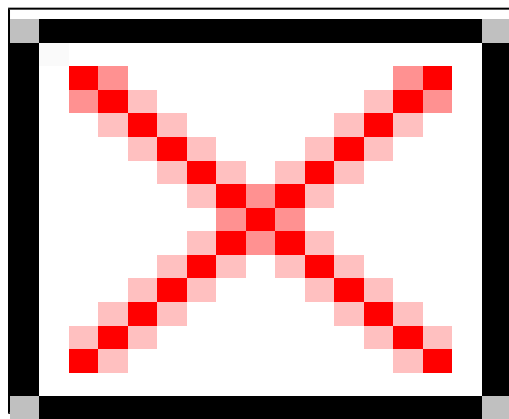




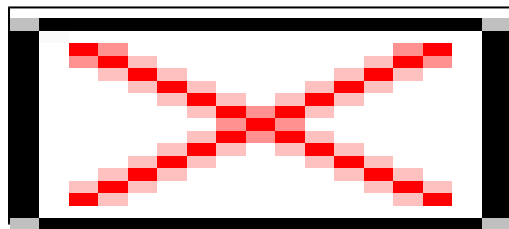
# STRUAN MURRAY AND HIS EDITOR BEN HORSLEN WIN THE 2021 BRANFORD BOASE AWARD

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Struan Murray and his editor Ben Horslen have been named winners of the **2021 Branford Boase Award** for the year's outstanding debut novel for children for **Orphans of the Tide**.



Founded in 2000, the **Branford Boase Award** was set up in memory of award-winning author Henrietta Branford and her editor Wendy Boase of Walker Books, who both died in 1999, and is unique in honouring editor as well as author. Struan shares his award with editor, Ben Horslen, of Puffin.

Regarded as one of the most important awards in children's books, the **Branford Boase Award** has an impressive record in picking out star authors at the start of their careers. Previous winners include Meg Rosoff, Mal Peet, Siobhan Dowd, Marcus Sedgwick, M.G. Leonard and Frances Hardinge.

The [2021 shortlist](#) [1] was particularly strong featuring powerful contemporary stories, a wildly energetic comedy adventure, an 'own voices' novel starring a young girl with autism, a dark story of witches and witchcraft in the 17th century, and the first verse novel to feature in the award's history. **Orphans of the Tide** was the only fantasy adventure on the list and impressed all the judges with its originality, Murray's control of the story and the beauty of his writing.

Judge **Liz Hyder**, author of **Bearmouth** and winner of the 2020 **Branford Boase Award** winner says of **Orphans of the Tide**, 'This book utterly stole my heart. Exquisitely written, it's a phenomenal page-turner with characters that leap off the page and straight into your imagination. **Orphans of the Tide** explores lots of big themes - environmental issues, friendship and xenophobia to name but a few - all wrapped up in an utterly compelling tale told by a master storyteller.'

Struan is an exceptional talent and I can't wait to read everything else he ever writes.?

**Struan Murray** says, ?I am so honoured and thrilled to have won the **Branford Boase Award**. This award is extremely special as it celebrates not only the author but the editor too, and understands and recognises that writing is a collaborative process that wouldn't be possible without the commitment, imagination and skill of the editor. Working with Ben has stretched me as a writer.?

Of his story he says, ?Most of all, I always wanted this to be a story that hits hard emotionally, and I'm proud that it seems to have succeeded in this: I've had lots of readers of all ages tell me that certain parts were particularly affecting or made them cry. All authors want to make their readers cry. Even if they claim otherwise.?

He finds his day job as a lecturer in Biochemistry at Corpus Christi College an enormous help to his writing, saying, ?Writing can feel lonely at times so it is nice to interact with students and give the author part of my brain a rest, and I often find that when I come back to writing I am suddenly full of ideas or ways to fix particular problems in a manuscript.?

The 2021 winners of the **Branford Boase Award** were announced by Liz Hyder on Thursday 15 July as part of a public event presented by the [LoveReading LitFest](#) [2]. The event featured contributions from all the shortlisted authors plus previous winners and culminated in a discussion with Struan Murray and his editor Ben Horslen. Struan Murray receives a cheque for £1,000 and Struan and Ben both receive engraved trophies.

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**Source URL (retrieved on Oct '21):** <http://imap.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/news/struan-murray-and-his-editor-ben-horslen-win-the-2021-branford-boase-award>

**Links:**

[1] <http://imap.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/news/shortlist-announced-for-the-2021-branford-boase-award>

[2] <https://www.lovereadingleitfest.com/>