

COSTA BOOK AWARDS 2011

CATEGORY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

* Novelist Andrew Miller and debut biographer Matthew Hollis triumph over Julian Barnes and Claire Tomalin to win the Costa Novel and Biography Awards respectively

* Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy collects the Costa Poetry Award for *The Bees*

* First-time writer and nurse, Christie Watson, takes the Costa First Novel Award for *Tiny Sunbirds Far Away*

* Debut authors scoop three out of the five 2011 Award categories with Moira Young winning the Costa Children's Book Award with her first novel, *Blood Red Road*

London, 19.30pm 3rd January 2012: Costa Coffee today announces the Costa Book Awards 2011 winners in the Novel, First Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book categories.

The Costa Book Awards recognise some of the most outstanding and enjoyable books of the last year by writers based in the UK and Ireland.

Originally established in 1971 by Whitbread PLC, Costa announced its takeover of the sponsorship of the UK's popular and prestigious book prize in 2006. 2011 marks the 40th year of the Book Awards.

The five successful authors who will now compete for the 2011 Costa Book of the Year are:

- **Poet and debut biographer Matthew Hollis, who beats Claire Tomalin's bestselling *Dickens* to take the Costa Biography Award for his first work of prose, *Now All Roads Leads to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas***
- **Andrew Miller who triumphs over Julian Barnes, winner of the 2011 Man Booker Prize, to take the Costa Novel Award with his sixth novel, *Pure***
- **Debut novelist and former Great Ormond Street nurse, Christie Watson, who wins the Costa First Novel Award for *Tiny Sunbirds Far Away*, set in the Niger Delta**
- **Carol Ann Duffy who wins the Costa Poetry Award for *The Bees*, her first collection since being appointed Poet Laureate in 2009**
- **Former opera singer and debut children's writer, Moira Young, who wins the Costa Children's Book Award for *Blood Red Road*, currently being adapted for film by Scott Free, Ridley Scott's production company**

"The Costa Book Awards have an excellent track record of recognising and celebrating some of the very best current British writing, and books that can be enjoyed by everyone," said John Derkach, Managing Director, Costa. "We're very proud to be announcing such a terrific collection of books which we know people will enjoy reading."

The five Costa Book Award winners, each of whom will receive £5,000, were selected from 568 entries. The five books are now eligible for the ultimate prize - the 2011 Costa Book of the Year.

The winner, selected by a panel of judges chaired by Editor of the *London Evening Standard*, Geordie Greig and comprising Hugh Dennis, Dervla Kirwan, Mary Nightingale, William Fiennes, Flora Fraser, Patrick Gale, Jojo Moyes and Eleanor Updale, will be announced at an awards ceremony hosted by presenter and broadcaster Penny Smith at Quaglino's in central London on Tuesday 24th January 2012.

Since the introduction of the Book of the Year award in 1985, it has been won nine times by a novel, four 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 2010 Costa Book of the Year was *Of Mutability* by Jo Shapcott.

For additional information go to www.costabookawards.com

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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2011 Costa Book Award Winners

Costa Novel Award	<i>Pure</i>	Andrew Miller
Costa First Novel Award	<i>Tiny Sunbirds Far Away</i>	Christie Watson
Costa Biography Award	<i>Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas</i>	Matthew Hollis
Costa Poetry Award	<i>The Bees</i>	Carol Ann Duffy
Costa Children's Book Award	<i>Blood Red Road</i>	Moira Young

Previous Books of the Year

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

2011 Costa Novel Award

Pure by Andrew Miller

Sceptre

About the book:

Deep in the heart of Paris its oldest cemetery is, by 1785, overflowing. Its stench hangs in the air, tainting the very breath of those who live nearby. The over-filled graves pop and burst, filling people's basements with bones and spreading disease across the capital. But the cemetery's roots are embedded deep in the hearts and minds of the people, for whom the graveyard has long provided a backdrop to their daily lives. Into their midst comes Jean-Baptiste Baratte, a young, provincial engineer charged by the king with demolishing it. At first Baratte sees this as a chance to clear the burden of history. But before long, he begins to suspect that the destruction of the cemetery might be a prelude to his own.

