

COSTA SHORT STORY AWARD 2018

WINNER



CAROLINE WARD VINE

Breathing Water

Billy's dad has never been much of a role model, to be honest. Today, though, he will teach Billy the real meaning of love.

Caroline Ward Vine completed her MA Creative Writing in the spring of 2018. Her short stories have since been shortlisted for the Bath Short Story Award and published in its 2018 anthology, as well as longlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's VS Pritchett Prize. She was also shortlisted for the Bridport Short Story Prize in 2016. She's currently putting the finishing touches to a short story collection and the initial draft of her first novel. Caroline's early career was in magazine publishing and she previously ran some of the UK's best-known titles, including *TV Times*, *Woman* and *Now*. She has since worked in education and, when

not writing, heads a strategic and communications consultancy. She lives in Kent with her husband and son.

SECOND



SOPHIE WELLSTOOD

Scrimshaw

The consequences of a family catastrophe are played out on a remote Icelandic sheep farm.

Sophie Wellstood was a founding member of 80s power pop combo *The Ideal Husbands*, later becoming composer and musician for the London-based women's theatre company *Red Rag*. Her fiction has been placed in a number of notable competitions, including being shortlisted for the 2016 Manchester Fiction Prize. She has stories in two anthologies for Shelter: *Stories for Homes Vol. I and II* and in *The Best British Short Stories 2017*. Sophie's yet-to-be-published debut novel, a darkly comic same-sex love story set in rural New Zealand, won Triskele Books Big 5 Competition and was shortlisted for the 2016 Caledonian Novel Award. Sophie's fiction is rooted in her love of wild places, and the first seeds of

Scrimshaw were sown during a week-long hike across the remote Westfjords of Iceland. She lives in London and works as a literacy and language specialist. Sophie is represented by Joanna Swainson at Hardman and Swainson Literary Agency.

THIRD



AMANDA HUGGINS

RED

Trapped on Oakridge Farm, a thousand miles from home, Mollie aches to walk free with the stray dog she's named Hal.

Amanda Huggins is the author of the short story collection, *Separated From the Sea* (Retreat West Books), and the flash fiction collection, *Brightly Coloured Horses* (Chapelton Books). Her work has also been published in numerous anthologies, newspapers and magazines. Her travel writing has won several awards, including the BGTW New Travel Writer of the Year in 2014, and her short stories and poetry are regularly placed and listed in

competitions. In 2018 she was commended in both the Bath and InkTears Flash Awards, shortlisted for the Walter Swan Poetry Prize, the Colm Toibin International Short Story Award and the Fish and Bridport Flash prizes. She's currently shortlisted for the Bradt New Travel Writer of the Year 2019, the results of which will be announced at the Edward Stanford Travel Writing Awards in February. Amanda grew up on the North Yorkshire coast, moved to London in the 1990s and now lives in West Yorkshire. She works full-time in engineering and has just completed her debut novella.