



Media release: May 2025

**MANCHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES EVENING WITH
LITERARY PHENOMENON REBECCA F. KUANG**

Friday 22 August 2025 at Aviva Studios

Ahead of its main event in Autumn 2025, Manchester Literature Festival presents an extra special Summer event.

Following her sold-out appearance at the Festival in October 2024, this is a unique opportunity to join Rebecca F. Kuang—bestselling author, literary phenomenon, and one of the most compelling young voices in contemporary fiction - in one of her limited UK appearances.

Her highly anticipated dark fantasy novel, *Katabasis* has been praised by Leigh Bardugo as "*a witty, gory, harrowing ride*" and hailed by Olivie Blake as "*a formidable, timeless work*." The novel plunges readers into the dark depths of the underworld, where two academic rivals embark on a rescue mission to save their advisor.

Kuang is renowned for her sharp, genre-defying writing. *Yellowface* was the publishing sensation of 2023—a number one *Sunday Times* bestseller, a Reese Witherspoon's Book Club pick, a BBC Radio 4 at Bedtime and Foyles Fiction Book of the Year. She has earned accolades from the Nebula, Locus, Crawford, and British Book Awards for *Babel* and *The Poppy War* trilogy.

Ticket holders will have chance to buy copies of *Katabasis* before it goes on general sale. Rebecca will sign and/or dedicate ONE copy per customer at the event.

Manchester Literature Festival is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! The main Festival runs 10-26 October 2025 with the full programme announced in August.

Ends

For press enquiries and review tickets please contact:

Catharine Braithwaite cat@we-r-lethal.com 07947 644110

Shelagh Bourke she@we-r-lethal.com 07971 819 016

[PRESS IMAGES HERE](#)

Full festival details visit <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/upcoming-events>

Join the conversation: #MLF2025 @McrLitFest

<https://www.threads.net/@mcrLitfest>

<https://bsky.app/profile/mcrlitfest.bsky.social>

Ticket and booking information:

Booking opens for Manchester Literature Festival members at midday on Wednesday 7 May 2025.

General tickets on sale on Friday 9 May 2025. <https://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/mlf-rebecca-f-kuang/>

Manchester Literature Festival membership from as little as £20 per year. Full details of membership benefits and buying options [HERE](#).

MLF SUMMER PROGRAMME

Laura Bates in Conversation SOLD OUT

Tuesday 13 May, 7pm

Central Library

Tickets £10/£8

To book: <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events/laura-bates>

Colm Tóibín in Conversation MORE TICKETS RELEASED DUE TO HIGH DEMAND + NEW VENUE

Monday 16 June, 7pm

University Place

Tickets £12/£10

To book: <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events/colm-toibin>

Attica Locke in Conversation

Wednesday 16 July, 7pm

Central Library

Tickets: £10/£8

To book: <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events/attica-locke>

An Evening with Rebecca F. Kuang

Friday 22 August 2025, 7.30pm

Aviva Studios

Tickets: £20, Ticket & Book (RRP £22) £36

To book: <https://manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/events/an-evening-with-rebecca-f-kuang>

Over the past 19 years, the Festival has featured many of the biggest names in literary fiction and spoken word as well as prominent cultural figures from across the globe, including Monica Ali, Martin Amis, Tori Amos, Raymond Antrobus, Simon Armitage, Kate Atkinson, Margaret Atwood, Malorie Blackman, Malika Booker, Joe Boyd, Jung Chang, Neneh Cherry, Gillian Clark, Susanna Clarke, Kit de Waal, Kwame Dawes, Jeremy Deller, Roddy Doyle, Margaret Drabble, Jennifer Egan, Anne Enright, Bernardine Evaristo, Percival Everett, Guy Garvey, Matt Haig, Paula Hawkins, Natalie Haynes, Seamus Heaney, Lindsay Hilsum, A.M. Homes, Alan Hollinghurst, Jackie Kay, Rebecca F Kuang, Kazuo Ishiguro, Howard Jacobson, Alan Johnson, Daisy Johnson, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Barbara Kingsolver, Karl Ove Knausgaard, Hanif Kureishi, Deborah Levy, Olivia Laing, Valeria Luiselli, Johnny Marr, Paul Mason, Armistead Maupin, Val McDermid, David Mitchell, Paul Morley, Michael Morpurgo, Walter Mosley, Kate Mosse, Andrew Motion, Jo Nesbo, Maggie O'Farrell, Andrew O'Hagan, Ben Okri, David Olusoga, David Peace, Max Porter, Richard Powers, Ian Rankin, Kamila Shamsie, Will Self, Elif Shafak, Lemn Sissay, Zadie Smith, Meera Sodha, Elizabeth Strout, Douglas Stuart, Kae Tempest, Neil Tennant, Colm Toibín, Rose Tremain, Dame Harriet Walter, Sarah Waters, Colson Whitehead, Jeanette Winterson, Xinran and Asako Yuzuki.

The Festival has also welcomed prominent activists, campaigners and disruptors including Patrisse Cullors (co-founder of Black Lives Matter), Angela Davis, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Edward Enniful, Afua Hirsch, Caroline Criado Perez, Caroline Lucas, George Monbiot, Arundhati Roy, Rebecca Solnit, Gloria Steinem, Senator Bernie Sanders, Yanis Varoufakis and the late Vivienne Westwood.

Manchester Literature Festival gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our main funders Arts Council England, Manchester City Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, our higher education partner The University of Manchester, and our hotel partners The Edwardian Manchester and The Midland Hotel.