



COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2016

WINNER



JESS KIDD
Dirty Little Fishes

A young Irish girl in London accompanies her mother on visits to a dying woman – with curious consequences.

Jess Kidd completed her first degree in Literature with The Open University, and has since taught creative writing, gained a PhD in Creative Writing Studies and has aspirations to teach writing in the prison service. She has also worked as a support worker specialising in acquired brain injury and as a PA to a Rector. Her first novel, *Himself*, was published in October 2016 by Canongate and was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards 2016. Her second novel, *Hoarder*, will be published in early 2018 and she is currently working on her third novel as well as her first collection of short stories – many of which are either set in Ireland or have Irish protagonists. Jess was brought up in London as part of a large family from Mayo, and plans to settle somewhere along the west coast of Ireland in the next few years. Until then, she lives in London with her daughter.

SECOND



BILLY O'CALLAGHAN
The Boatman

Meditating on the cyclical nature of earth and ocean, a grieving boatman digs his daughter's grave.

Billy O'Callaghan, from Cork, Ireland, is the author of three short story collections, *In Exile* (2008), *In Too Deep* (2009, both Mercier Press) and *The Things We Lose, The Things We Leave Behind* (2013, New Island Books), the title story of which won the *Writing.ie* Short Story of the Year at the *Bord Gais Energy* Irish Book Awards. His first novel, *The Dead House*, will be published by O'Brien Press/Brandon Books in May 2017, and a novella, *A Death in the Family*, is due later this year as a Ploughshares Solo. He was the Cork County Libraries Writer-in-Residence for 2016.

THIRD



ROB EWING
The Persistence of Memory

A dying woman remembers her life as she visits the pantomime along with her husband and grown-up kids.

Rob Ewing's debut novel *The Last of Us* - which tells the story of a small group of children trying to survive alone on a Scottish island - was published in April 2016 by the Borough Press. His short stories have appeared in *Granta's New Writing*, *Aesthetica*, *New Writing Scotland*, *Northwords Now* and performed on BBC Radio Scotland as a winner of their *Cover Stories* competition. In addition his poetry has appeared in *Pushing out the Boat*, *New Writing Scotland*, *Northwords Now*, *Stand*, *Magma*, and been shortlisted for the William Soutar Writing Prize. He lives and works in Edinburgh.