

COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2014: THE FINALISTS



PAULA CUNNINGHAM

The Matchboy

In Northern Ireland, an only child's birthday gift to his father unleashes a storm.

Paula Cunningham was born in Omagh and lives in Belfast where she works part-time as a dentist. Her chapbook, *A Dog called Chance* (Smith/Doorstop), was a winner in The Poetry Business Competition in 1999. Her first full-length poetry collection, *Heimlich's Manoeuvre*, was shortlisted for the Fenton-Aldeburgh, Seamus Heaney Centre, and Strong Shine First Collection Prizes. She has also written drama and short fiction, and has received awards from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



ZOE GILBERT

Fishskin, Hareskin

Ervet tries to escape her new life as a fishwife by returning to her past and its lost comforts.

Zoe Gilbert's short stories have appeared in anthologies and journals in the UK and internationally. Her work has won prizes from Cinnamon Press, Lightship and the British Fantasy Society amongst others, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is currently working on her first folklore-inspired collection of stories, which will form part of her PhD on the short story at the University of Chichester. She lives in London, where she runs a writers' critique group and co-hosts the Word Factory short story club.



JANE HEALEY

The Lontamer's Husband

The lontamer's husband goes to the circus to confront the lions - but is it woman or beast he is jealous of?

Jane Healey has studied at the Universities of Warwick and Edinburgh and on the Creative Writing MFA course at Brooklyn College. She has stories published in *Tin House*, *Paper Darts* and *The Normal School*, and was shortlisted for the 2013 Bristol Short Story Prize. She is currently working on her first novel.



JOANNE MEEK

Jellyfish

A woman returns with her children to the coast she once called home. A story of silent understanding and enduring love.

Joanne Meek is a lover of words, an enthusiast of the short story form and an addict of reading, writing and coffee. After years of scribbling in secret as a ‘guilty pleasure’, she graduated from Cardiff University in 2014 with an MA in Creative Writing. She has since been working on numerous pieces of short fiction and a short story cycle. Joanne finds inspiration for writing fiction in the places she loves and in the complexities of people, both real and

imagined.



MARK NEWMAN

Rosa and Thirkel

A tale of a young girl, her father, and a missing dog.

Mark Newman works for Leicestershire Libraries and has been writing short stories and flash fiction for two years. He has been highly commended in the New Writer Prose & Poetry Awards and longlisted for the Bristol Prize. His work has been placed in competitions judged by Alison Moore, William Nicholson, Tania Hershman, Nicholas Royle and David Gaffney. In 2014 he won the VCLL Short Story Competition, open to those with a

Leicestershire postcode, and had two flash fictions published in *Paper Swans*.



LUCY RIBCHESTER

The Glassblower's Daughter

In a 17th century harbour town, a girl lives out her dreams of the sea through the sailors she encounters.

Lucy Ribchester was born in Edinburgh. She studied English at the University of St Andrews and Shakespearean Studies at Kings College London and Shakespeare's Globe. In 2013 she received a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award for fiction. Her first novel, *The Hourglass Factory*, was published in January 2015 by Simon & Schuster.