

Editorial

Welcome to the fifth issue of *Flash*. This issue includes new stories from Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, and the USA, amongst them two firsts for *Flash*: a story (by Serbian Ivan Antić) in translation and a literary tweet (by Canadian Marc MacKenzie). MacKenzie's micro fiction was chosen by Stephen Fry from thousands entered in the 2010 *Guardian* Hay Festival's competition to find the world's 'most beautiful tweet'.

'*Flash* Presents' features Booker Prize-winning Canadian Margaret Atwood and South African poet Kelwyn Sole. Each is represented here by pieces from outstanding collections – *Murder in the Dark* and *Land Dreaming* – that blur the distinction between flash fiction and prose poetry. Readers of *Flash* can purchase Atwood's *Murder in the Dark* at a discount (see 'Flash Presents'). They can also get 50% off membership of conservation charity the John Muir Trust (see 'Advertisements').

In 'Flash Reviews', Laura Tansley follows *The White Road* by Tania Hershman, Christine Simon finds Nik Perring's *Not So Perfect* almost perfect, and Francesca Haig is fascinated by *How Some People Like Their Eggs*, by Sean Lovelace.

Past contributors are in our thoughts. This issue includes new stories by Bernard MacLaverty and Kobus Moolman, both previously featured in 'Flash Presents', while our congratulations go to South African novelists Michael Cawood Green and Sally-Ann Murray: Green's *For the Sake of Silence* (2008; 2010) has been awarded the 2009 Olive Schreiner Prize, and Murray's *Small Moving Parts* (2009), excerpted in *Flash* 3.1, has garnered 2010's M-Net Literary Award and Herman Charles Bosman Prize. We would like to dedicate this issue to Beryl Bainbridge (1934–2010), who helped launch *Flash*, in October 2008, by kindly contributing a story.

Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler

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