

ATWOOD AND EVARISTO ARE JOINT WINNERS OF BOOKER PRIZE

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Margaret Atwood's *The Testaments* and Bernardine Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other* jointly won the Booker Prize on Monday.

The authors will split the £50,000 (\$62,800) annual prize, the judging panel said.

Ms. Atwood, 79, previously won the prize in 2000 for *The Blind Assassin*. *The Testaments*, published last month, is the sequel to the Canadian author's best-selling 1985 novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Ms. Evaristo, the first black woman to win the prize, tells the stories of 12 characters, mainly female and black aged 19 to 93, living in Britain in *Girl, Woman, Other*.

While the prize has been jointly awarded twice previously, the rules changed in 1993 limiting the award to one author. The judges defied those rules as they could not agree on a winner between the two books, which were on a shortlist of six.

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