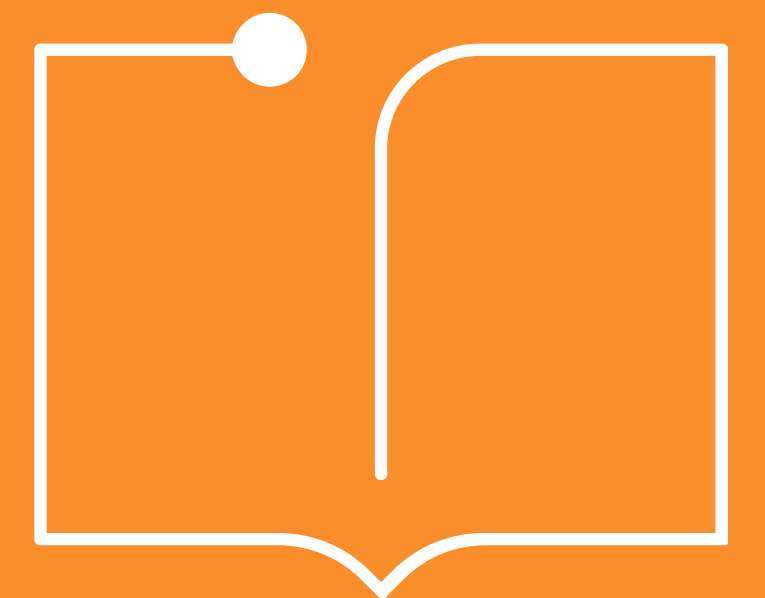


THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

LITERATURE PRIZE 2024

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Han Kang



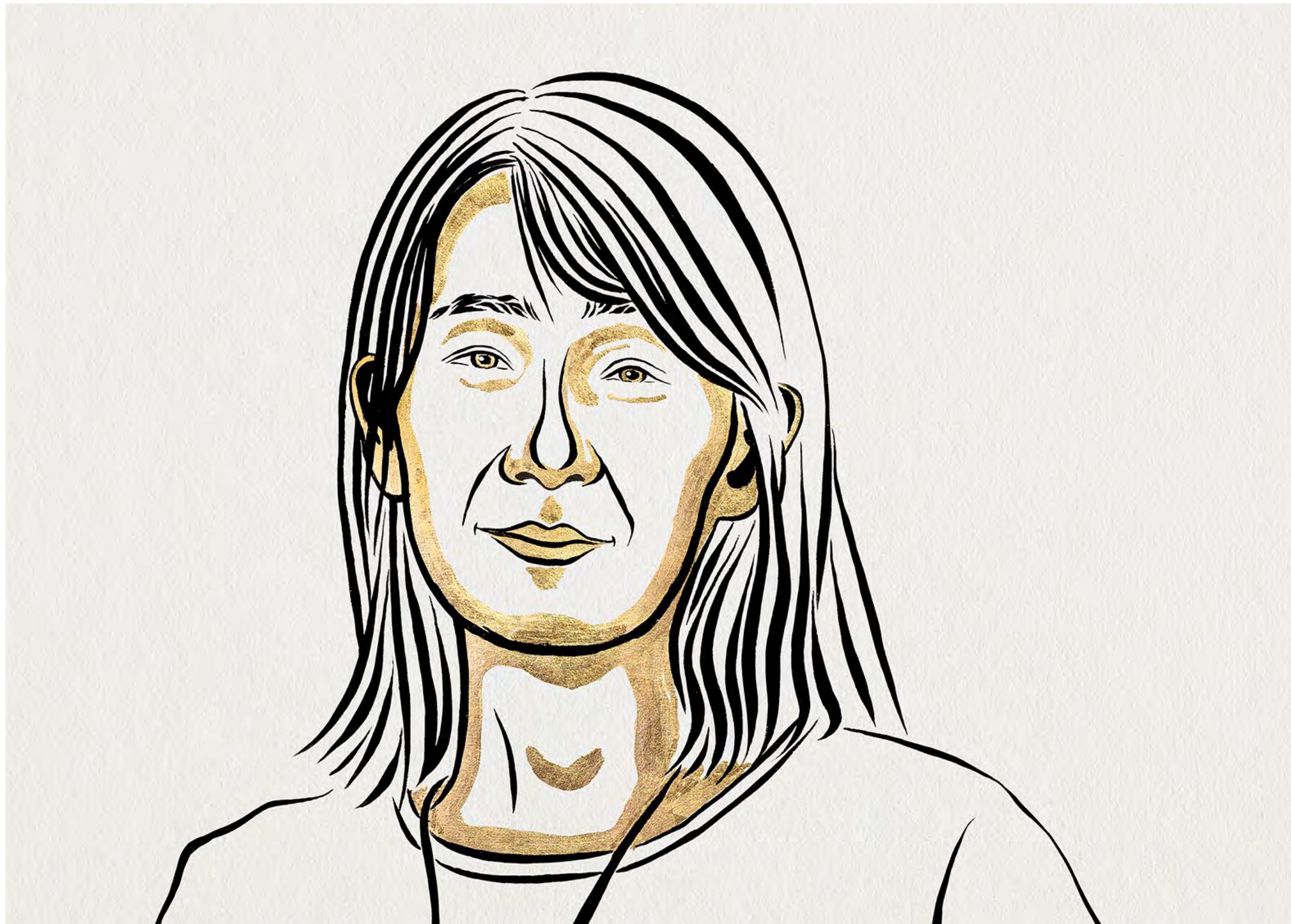
Nobel Prize lessons

The Nobel Prize in Literature

“the person who shall have produced in the field of literature the most outstanding work in an ideal direction”



Literature prize 2024



Name: Han Kang
Born: 1970, Sydkorea

“for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life”



Debut and breakthrough

Han Kang began her career by publishing poems in a magazine. Her breakthrough as an author came with the novel *The Vegetarian*.



Excerpt from *The Vegetarian*

My father-in-law stooped slightly as he thrust the pork at my wife's face, a lifetime's rigid discipline unable to disguise his advanced age.

"Eat it! Listen to what your father's telling you and eat. Everything I say is for your own good. So why act like this if it makes you ill?"

The fatherly affection that was almost choking the old man made a powerful impression on me, and I was moved to tears in spite of myself. Probably everyone gathered there felt the same. With one hand my wife pushed away his chopsticks, which were shaking silently in empty space.

"Father, I don't eat meat."

In an instant, his flat palm cleaved the empty space.



Recurring themes

Han Kang's writing
confronts historical
traumas and norms and
gives voice to the fragility
of human life.



The poetic style

Han Kang often uses poetic language, as in her novel *The White Book*. Through her lyrical and experimental way of writing, she has become an innovator of contemporary prose.



Excerpt from *The White Book*

Breath-cloud

On cold mornings, that first white cloud of escaping breath is proof that we are living. Proof of our bodies' warmth. Cold air rushes into dark lungs, soaks up the heat of our body and is exhaled as perceptible form, white flecked with grey. Our lives' miraculous diffusion, out into the empty air.





PHOTO BY ROBERTO RICCIUTI/GETTY IMAGES

“I grew up with Korean literature, which I feel very close to. So I hope this news is nice for Korean literature readers.”

Han Kang, Nobel Prize in Literature 2024

THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

FOR THE GREATEST
BENEFIT TO
HUMANKIND

Nobel Prize lessons