

Editorial

Welcome to the eleventh issue of *Flash*. This issue features new stories from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Singapore, and the USA. We are delighted to open with the winner of the inaugural Gladstone's Library flash-fiction competition, 'Naranjito's Daughter' by Irish novelist, poet, and short-story writer Nuala Ní Chonchúir. (For information about Gladstone's Library, see our 'Advertisements' section.) We are also pleased to reprint two entrancing pieces from Ian Seed's *Shifting Registers* (2011).

2013 has been a good year for the recognition of the short story. Our congratulations go to the USA's Lydia Davis, awarded this year's Man Booker International Prize for her generally *very* short fiction, and to Canada's Alice Munro, a previous winner of the Man Booker International, awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for her short stories. To celebrate Davis's achievement in the short-short form, we devote our '*Flash* Presents' section to her wonderful *Collected Stories* (2010), from which we are honoured to reprint four pieces.

In our second-ever '*Flash* Essay', 'The Mystery of Memory; or How to Write Memoir-ish', Jane Hertenstein introduces the flash memoir. In '*Flash* Reviews', Alyce Cook marvels at the daring of feted Latin American fabulist Ana María Shua's *Without a Net*, translated from the Spanish by Steven J. Stewart. Two sequels are weighed against influential predecessors: Tony Williams finds David Gaffney still shooting from the hip in *More Sawn-Off Tales*, and Holly Howitt-Dring gets more than she bargained for when she engages with Dan Rhodes's *Marry Me*. Derek Alsop takes up his pen to assess the absurdist potential of *Lift Your Right Arm* by punster Peter Cherches. And Ashley Chantler takes some pleasure in getting around, at long last, to almost reviewing *The Book of Idle Pleasures*, edited by Tom Hodgkinson and Dan Kieran. Each review is accompanied by a sample story.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler

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Tom Hodgkinson and Dan Kieran (eds), *The Book of Idle Pleasures*

- Reviewer: *Ashley Chantler*
- Sample story: 'Skimming Stones', *Tom Hodgkinson*

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