) (Toronto)
- [***Tremor of the Tongue* by Nnamdi Ibeanusi**](#) (Kitchener, Ont.)
- [***How to Make a Friend* by Zilla Jones**](#) (Winnipeg)
- [***Shopping* by Delailah M. K. Grondin**](#) (Windsor, Ont.)
- [***Tiny Gifts* by Vivian \(Xiao Wen\) Li**](#) (Toronto)
- [***Best* by Annick MacAskill**](#) (Halifax)
- [***Transcendence* by Britt MacKenzie-Dale**](#) (Kelowna, B.C.)
- [***Outpour* by Lauren McNeil**](#) (Revelstoke, B.C.)
- [***The Ball Game* by Adam McPhee**](#) (Fort McMurray, Alta.)
- [***Fish Sauce* by Alexandra Musten**](#) (Ottawa)
- [***Tamago* by Lindsay Naito**](#) (North Vancouver, B.C.)
- [***the worst has already happened* by KM Naud**](#) (Vancouver)
- [***A Good Visit* by Susan Paddon**](#) (Margaree, N.S.)
- [***Fermentation* by June Pyo Park**](#) (Montreal)
- [***The Green Guest House* by Mina Sharif**](#) (Toronto)
- [***How to Give Your Grief to the Moon* by Traci Skuce**](#) (Courtenay, B.C.)
- [***Disprin* by Kailash Srinivasan**](#) (North Vancouver, B.C.)
- [***The Baby* by Kailash Srinivasan**](#) (North Vancouver, B.C.)
- [***Smack Dab* by D.D.R.Staines**](#) (Cambridge, Ont.)



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