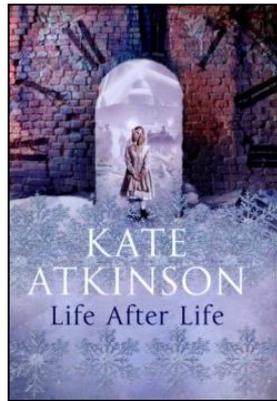




COSTA NOVEL AWARD WINNER 2013



Life After Life
by **Kate Atkinson**
Doubleday

About the book:

During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. During a snowstorm in England in 1910, the same baby is born and lives to tell the tale. What if there *were* second chances? And third chances? In fact, an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? And would you even want to?

About the author:

Kate Atkinson was born in York and now lives in Edinburgh. Her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, won the Whitbread (now Costa) Book of the Year Award in 1995 and she has been a critically-acclaimed international bestselling author ever since.

She is the author of a collection of short stories, *Not the End of the World*, and of the critically acclaimed novels *Human Croquet* and *Emotionally Weird*.

Case Histories introduced her readers to Jackson Brodie, former police inspector turned private investigator, and won various awards including the Saltire Book of the Year Award. Starring Jason Isaacs as Jackson Brodie, *Case Histories* was dramatised for television in 2011 and received a TV Dagger at the ITV3 Crime



Thriller Awards. A second series starring stand-up comic and writer Victoria Wood was broadcast on BBC One in 2013.

When Will There Be Good News? was voted Richard & Judy Book Best Read of the Year. It was her third novel to feature the former private detective Jackson Brodie, who also made a welcome return in *Started Early, Took My Dog*.

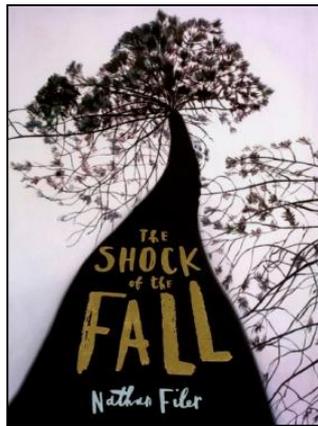
Life After Life was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction and won the Good Reads award for historical fiction in 2013.

Kate was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2011 Birthday Honours for services to literature.

What the judges said:

“Astonishing – this book does everything you could ask for in a work of fiction and so much more.”

COSTA FIRST NOVEL AWARD WINNER 2013



***The Shock of the Fall* by Nathan Filer**

HarperCollinsPublishers

About the book:

The Shock of the Fall tells the story of Matthew and Simon, two brothers who are separated yet united by a tragic accident. Exploring themes of loss, grief and mental illness, this extraordinary novel transports the reader directly into the mind of Matthew and his slow descent into madness as he confronts his role in the boyhood death of his older brother ten years ago.

About the author:

Nathan Filer, 32, is a writer and lecturer in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University. He is a qualified mental health nurse and for many years worked for the mental health service in Bristol where he still lives.

The Shock of the Fall was subject to an eleven-way auction and bought by HarperCollins for a substantial six figure sum. It was selected for BBC Radio 2 Bookclub and a Specsavers National Book Award. It will be published in paperback in January 2014 by The Borough Press and will also be published in twelve other countries, including Israel (from where he was once deported for reasons of national security).



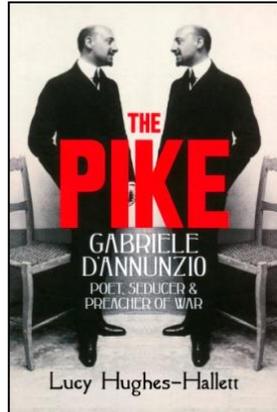
His stand-up poetry has been a regular fixture at festivals and spoken-word events across the UK, including Latitude, Port Eliot, and Wilderness. It has been broadcast on BBC 3 and BBC Radio 4, 7 and 5 Live.

He has also appeared at the Cheltenham Literature Festival and Hay Festival. His 2005 comedy short film *Oedipus* won the BBC Best New Filmmaker Award and numerous other prizes, including Berlin's Zebra Poetry Film Award and the Audience Choice Award at Toronto's World of Comedy Film Festival.

What the judges said:

“It’s hard to believe this is a first novel – it’s so good it will make you feel a better person.”

COSTA BIOGRAPHY AWARD WINNER 2013



***The Pike: Gabriele D'Annunzio, Poet, Seducer & Preacher of War* by Lucy Hughes-Hallett**

Fourth Estate

About the book:

In September 1919 Gabriele D'Annunzio, successful poet, dramatist and occasional politician with an innate flair for the melodramatic, declared himself the Commandante of the city of Fiume in modern day Croatia. He intended to establish the utopian modern state upon his muddled fascist and artistic ideals and create a social paradigm for the rest of the world. It was a fittingly dramatic pinnacle to a career that had been essentially theatrical.

About the author:

Lucy Hughes-Hallett is an award-winning cultural historian, biographer and critic. *The Pike* has won the Samuel Johnson Prize and it was chosen as Book of the Year by more critics than any other book in 2013.

