

Costa Book Awards 2014 Category Winners Announced

* Ali Smith triumphs in the Costa Novel Award category for *How to be both*

* Debut author Emma Healey collects the Costa First Novel Award for *Elizabeth is Missing*

* Helen Macdonald's memoir about training a goshawk after her father's death, *H is for Hawk*, wins the Costa Biography Award

* English teacher Jonathan Edwards takes the Costa Poetry Award with his debut collection, *My Family and Other Superheroes*

* Kate Saunders wins the Costa Children's Book Award for *Five Children on the Western Front*, set on the eve of World War 1 and sequel to E Nesbit's *Five Children and It*

London, 19.30pm 5th January 2015: Costa Coffee today announces the Costa Book Awards 2014 winners in the Novel, First Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book categories.

The Costa Book Awards is the only major UK book prize that is open solely to authors resident in the UK and Ireland and also, uniquely, recognises the most enjoyable books across five categories – First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book - published in the last year.

Originally established in 1971 by Whitbread Plc, Costa announced its takeover of the sponsorship of the UK's most prestigious book prize in 2006. 2014 marks the 43rd year of the Book Awards.

The five winning authors who will now compete for the 2014 Costa Book of the Year are:

- **Ali Smith, who triumphs in the Costa Novel Award category for the second time for her sixth novel, *How to be both*. She first won the Novel Award in 2005 for *The Accidental***
- **29-year-old debut writer Emma Healey, who collects the Costa First Novel Award for *Elizabeth is Missing* – a story narrated by Maud, an octogenarian whose progressive dementia is complicating her ability to solve a mystery from the past**
- **Helen Macdonald, who takes the Costa Biography Award for *H is for Hawk*. Part memoir, part nature book, it is her personal account of training a goshawk as a way of dealing with grief following her father's death**
- **Welsh poet, teacher Jonathan Edwards, who scoops the Costa Poetry Award for his 'joyous and brilliant' debut collection *My Family and Other Superheroes***
- **Author and journalist Kate Saunders, who wins the Costa Children's Book Award for *Five Children on the Western Front*. Called 'a modern masterpiece' by the judges, it's a moving sequel to E Nesbit's *Five Children and It*, and transplants the main characters into the trenches of World War I.**

“What a fantastic collection of books,” said Christopher Rogers, Managing Director of Costa. “The Costa Book Awards are all about recognising great writing and a good read and this year’s winners are, as always, superb examples of this.”

The five Costa Book Award winners, each of whom will receive £5,000, were selected from 640 entries, and the books are now eligible for the ultimate prize - the 2014 Costa Book of the Year.

The winner, selected by a panel of judges chaired by Robert Harris, and comprising authors and category judges Maggie O’Farrell, Bernardine Evaristo, Jonathan Stroud, Owen Sheers and Wendy Moore, joined by Dame Diana Rigg, Robert Peston and Samantha Bond, will be announced at an awards ceremony hosted by presenter and broadcaster Penny Smith at Quaglino’s in central London on Tuesday 27th January 2015.

Since the introduction of the Book of the Year award in 1985, it has been won eleven times by a novel, five times by a first novel, five times by a biography, seven times by a collection of poetry and once by a children’s book. The 2013 Costa Book of the Year was *The Shock of the Fall* by debut novelist Nathan Filer.

The winner of the Costa Short Story Award – voted for by the general public and now in its third year - will also be announced at the awards ceremony. Voting is open until Friday 16th January until which time the identity of the authors remains anonymous.

For additional information go to www.costa.co.uk/costa-book-awards

Full details of the Category Award Winners follow.