About the author:

Andrew Miller was born in Bristol in 1960. He has lived in Spain, Japan, Ireland and France, and currently lives in Somerset.

His first novel, *Ingenious Pain*, won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and the Grinzane Cavour prize in Italy. The book has been translated into 36 languages.

He has since written five novels: *Casanova*, *Oxygen*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award and the Booker Prize in 2001, *The Optimists*, *One Morning Like a Bird* and *Pure*.

What the judges said:

“A structurally and stylistically flawless historical novel, this book is a gripping story, beautifully written and emotionally satisfying. A novel without a weakness from an author who we all feel deserves a wider readership.”

Judges

Patrick Gale	<i>Novelist</i>
Emma Milne-White	<i>Owner, The Hungerford Bookshop</i>
Michael Prodger	<i>Critic and former Literary Editor, Sunday Telegraph</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 149 entries:

Julian Barnes	<i>The Sense of an Ending</i>	Jonathan Cape
John Burnside	<i>A Summer of Drowning</i>	Jonathan Cape
Louisa Young	<i>My Dear I Wanted to Tell You</i>	HarperCollins

Previous Novel Award winners include:

Maggie O'Farrell	<i>The Hand That First Held Mine</i>	2010
Colm Toibin	<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

2011 Costa First Novel Award

Tiny Sunbirds Far Away by Christie Watson

Quercus

About the book:

Blessing and her brother Ezekiel adore their larger-than-life father, their glamorous mother and their comfortable life in Lagos. But all that changes when their father leaves them for another woman. Their mother is fired from her job at the Royal Imperial Hotel – only married women can work there – and soon they have to quit their air-conditioned apartment to go and live with their grandparents in a compound in the Niger Delta. Adapting to life with a poor countryside family is a shock beyond measure.

About the author:

Christie Watson is a qualified nurse and part-time resuscitation officer working clinically and teaching across two London teaching hospitals. She began her nurse training at Great Ormond Street Hospital aged seventeen and worked for eighteen years in a variety of settings, eventually focusing on Children's Intensive Care at St Mary's Hospital.

Christie grew up in Stevenage and worked part-time from the age of thirteen. After leaving school and home at sixteen, she fell into nursing, but always wanted to write. She began writing while on maternity leave and won a place on the UEA Creative Writing MA, where she was awarded the Malcolm Bradbury Bursary. *Tiny Sunbirds Far Away* began life as a short story and was the very first fiction Christie had ever written.

Christie was inspired to write the book after her first visit to Nigeria over ten years ago. She also wanted to write about political issues as well as her family. Her partner is Nigerian and Muslim and they have three daughters and a diverse family of many different faiths and backgrounds all over Nigeria and the UK.

Christie continues to write, nurse, and raise her children in London which she says, apart from Lagos, is the best city in the world.

What the judges said:

“This book was our unanimous winner. Readability and literary merit go hand in hand in this vibrant gem of a novel.”

Judges:

Henry Layte	<i>Owner, The Book Hive Bookshop, Norwich</i>
Emma Lee-Potter	<i>Journalist</i>
Jojo Moyes	<i>Author</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 87 entries:

Kevin Barry	<i>City of Bohane</i>	Jonathan Cape
Patrick McGuinness	<i>The Last Hundred Days</i>	Seren
Kerry Young	<i>Pao</i>	Bloomsbury

Previous First Novel Award winners include:

Kishwar Desai	<i>Witness the Night</i>	2010
Raphael Selbourne	<i>Beauty</i>	2009
Sadie Jones	<i>The Outcast</i>	2008
Catherine O’Flynn	<i>What Was Lost</i>	2007
Stef Penney	<i>The Tenderness of Wolves</i>	2006
Tash Aw	<i>The Harmony Silk Factory</i>	2005
Susan Fletcher	<i>Eve Green</i>	2004
DBC Pierre	<i>Vernon God Little</i>	2003

2011 Costa Biography Award

***Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas* by Matthew Hollis**

Faber and Faber

About the book:

Now All Roads Lead to France is an account of the final five years of Edward Thomas’s life, centred on his extraordinary friendship with Robert Frost and Thomas’s fatal decision to fight in the First World War. The book also evokes an astonishingly creative moment in English literature: characters such as W B Yeats, Ezra Pound, Robert Frost and Rupert Brooke surround a central figure, tormented by his work and his marriage. As his friendship with Frost blossomed, Thomas wrote poem after poem, and his emotional affliction began to lift. In 1914, the two friends formed the ideas that would produce some of the most remarkable verse of the twentieth century. But the War put an ocean between them: Frost returned to the safety of New England while Thomas stayed to fight, culminating in his tragic death on Easter Monday 1917.

