

COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2012: WINNER



AVRIL JOY

Millie and Bird

Two young girls find themselves caught in a world where love is unpredictable and attachment is dangerous.

Avril Joy was born and brought up on the Somerset Levels, the setting for her first novel, *The Sweet Track*, published in 2007 by Flambard Press. In 2008 she gave up her job as a Senior Manager at HMP Low Newton women's prison on the outskirts of Durham City in order to write full-time. She writes novels, short stories and poetry and has recently completed a new venture into crime fiction, *Blood Tide*, a novel set in the heart of Newcastle. She posts regularly about life and writing on her blog which can be found at www.avriljoy.com.

COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2012: RUNNERS-UP



CHIOMA OKEREKE

Trompette de la Mort

Told amongst the dense, secretive forests of northern France, Trompette de la Mort is a woman's confession to her unborn children.

Chioma Okereke was born in Nigeria and came to England at the age of seven. She started her writing career as a poet before turning her hand to fiction. Her debut novel, *Bitter Leaf*, was published by Virago Press in 2010 and was shortlisted for the 2011 *Commonwealth Writers' Prize –Best First Book, Africa*.

She is currently working on her next book.



GUY LE JEUNE

Small Town Removal

Michael Sweeney returns to the town where he grew up for the funeral of his estranged father.

Guy lives in the North West of Ireland and is a student at the Open College of the Arts, Creative Writing degree course. He started to write two years ago after a long a career in the theatre industry. His work has been commended in the 2011 Sean O'Faolain Prize and was shortlisted for the 2012 Fish Publishing Short Story Prize. He is currently running a cross-border Reminiscence Project for An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny and is working on two novels.