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For further press information, images or to arrange an interview with any of the winning authors, please contact:

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2014 Costa Book Award Winners

Costa Novel Award	<i>How to be both</i>	Ali Smith
Costa First Novel Award	<i>Elizabeth is Missing</i>	Emma Healey
Costa Biography Award	<i>H is for Hawk</i>	Helen Macdonald
Costa Poetry Award	<i>My Family and Other Superheroes</i>	Jonathan Edwards
Costa Children's Book Award	<i>Five Children on the Western Front</i>	Kate Saunders

Previous Books of the Year

2013	<i>The Shock of the Fall</i>	Nathan Filer	First Novel
2012	<i>Bring Up the Bodies</i>	Hilary Mantel	Novel
2011	<i>Pure</i>	Andrew Miller	Novel
2010	<i>Of Mutability</i>	Jo Shapcott	Poetry
2009	<i>A Scattering</i>	Christopher Reid	Poetry
2008	<i>The Secret Scripture</i>	Sebastian Barry	Novel
2007	<i>Day</i>	A.L. Kennedy	Novel
2006	<i>The Tenderness of Wolves</i>	Stef Penney	First Novel
2005	<i>Matisse: the Master</i>	Hilary Spurling	Biography
2004	<i>Small Island</i>	Andrea Levy	Novel
2003	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	Mark Haddon	Novel
2002	<i>Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Self</i>	Claire Tomalin	Biography
2001	<i>The Amber Spyglass</i>	Philip Pullman	Children's Book
2000	<i>English Passengers</i>	Matthew Kneale	Novel
1999	<i>Beowulf</i>	Seamus Heaney	Poetry
1998	<i>Birthday Letters</i>	Ted Hughes	Poetry
1997	<i>Tales from Ovid</i>	Ted Hughes	Poetry
1996	<i>The Spirit Level</i>	Seamus Heaney	Poetry
1995	<i>Behind the Scenes at the Museum</i>	Kate Atkinson	First Novel
1994	<i>Felicia's Journey</i>	William Trevor	Novel
1993	<i>Theory of War</i>	Joan Brady	Novel
1992	<i>Swing Hammer Swing!</i>	Jeff Torrington	First Novel
1991	<i>A Life of Picasso</i>	John Richardson	Biography
1990	<i>Hopeful Monsters</i>	Nicholas Mosley	Novel
1989	<i>Coleridge: Early Visions</i>	Richard Holmes	Biography
1988	<i>The Comforts of Madness</i>	Paul Sayer	First Novel
1987	<i>Under the Eye of the Clock</i>	Christopher Nolan	Biography
1986	<i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>	Kazuo Ishiguro	Novel
1985	<i>Elegies</i>	Douglas Dunn	Poetry

2014 Costa Novel Award

How to be both by Ali Smith

Hamish Hamilton

About the book:

How to be both is a novel all about art's versatility. Borrowing from painting's fresco technique to make an original literary double-take, it's a fast-moving genre-bending conversation between forms, times, truths and fictions. There's a renaissance artist of the 1460s. There's the child of a child of the 1960s. Two tales of love and injustice twist into a singular yarn where time gets timeless, structural gets playful, knowing gets mysterious, fictional gets real - and all life's givens get given a second chance.

About the author:

Ali Smith was born in Inverness in August 1962 and lives in Cambridge. She won the Saltire First Book Award and a Scottish Arts Council Award in 1995 for her first collection of stories, *Free Love* and has since published three further collections including *Other Stories and Other Stories* and *The First Person and Other Stories*.

She is the author of several novels including *Hotel World*, which was shortlisted for the Booker and the Orange Prize, and *The Accidental* which won the Whitbread Novel Award. Her non-fiction includes *Artful*, which won the 2013 Bristol Festival of Ideas/Best Book of Ideas.

How to be both was shortlisted for the 2014 Man Booker Prize and won the 2014 Goldsmiths Prize. In 2007 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was made a CBE for Services to Literature in the 2014 New Year's Honours List.

What the judges said:

"Deploying her conceit of different beginnings and endings with consummate ease and daring, Ali Smith has pulled off a truly dazzling and inventive story."

