

Editorial

Welcome to the fifteenth issue of *Flash*, which features new stories from Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, and the USA.

This issue's 'Flash Presents' contains four haunting and humorous pieces – 'City', 'Sale', 'Chances', and 'The Test' – from Ian Seed's mesmerizing *Makers of Empty Dreams* (2014). (For a review of Seed's *Threadbare Fables* (2012), see *Flash*, 6.1.)

'Flash Reviews' opens with Brian Baker's thoughtful evaluation of a major new anthology, *Flash Fiction International*, edited by flash luminaries James Thomas, Robert Shapard, and Christopher Merrill. Alyce Cook welcomes Silvina Ocampo's *Thus Were Their Faces*, a retrospective selection of stories in translation from an important Argentine writer often overlooked abroad. Holly Howitt, Eileen J. Pollard, and Paul McDonald consider new collections from the USA: Grant Faulkner's *Fissures*, Karen Stefano's *The Secret Games of Words*, and Paul Beckman's *Peek*. Sarah Taylor enjoys *Short Christmas Stories*, a children's stocking filler by Britain's Maggie Pearson. (Pearson's *Short and Shocking!* (2002), also for children, was showcased in 'Flash Presents' in *Flash*, 6.1.) Complementing Howitt's review of Faulkner's 100-word stories, Beret Olsen assesses Michael A. Kechula's *Micro Fiction*, a guide to crafting the drabble.

The editors are delighted to announce the publication of Meg Tuite's *Lined Up Like Scars: Flash Fictions*. Sassy and incisive, tender yet scalpel-sharp, *Lined Up Like Scars* is the second in a series of chapbooks published by Flash: The International Short-Short Story Press. It follows our inaugural publication, David Swann's *Stronger Faster Shorter*. New stories by both authors appear in this issue.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of the International Flash Fiction Association (IFFA). For information about *Lined Up Like Scars* and the IFFA, please see the 'Advertisements' section. To order Press publications or to join the IFFA, please visit our website.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler

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- 'City'
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- 'Chances'
- 'The Test'

Flash Reviews

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Silvina Ocampo, *Thus Were Their Faces*

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Michael A. Kechula, *Micro Fiction*

- Reviewer: *Beret Olsen*

Advertisements

International Flash Fiction Association