About the author:

Matthew Hollis was born in 1971 in Norwich, and studied at the universities of Edinburgh and York. His first collection of poems, *Ground Water* (2004), is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and was shortlisted for the 2004 Guardian First Book Award, the Whitbread Poetry Award and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. He also edited *101 Poems Against War* (2003) with Paul Keegan, and *Strong Words: Modern Poets on Modern Poetry* (2000) with W N Herbert.

In 2001 he took part in the Arts Council 'First Lines' UK poetry tour, and was selected by the British Council to participate in 'Write On!' (Croatia) and 'Converging Lines' (Hungary) in 2004. He is a tutor for the Poetry School in London and has taught creative writing in schools and universities. In 2011, he edited the *Selected Poems of Edward Thomas* and wrote *Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas*, his first prose book and winner of the 2011 H W Fisher Best First Biography Prize. Matthew Hollis lives in London where he works as an editor at Faber and Faber.

What the judges said:

“Dramatic and engrossing. A brilliant biography that moved us all.”

Judges:

Sue Baker	<i>Reviewer (The Bookseller/lovereading.co.uk)</i>
Peter Donaldson	<i>Owner, Red Lion Bookshop, Colchester</i>
Flora Fraser	<i>Writer/Historical Biographer</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 123 entries:

Julia Blackburn	<i>Thin Paths: Journeys In and Around An Italian Mountain Village</i>	Jonathan Cape
Patrick & Henry Cockburn	<i>Henry's Demons: Living with Schizophrenia, A Father and Son's Story</i>	Simon and Schuster
Claire Tomalin	<i>Charles Dickens: A Life</i>	Viking

Previous Biography Award winners include:

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

2011 Costa Poetry Award

The Bees by Carol Ann Duffy

Picador

About the book:

The Bees is Carol Ann Duffy's first collection of new poems as Poet Laureate and finds Duffy using her full poetic range. There are drinking songs, love poems, poems to the weather, poems of political anger - there are elegies, too, for beloved friends and most movingly, the poet's own mother. As Duffy's voice rises in this collection, her music intensifies and every poem patterns itself into song. Weaving through the book is its presiding spirit: the bee. In the end, Duffy's point is clear: the bee symbolizes what we have left of grace in the world, and what is most precious and necessary for us to protect.

About the author:

Poet Laureate **Carol Ann Duffy** was born in Glasgow and read philosophy at Liverpool University.

Her adult poetry collections include *Standing Female Nude* (1985), *Selling Manhattan* (1987), which won a Somerset Maugham Award, *The Other Country* (1990), *Mean Time* (1993), which won the Whitbread Poetry

Award and the Forward Poetry Prize (Best Poetry Collection of the Year), *The World's Wife* (1999), *Feminine Gospels* (2002), and *Rapture* (2005), winner of the T. S. Eliot Prize. She has also won the Lannan Literary Award and the E. M. Forster Prize in America.

Carol Ann Duffy has won the Signal Prize for Children's Verse and she also writes picture books for children including *Underwater Farmyard*, *Moon Zoo* and *The Princess's Blankets*. She has written three Christmas poetry books: *Mrs Scrooge*, *Another Night Before Christmas* and *The Christmas Truce* and has edited several poetry anthologies. She is also an acclaimed playwright and has had plays performed at the The Young Vic, Liverpool Playhouse, and Bristol Old Vic.

Carol Ann Duffy lives in Manchester and is Creative Director of the Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University. She became Poet Laureate in 2009, the first woman to hold the post, and was awarded an OBE in 1995, a CBE in 2001 and became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1999.

What the judges said:

"We were thrilled by the poet's musical feeling for language and her spellbinding ability to combine naturalness and formal complexity. It's a joyful collection."

