

COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2017

WINNER



LUAN GOLDIE

Two Steak Bakes and Two Chelsea Buns

A woman considers all the things she could do with her day - and decides to have lunch with her Dad.

Luan Goldie is a primary school teacher, and formerly a business journalist. She has written several short stories and was shortlisted for the *Grazia*/Orange Prize First Chapter competition in 2012. Last year she was chosen to take part in the Almasi League, an Arts Council-funded mentorship programme for emerging writers of colour. She has recently completed her first novel, a multi-character drama based on the Bijlmer air disaster, in which a plane crashed into a council block. She lives in London.

SECOND



CHRIS HUNTER

When the Bell Tolls

Ian has a 'gift': he can predict the exact date of people's deaths. He thought there were no surprises left: he was wrong.

Chris Hunter's biggest writing project to date, which he finished in 2016, is an unpublished diarised account of a walk that he and two friends undertook from Land's End to John O'Groats, entitled *We Ran Out of Land*, written as a personal memento. He's always aspired to write fiction for a wider audience however, and has lately completed a series of short stories, including *When the Bell Tolls*, only his second professional submission. Chris is now working on a manuscript for his first novel. He lives in Teddington, South-West London, with his wife Rachel and works full-time as a civil servant. He has a degree in Psychology from Royal Holloway, University of London. Chris credits his love of reading and creative writing to his mum and teachers at Christ's Hospital, Horsham.

THIRD



FRANCES AINSLIE

The Dying Time

A lost son comes home to a mother who weaves spells and an unyielding father, a man of the land who fears the magic.

Frances was born in Glasgow and lives in Dunblane, Perthshire. She is a short story writer and poet and has just completed her first novel. Her short stories have won a number of prizes. In 2017 she won the Robert Burns Poetry Prize in Dunedin New Zealand, and had a selection of poems published in an anthology celebrating the cultural links between Scotland and India. Frances formerly worked in Global IT and spent time in India. She's a volunteer narrator and brand ambassador for the Maggie's Centres, and is involved with Lapidus, the Words for Wellbeing Organisation. She graduated with an MLitt in Creative Writing from the University of Stirling in 2015 and is now studying towards a Masters in Scottish Literature.