

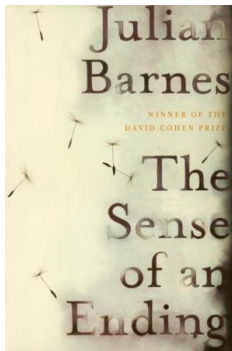
## SHORTLIST FOR THE 2011 COSTA NOVEL AWARD

### Judges

Patrick Gale  
Emma Milne-White  
Michael Prodger

### Novelist

Owner, *The Hungerford Bookshop*  
Critic and former *Literary Editor, Sunday Telegraph*



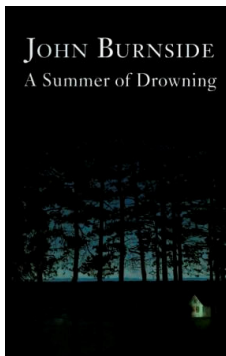
### **The Sense of an Ending** by Julian Barnes (Jonathan Cape)

Tony Webster and his clique first met Adrian Finn at school. Sex-hungry and book-hungry, they would navigate the girl-less sixth form together, trading in affectations, in-jokes, rumour and wit. Maybe Adrian was a little more serious than the others, certainly more intelligent, but they all swore to stay friends for life. Now Tony is in middle age. He's had a

career and a single marriage, a calm divorce. He's certainly never tried to hurt anybody. Memory, though, is imperfect. It can always throw up surprises, as a lawyer's letter is about to prove.

**Julian Barnes** is the author of ten previous novels, including *Flaubert's Parrot* and *Arthur & George* and three books of short stories. His work has been translated into more than thirty languages and in France, he is the only writer to have won both the Prix Médicis (for *Flaubert's Parrot*) and the Prix Femina (for *Talking it Over*). He was awarded the David Cohen Prize for Literature and the Man Booker Prize in 2011. He lives in London.

**Judges:** "The work of a superb writer with all the quiet confidence of maturity. A tale crafted with a watchmaker's art that questions our ideas of truth and memory."



### **A Summer of Drowning** by John Burnside (Jonathan Cape)

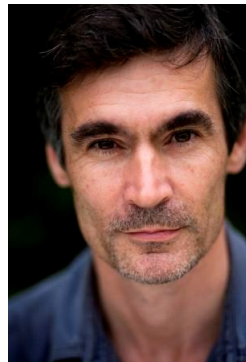
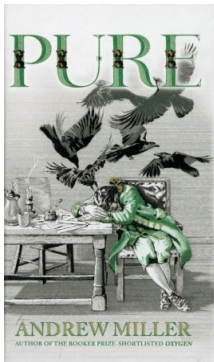
Painter Angelika Rossdal suddenly moves to Kvaloya, a small island deep in the Arctic Circle, with her young daughter, Liv, who grows up isolated and unable or unwilling to make friends her own age. Spending much of her time alone, or with an elderly neighbour, Liv is beguiled with old folk tales and stories about trolls,

mermaids and the *buldra*, a wild spirit who appears in the form of an irresistibly beautiful girl, to lure young men to their doom. Now 28, Liv looks back on her life and to that

summer when two boys drowned under mysterious circumstances off the shores of Kvaloya. As the summer continues and events take an even darker turn, Liv comes to believe that something supernatural is happening on the island. But is it?

**John Burnside** has published seven works of fiction and eleven collections of poetry, including *The Asylum Dance*, which won the 2000 Whitbread Poetry Award. His *Selected Poems* was published in 2006, alongside his memoir, *A Lie About My Father*, which was the Saltire Scottish Book of the Year. The second volume of his memoir, *Waking Up In Toytown*, was published in 2010.

**Judges:** “We were enthralled and haunted by this ambiguous and unsettling evocation of a lonely girl’s preoccupation with the darker shores of Nordic myth.”



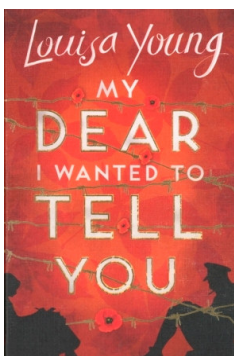
**Pure by Andrew Miller** (*Sceptre*)

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.

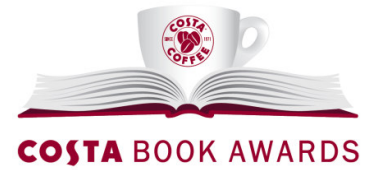
**Andrew Miller** was born in Bristol and, having lived in Spain, Japan, Ireland and France, currently lives in Somerset. His first novel, *Ingenious Pain*, won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Fiction, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and the Grinzane Cavour Prize in Italy. He has since written four novels including *Oxygen*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel Award and the Booker Prize in 2001.

**Judges:** “As compassionate as it is ingenious, *Pure* confirms Miller as a superlative technician - a master of register, narrative and characterisation.”



**My Dear I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young** (*HarperCollins*)

While Riley Purefoy and Peter Locke fight for their country, their survival and their sanity in the trenches of Flanders, Nadine Waveney, Julia Locke and Rose Locke do what they can at home. Each day, beautiful, obsessive Julia goes through rituals to prepare for her beloved husband Peter’s



ever-imminent return. Riley and Nadine, only eighteen when the war started, and with problems of their own already, want above all to make promises – but how can they, when the future is not in their hands? And Rose? Well, what did happen to the traditionally brought-up women who lost all hope of marriage, because all the young men were dead?

**Louisa Young** was born in London. She was for many years a freelance journalist, working mostly for the motorcycle press, *Marie Claire* and the *Guardian*. She has travelled widely and published ten books. She lives in London and Italy with her daughter and the composer Robert Lockhart. She is the adult half of Zizou Corder, authors of the best-selling *Lionboy* trilogy, which is published in 36 languages.

**Judges:** “A fresh take on seemingly familiar territory – World War One. A harrowing story and gripping romance of equal appeal to men and women.”