Judges:

Sarah Crown	<i>Editor, guardian.co.uk/books</i>
William Fiennes	<i>Author</i>
Sharon Murray	<i>Director of Operations, Hammicks</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 79 entries:

David Harsent	<i>Night</i>	Faber and Faber
Jackie Kay	<i>Fiere</i>	Picador
Sean O'Brien	<i>November</i>	Picador

Previous Poetry Award winners include:

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

2011 Costa Children's Book Award

***Blood Red Road* by Moira Young**

Marion Lloyd Books

About the book:

Blood Red Road is set in a lawless future land, where life is cheap and survival is hard. Saba's twin brother is stolen by mysterious, black-robed riders. She sets out on a desperate journey to find him. Ahead lie violence and treachery, and Saba will need a spirit as tough as her crossbow to survive. But her companions are the cleverest bird that ever flew, and a handsome thief with eyes the colour of moonlight...

About the author:

Moira Young was born in 1959 in New Westminster, British Columbia, and is of Scots and Cornish descent.

After graduating from the University of British Columbia with a degree in European History, she moved to the UK to attend The Drama Studio, gaining her equity card on the alternative comedy circuit in the mid-80s. She became a tap-dancing chorus girl in London's West End, appearing in *High Society*, directed by Richard Eyre, before returning to Canada and retraining as an opera singer. In 1991, Moira won the Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions in Western Canada and she has sung in opera throughout the UK and Europe.

Moira wrote her first book aged nine but didn't take up writing seriously until 2003, when she enrolled on Elizabeth Hawkins' Writing for Children course and workshop at the City Lit.

In 2006, Moira moved to Bath, where she still lives with her husband, and worked at the Bath Chronicle as PA to the Editor. She is now a full-time writer and is working on her second book. *Blood Red Road* has recently been optioned for film by Ridley Scott's production company, Scott Free UK, and is currently being adapted by award-winning playwright and screenwriter, Jack Thorne.

What the judges said:

"It's astonishing how, in her first novel, Moira Young has so successfully bound believable characters into a heart-stopping adventure. She kept us reading, and left us hungry for more. A really special book."

Judges:

Helen Fospero	<i>Television presenter</i>
Eleanor Updale	<i>Author</i>
Tony West	<i>Manager, Lion and Unicorn Bookshop, Richmond</i>

Shortlist, selected from a total of 130 entries:

Martyn Bedford	<i>Flip</i>	Walker Books
Frank Cottrell Boyce	<i>The Unforgotten Coat</i>	Walker Books
Lissa Evans	<i>Small Change for Stuart</i>	Doubleday

Previous Children's Book Award winners include:

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 stands at £55,000. 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 the awards ceremony hosted in central London on 24th January, 2012.
- To be eligible for the 2011 awards, books must have been first published in the UK or Ireland between 1 November 2010 and 31 October 2011.
- The 2011 winner of the Costa Book of the Year was Jo Shapcott for *Of Mutability* (Faber).

About Costa:

The UK's favourite coffee shop*

Awarded ***“Best Branded Coffee Shop Chain in the UK and Ireland”*** by Allegra Strategies for two years running (November 2010 & November 2011).

“Best Branded Coffee Chain in Europe” Allegra Strategies November 2011

- Costa was founded by Italian brothers Sergio and Bruno Costa in 1971.
- Just 1% of the world’s production of coffee is good enough for us to choose from.
- Only the very best 100% RFA certified coffee available can go into creating the unique taste and aroma of our Mocha Italia blend.
- Costa is the nation's favourite coffee shop brand and has grown to become the sector leader within the UK and the second largest international coffee shop operator.
- At present the company has more than 1,800 stores in 25 countries: Bahrain, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Montenegro, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Ireland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.
- The Costa Foundation was set up in 2006 to give something back to the communities within the countries from which Costa sources its coffee beans. The Costa Foundation works with an independent charity partner, Charities Trust, and is operating under the auspices of Charities Trust’s registered charity number 327489.
- Costa Ltd is part of the Whitbread Group PLC.

*Allegra’s research of 16,458 consumers for their Project Cafe 10 report in December 2010 reveals Costa Coffee is now the UK’s favourite coffee shop