Judges

Elizabeth Buchan	<i>Author</i>
Bernardine Evaristo	<i>Writer</i>
Jasper Sutcliffe	<i>Head of Buying, Foyles</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 182 entries:

Neel Mukherjee	<i>The Lives of Others</i>	Chatto & Windus
Monique Roffey	<i>House of Ashes</i>	Simon and Schuster
Colm Tóibín	<i>Nora Webster</i>	Viking

Previous Novel Award winners include:

Kate Atkinson	<i>Life After Life</i>	2013
Hilary Mantel	<i>Bring Up the Bodies</i>	2012
Andrew Miller	<i>Pure</i>	2011
Maggie O'Farrell	<i>The Hand That First Held Mine</i>	2010
Colm Tóibín	<i>Brooklyn</i>	2009
Sebastian Barry	<i>The Secret Scripture</i>	2008
A.L. Kennedy	<i>Day</i>	2007
William Boyd	<i>Restless</i>	2006
Ali Smith	<i>The Accidental</i>	2005
Andrea Levy	<i>Small Island</i>	2004
Mark Haddon	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	2003

2014 Costa First Novel Award

Elizabeth is Missing by Emma Healey

Viking

About the book:

Maud is forgetful. She makes a cup of tea and doesn't remember to drink it. She goes to the shops and forgets why she went. Back home she finds the place horribly unrecognizable – just like she sometimes thinks her daughter Helen is a total stranger. But there's one thing Maud is sure of: her friend Elizabeth is missing. The note in her pocket tells her so. And no matter who tells her to stop going on about it, to leave it alone, to shut up, Maud will get to the bottom of it. Because somewhere in Maud's damaged mind lies the answer to an unsolved seventy-year-old mystery. One everyone has forgotten about. Everyone, except Maud . . .

About the author:

Emma Healey wrote her first short story when she was four, told her teachers she was going to be a writer when she was eight, but had learnt better by twelve and had decided on being a litigator (inspired entirely by the film *Clueless*). It took another ten years before she came back to writing.

She grew up in London where she went to art college and completed her first degree in bookbinding. She then worked for two libraries, two bookshops, two art galleries and two universities, and was busily pursuing a career in the art world before writing overtook everything. She moved to Norwich in 2010 to study for the MA in Creative Writing at UEA and never moved back again.

What the judges said:

"This outstanding debut novel grabbed us from the very first page – once you start reading you won't be able to stop. Not only is it gripping, but it shows incredible flair and unusual skill. A very special book."

Judges:

Joanne Finney

Books Editor, Good Housekeeping

Joe Hadow

Producer, Radio 2 Book Club

Maggie O'Farrell

Writer

Shortlist, selected from a total of 125 entries:

Carys Bray

A Song for Issy Bradley

Hutchinson

Mary Costello

Academy Street

Canongate

Simon Wroe

Chop Chop

Viking

Previous First Novel Award winners include:

Nathan Filer

The Shock of the Fall

2013

Francesca Segal

The Innocents

2012

Christie Watson

Tiny Sunbirds Far Away

2011

Kishwar Desai

Witness the Night

2010

Raphael Selbourne

Beauty

2009

Sadie Jones

The Outcast

2008

Catherine O'Flynn

What Was Lost

2007

Stef Penney

The Tenderness of Wolves

2006

Tash Aw

The Harmony Silk Factory

2005

Susan Fletcher

Eve Green

2004

DBC Pierre

Vernon God Little

2003

2014 Costa Biography Award

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald

Jonathan Cape

About the book:

From the age of seven, Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer. She learned the arcane terminology and read all the classic books, including TH White's tortured masterpiece, *The Goshawk*, which describes White's struggle to train a hawk as a spiritual contest. When her father dies and she is knocked sideways by grief, she becomes obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. She buys Mabel for £800 on a Scottish quayside and takes her home to Cambridge. Then she fills the freezer with hawk food and unplugs the phone, ready to embark on the long, strange business of trying to train this wildest of animals.

About the author:

Helen Macdonald is a writer, poet, illustrator, historian and affiliate at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge. Her books include *Falcon* (2006) and *Shaler's Fish* (2001). *H is for Hawk* won the 2014 Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction.

What the judges said:

"A unique and beautiful book with a searing emotional honesty, and descriptive language that is unparalleled in modern literature."

