

COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2013: FINALISTS



TONY BAGLEY

The Forgiveness Thing

A journalist suspects the motives of a disfigured man who forgives his attacker.

Tony Bagley has worked as a journalist, freelance copy editor and script reader and editor for Central Television. His writing has won him many awards including the Giles Cooper Award, a New London Radio Playwrights Award and he was the Grand Prix winner of the PAWS Drama Award (1999). He has written many plays for radio and his comedy series writing includes *The Older Woman*, starring Martin Clunes and Zoe Wanamaker, and *Married* with Hugh Bonneville and Josie Lawrence, both broadcast on Radio 4. He also penned a black comedy for television, *The Last Word*, which was broadcast on BBC2 in 1996. He lives in Sussex.



CLARE CHANDLER

The Gun Shearer

During a heat wave in New South Wales, the arrival of a young sheep shearer to the farm prompts the owner to revisit a life-changing moment from her past.

Clare Chandler has worked in education, publishing and government publicity. She has written many non-fiction books and articles, had plays performed on the Edinburgh Fringe and co-founded Bookgroup Info, the independent website for reading groups. Since completing the MA in Creative Writing at Exeter University in 2012, she has been concentrating on writing fiction and is presently completing the final draft of a novel. She lives in Cornwall.



SHEILA LLEWELLYN

The Papakh Hat

The 1978-9 Revolution in Iran has begun, and two men living in Tabriz are forced to make life-changing decisions about their future together.

Sheila had two careers before turning to creative writing – firstly working for the British Council in Iran, Africa and Singapore, before retraining as a psychologist specialising in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Sheila was shortlisted for the inaugural Costa Short Story Award in 2012, and in the same year, was shortlisted for the Bridport Short Story Prize, the Sean O’Faolain Prize and the Fish Memoir Prize. In 2011, her radio play *The House on Shareni Street* won the PJ O’ Connor Radio Drama Award. Sheila lives in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and is currently completing a PhD in Creative Writing at Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry and writing her first novel.



ANGELA READMAN

The Keeper of the Jackalopes

The story of a girl, her father, a Jackalope and survival.

Angela Readman’s stories have been shortlisted in the Costa Short Story Award (2012), The Asham Award and The Bristol Prize. Her work has been published online and some of her stories have recently appeared in the anthologies *Once Upon a Time There was a Traveller* (Virago), *Root* (Iron Press) and *Unthology 3* (Unthanks.) She is currently working on a short story collection, *Don’t Try This at Home*. She lives in Newcastle, has an MA in Creative Writing and also writes poetry. Her poetry has been a winner of The Essex Poetry Prize, and in 2013 she won The Mslexia Poetry Competition.



ERIN SOROS
Still Water, BC

The only woman in a logging camp of men is in the last stages of pregnancy. It's a summer day.

Erin Soros has published fiction and non-fiction in international periodicals and anthologies. Her stories have been produced for CBC radio and BBC radio as recipients of Canada's CBC Literary Award and the Commonwealth Prize for the Short Story. She was a finalist for the BBC National Short Story Award and longlisted for the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award. Originally trained in the theatre, Erin Soros was a professional puppeteer. She then worked for ten years as a rape crisis counselor and as a coordinator of literacy programs for at-risk youth. She moved to Norwich in 2007 to accept a position as the Charles Pick Fellow at the University of East Anglia, where she stayed to pursue a PhD in Creative and Critical Writing. A collection of stories and photographs, *Morning is Vertical*, is forthcoming from Rufus Books.



KIT DE WAAL
The Old Man and the Suit

In their basement workshop, an old tailor and his apprentice struggle with life, love and mastering the perfect suit.

Kit de Waal worked in criminal and family law for fifteen years and now writes flash fiction, short stories and longer form prose. She is published in various anthologies – *Fish Prize* 2011 & 2012; *The Sea in Birmingham* 2013; *Final Chapters* 2013 – and works as an editor of non-fiction. She is represented by Jenny Hewson of Rogers, Coleridge & White and is currently working on a novel, *The Scarlet Emperor*.