She began her career as a feature writer on Vogue, after having won the Vogue Talent Contest, and subsequently won the Catherine Pakenham Award for young female journalists. She was the Evening Standard's television critic for five years and she has written on books or theatre for most of the leading British broadsheet newspapers.



She has judged a number of literary prizes, including the Costa Children's Book Award, and, most recently, the Duff Cooper Award. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Lucy's previous books are *Heroes: A History of Hero Worship* (2004) and *Cleopatra: Histories, Dreams, and Distortions* (1990 - winner of the Fawcett Prize and the Emily Toth Award).

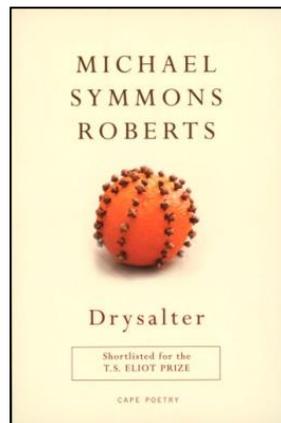
She is married with two daughters, and divides her time between London and Suffolk.

What the judges said:

"An unexpectedly seductive biography which brilliantly transports the reader into the mind of a monstrous talent who was at the heart of Europe's dark past."



COSTA POETRY AWARD WINNER 2013



Drysalter
by **Michael Symmons Roberts**
Jonathan Cape

About the book:

Michael Symmons Roberts's sixth – and most ambitious – collection to date takes its name from the ancient trade in powders, chemicals, salts and dyes, paints and cures. These poems offer a similarly potent and sensory multiplicity, unified through the formal constraint of 150 poems of 15 lines. Like the medieval psalters echoed in its title, this collection contains both the sacred and profane. Here are hymns of praise and lamentation, songs of wonder and despair, journeying effortlessly through physical and metaphysical landscapes, from financial markets and urban sprawl to deserts and dark nights of the soul.

About the author:

Michael Symmons Roberts was born in 1963 in Preston, Lancashire. His poetry has won the Forward Prize, the Whitbread Poetry Award (2004), and been shortlisted for the Griffin International Poetry Prize, and the TS Eliot Prize. He has received major awards from the Arts Council and the Society of Authors.

His continuing collaboration with composer James MacMillan has led to two BBC Proms choral commissions, song cycles, music theatre works and operas for the Royal Opera House, Scottish Opera, Boston Lyric Opera and Welsh National



Opera. Their WNO commission – ‘*The Sacrifice*’ – won the RPS Award for opera, and their Royal Opera House/Scottish Opera commission - ‘*Clemency*’ - was nominated for an Olivier Award.

His broadcast work includes ‘*A Fearful Symmetry*’ - for Radio 4 - which won the Sandford St Martin Prize, and ‘*Last Words*’ commissioned by Radio 4 to mark the first anniversary of 9/11.

He has published two novels, *Patrick’s Alphabet* and *Breath*, and a non-fiction book *Edgelands* (with Paul Farley), and is Professor of Poetry at Manchester Metropolitan University.

What the judges said:

“Contemporary life filtered through the form of common prayer with a musicality sustained across a memorable body of work.”

COSTA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD WINNER 2013



Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse
by **Chris Riddell**
Macmillan Children's Books

About the book:

Meet Ada Goth. She lives in Ghastly-Gorm Hall with her father, Lord Goth, lots of servants and at least half a dozen ghosts, but she hasn't got any friends to explore her enormous, creepy house with. Then, one night, everything changes when Ada meets a ghostly mouse called Ishmael. Together they set out to solve the mystery of the strange happenings at Ghastly-Gorm Hall, and get a lot more than they bargained for....

About the author:

Chris Riddell is an award-winning author and illustrator. He's illustrated many picture books and was awarded the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal in 2002 for *Pirate Diary* and also in 2004 for *Jonathan Swift's Gulliver*.

Chris has won five Nestlé awards including a Silver Award in the five and under category of the Nestle Children's Book Prize and a Gold Award in the 6-8 category of the same prize.

His picture books include *The Emperor of Absurdia*, *Wendel's Workshop* and a much-loved graphic novel series featuring Ottoline. He collaborates with Paul Stewart



on three series of books for the YA market (*Edge Chronicles*, *The Immortals* and *Wyrmsweald*); and, for younger children, his *Fergus Crane* adventure series, again written by Paul Stewart, has achieved critical success, winning the Smarties Gold Award.

Chris and Paul are also the creators of *Muddle Earth* and *Muddle Earth Too*, which have been adapted for a major animated series on CBBC.

Chris is also a renowned political cartoonist whose work appears regularly in *The Observer*, *The Literary Review* and *The New Statesman*. One of his claims to fame is that he was the first cartoonist to depict William Hague in shorts, an illustration that William Hague subsequently bought!

Chris Riddell lives in Brighton with his wife and has three grown-up children.

What the judges said:

“An instant classic for children of all ages.”