

Terms & Conditions:

- 1 This is a short story writing competition. To enter, please send your original, unpublished, fictional short story, in English, of between 5,000 and 10,000 words on the theme of love to sceptreloves@hodder.co.uk. Please send the typed text, double spaced, in 12 point type. Please include your full name and age.
- 2 This competition is open to anyone aged 18 or over resident in the United Kingdom except for employees of Hodder & Stoughton Limited (the 'Company') or of companies that are within the same group of companies, their families, or anyone professionally connected to the competition either themselves or through their families. The competition is open to published and unpublished authors, but the entry must not have been published before.
- 3 The competition opens at 12:01 am GMT on 3rd November 2016 and closes at 11:59 pm GMT on 14th February 2017. Any entries received outside these specified times and dates will not be eligible for entry into the competition.
- 4 By submitting your entry, you agree and warrant that (i) your entry has not been published before; (ii) your entry is entirely your own original work; and (iii) nothing in your entry is defamatory, private or an infringement of copyright or other intellectual property right or in any way a breach of another's rights. Any entry in breach of this clause will be disqualified from participating in and winning the competition.
- 5 One winner will be selected from the entries received in accordance with these terms and conditions based on the following criteria: originality, relevance to theme, writing skill and strength of character depiction.
- 6 The Sceptre Editorial team will read the entries received in accordance with these terms and shortlist 10 entries. The winner will be chosen from the 10 shortlisted entries by Emma Herdman (Senior Editor, Sceptre), Lucy Luck (Literary Agent, Aitken Alexander Associates) and Chris White (Fiction Buyer, Waterstones) whose decision will be final.
- 7 The winner's name will be announced by 14 March 2017 on the Company's website and social media accounts.
- 8 The winner will be given editorial advice on their entry. In addition, the winner will be offered a two hour editorial meeting with Emma Herdman of Sceptre to discuss the winner's work and the publishing industry more generally. The meeting will take place at the offices of the Company in London at a mutually agreed time and date. Travel expenses are not included in the prize.
- 9 All entrants retain copyright in their entry. The winner of the competition grants the Company a non-exclusive licence to publish their entry, in whole or in part, on the Company's website and social media sites for a period of [12] months.
- 10 The winner will be offered the opportunity to have their winning entry published at the back of the paperback and ebook editions of *How Much the Heart Can Hold* by Carys Bray, D.W. Wilson, Bernardine Evaristo, Donal Ryan, Nikesh Shukla, Rowan Hisayo Buchanan and Grace McCleen (the

'Book'). If the winner wishes to have their entry published in the Book the winner will be invited to sign a publishing contract granting the Company, for a flat fee of £150, an exclusive licence to publish their entry in whole or in part in all formats, media and languages throughout the world for the full term of copyright and any and all extensions, renewals or revivals of that term and to sublicense the same to other.

- 11 There is no purchase necessary to enter.
- 12 Only one entry per person allowed. Second or subsequent entries will be disqualified. Entries will not be accepted in bulk or on behalf of someone else. Joint submissions will not be accepted.
- 13 The Company is not responsible for contacting or forwarding prizes to entrants who provide unclear or incomplete information or for entries lost, misdirected, delayed or destroyed.
- 14 The Company reserves the right to alter the prizes, these terms and conditions or cancel the competition. No cash alternatives to prizes will be provided. If the entries are not of sufficiently high quality the Company may extend the closing date (in which case it may also be necessary to alter the prize). Entries will not be returned.
- 15 The Company will make available the name and county of the winner to anyone who requests this information by writing to the following address: Sceptre Editorial Department, Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment, London, EC4Y 0DZ.
- 16 The email addresses of entrants will only be used for the purpose of contacting the winner and administering the competition. It will not be possible for the Company to contact unsuccessful entrants, give advice or feedback on unsuccessful entries or to enter into correspondence.
- 17 By entering the competition you agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.
- 18 This competition is being organised by Hodder & Stoughton Limited of Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment, London, EC4Y 0DZ.
- 19 These terms and conditions and any disputes or claims (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of these terms and conditions shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, whose courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction.