

Costa Short Story Award 2014: Winner



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.

Costa Short Story Award 2014: Second place



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.

Costa Short Story Award 2014: Third place



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.