Judges:

Paul Laity	<i>Non-Fiction Books Editor, The Guardian</i>
Wendy Moore	<i>Author and Freelance Journalist</i>
Sheila O'Reilly	<i>Owner, Dulwich Books</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 111 entries:

John Campbell	<i>Roy Jenkins: A Well-Rounded Life</i>	Jonathan Cape
Marion Coutts	<i>The Iceberg: A Memoir</i>	Atlantic Books
Henry Marsh	<i>Do No Harm: Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery</i>	Weidenfeld and Nicolson

Previous Biography Award winners include:

Lucy Hughes-Hallett	<i>The Pike</i>	2013
Mary and Bryan Talbot	<i>The Dotter of Her Father's Eyes</i>	2012
Matthew Hollis	<i>Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Year's of Edward Thomas</i>	2011
Edmund de Waal	<i>The Hare with Amber Eyes</i>	2010
Graham Farmelo	<i>The Strangest Man</i>	2009
Diana Athill	<i>Somewhere Towards the End</i>	2008
Simon Sebag Montefiore	<i>Young Stalin</i>	2007
Brian Thompson	<i>Keeping Mum</i>	2006
Hilary Spurling	<i>Matisse: the Master</i>	2005
John Guy	<i>My Heart is My Own: The Life of Mary Queen of Scots</i>	2004
DJ Taylor	<i>Orwell: The Life</i>	2003

2014 Costa Poetry Award

My Family and Other Superheroes by Jonathan Edwards

Seren

About the book:

Edwards' superheroes are a motley crew. Evel Knievel, Sophia Loren, Ian Rush, Marty McFly, a bicycling nun and a recalcitrant hippo all leap from these pages and jostle for position, alongside Valleys mams, dads and bamps, described with great warmth. Other poems focus on the crammed terraces and abandoned high streets where a working-class and Welsh nationalist politics is hammered out. This is a post-industrial Valleys upbringing re-imagined through the prism of pop culture and surrealism.

About the author:

Jonathan Edwards was born in Newport, south Wales, in 1979, and has lived in the nearby village of Crosskeys all his life. He currently works as a teacher. *My Family and Other Superheroes* (Seren), his first collection, was also shortlisted for the Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and he won the Ledbury Poetry Festival Competition in 2014. His poetry and criticism have appeared in a wide range of magazines, including *Poetry Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *New Welsh Review* and *The North*. He has an MA in Writing from the University of Warwick, has written speeches for the Welsh Assembly Government and journalism for *The Big Issue Cymru*.

What the judges said:

"We haven't had as much fun reading a poetry collection in ages. Joyous, brilliant and moving - this is a poet to celebrate."

Judges:

Anna Dreda	<i>Independent Bookseller, Founder, Wenlock Poetry Festival</i>
Charlotte Runcie	<i>Poet and Arts Journalist, Daily Telegraph</i>
Owen Sheers	<i>Poet and Author</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 76 entries:

Colette Bryce	<i>The Whole and Rain-domed Universe</i>	Picador
Lavinia Greenlaw	<i>A Double Sorrow: Troilus and Criseyde</i>	Chatto & Windus
Kei Miller	<i>The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion</i>	Carcenet

Previous Poetry Award winners include:

Michael Symmons-Roberts	<i>Drysalter</i>	2013
Kathleen Jamie	<i>The Overhaul</i>	2012
Carol Ann Duffy	<i>The Bees</i>	2011
Jo Shapcott	<i>Of Mutability</i>	2010
Christopher Reid	<i>A Scattering</i>	2009
Adam Foulds	<i>The Broken Word</i>	2008
Jean Sprackland	<i>Tilt</i>	2007
John Haynes	<i>Letter to Patience</i>	2006
Christopher Logue	<i>Cold Calls</i>	2005
Michael Symmons Roberts	<i>Corpus</i>	2004
Don Paterson	<i>Landing Light</i>	2003

2014 Costa Children's Book Award

Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders

Faber and Faber

About the book:

When the Sand Fairy suddenly reappears after nine years, everything is different. Cyril is about to leave for war and the other children are nearly adults. It's up to the Lamb and the youngest child, Edie, to try and help the Psammead get home. The siblings are pleased to have something to take their minds off the war, but the Psammead has lost his magic, and his past has caught up with him. Before this last adventure ends, everything will have changed, and the two younger children will have seen the Great War from every possible viewpoint - factory-workers, soldiers and sailors, nurses and the people left at home - and the war's impact will be felt right at the heart of their family.

