

COPY

April 24th 1970

David Powell Esq,  
Booker McConnell Limited

Dear Mr Powell,

I would like to thank you for the experience of having acted as a judge for your prize. I could never face such an ample feast of fiction again, and obviously you will need fresh blood among the judges. I must congratulate you on the function on the 21st, which was really most pleasant, and was much enjoyed by the guests.

I hope you will not mind if I make a suggestion before I go. It does seem to me a pity that the prize cannot be divided. Mrs Rubens and William Trevor ran neck and neck, and I did not feel that the award of the prize to Mrs Rubens was an ideal solution. If I may mention a consideration which I found distressing: it must have been so disappointing to William Trevor not to get the prize, when he must have known that his novel was certainly not surpassed by Mrs Rubens to any noticeable degree, that it may depress him in the exercise of his work; and I wish I had not that on my conscience.

I would like to express again the gratitude I feel for the munificence of your award, and give you my thanks.

Yours sincerely,

(Dame Rebecca West)