About the author:

Kate Saunders is a full-time author and journalist and has written numerous books for adults and children. She has worked for newspapers and magazines in the UK, including *The Sunday Times*, *Sunday Express*, *Daily Telegraph*, *She* and *Cosmopolitan*. She has also been a regular contributor to radio and television, with appearances on the Radio 4 programmes *Woman's Hour*, *Start the Week* and *Kaleidoscope*.

Her books for children have won awards and received rave reviews, and include future classics such as *Beswitched* and *The Whizz Pop Chocolate Shop*. Her adult books include *The Bachelor Boys* and *The Marrying Game*. Kate lives in London.

What the judges said:

"This profoundly moving and magical story tackles the biggest themes – love, family and friendship – set against the horrors of WWI. Kate Saunders' astounding achievement is to have created a modern masterpiece that captures the spirit of a much-loved classic."

Judges:

Lorna Bradbury
Jake Hope
Jonathan Stroud

Deputy Literary Editor, Daily Telegraph
Freelance Reading Development and Children's Book Consultant
Author

Shortlist, selected from a total of 146 entries:

Simon Mason	<i>Running Girl</i>	David Fickling Books/Random House Children's Publishers
Michael Morpurgo	<i>Listen to the Moon</i>	HarperCollins Children's Books
Marcus Sedgwick	<i>The Ghosts of Heaven</i>	Indigo

Previous Children's Book Award winners include:

Chris Riddell	<i>Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse</i>	2013
Sally Gardner	<i>Maggot Moon</i>	2012
Moira Young	<i>Blood Red Road</i>	2011
Jason Wallace	<i>Out of Shadows</i>	2010
Patrick Ness	<i>The Ask and the Answer (Chaos Walking, Book Two)</i>	2009
Michelle Magorian	<i>Just Henry</i>	2008
Ann Kelley	<i>The Bower Bird</i>	2007
Linda Newbery	<i>Set in Stone</i>	2006
Kate Thompson	<i>The New Policeman</i>	2005
Geraldine McCaughrean	<i>Not the End of the World</i>	2004
David Almond	<i>The Fire-Eaters</i>	2003

Notes for Editors:

About the Costa Book Awards:

- The Costa Book Awards, formerly the Whitbread Book Awards, were established in 1971 to encourage, promote and celebrate the best contemporary British writing.
- The total prize fund for the Costa Book Awards – including the Costa Short Story Award - stands at £60,000.
- The award winners from the five categories - Novel, First Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book - each receive £5,000.
- The overall Costa Book of the Year is selected from the five category Award winners with the winner receiving a further £30,000.
- The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in central London on 27th January, 2015.
- To be eligible for the 2014 awards, books must have been first published in the UK or Ireland between 1 November 2013 and 31 October 2014.
- The 2013 Costa Book of the Year was *The Shock of the Fall* by Nathan Filer (Borough Press).

About Costa:

Costa is the UK's favourite coffee shop, having been awarded "Best Branded Coffee Shop Chain in the UK and Ireland" by Allegra Strategies for four years running (2010, 2011, 2012 & November 2013).

Winner of "Best Branded Coffee Chain in Europe" Allegra Strategies 2011, 2012 and 2013.

With over 1,700 coffee shops in the UK and more than 1,000 overseas, Costa is the fastest-growing coffee shop business in the UK and the second largest coffee shop operator in the world. Founded in London by Italian brothers Sergio and Bruno Costa in 1971, Costa has become the UK's favourite coffee shop chain and has recently diversified into both the at-home and gourmet self-serve markets.

Costa employs over 11,000 people and is creating around 1,500 jobs this year and over 4,500 jobs in the next three years in the UK

Costa is committed to looking after coffee-growers. That's why we've established The Costa Foundation, a registered charity. The Costa Foundation's aims are to relieve poverty, advance education and the health and environment of coffee-growing communities around the world. So far, The Costa Foundation has funded the building of 42 schools and improved the social and economic welfare of coffee-growing communities.