



The Royal Society
of Literature



Kate Lockwood Jefford

wins the £1,000

V. S. Pritchett Short Story Prize 2020

with

‘Picasso’s Face’

The 2020 judges of the Prize, which is awarded for the year’s best unpublished short story, are **Kate Clanchy**, **Barbara Jenkins** and **Derek Owusu**.

Kate Clanchy: ‘A beautifully sustained study of character and place, elegantly shaped and beautifully written.’

Barbara Jenkins: ‘An intriguing, disturbing and puzzling tale on a little discussed subject.’

Derek Owusu: ‘A story you read more than once, each time picking up on the skilfully placed subtleties that enhance the experience.’

Kate Lockwood Jefford worked as an NHS psychiatrist and psychotherapist and has an MA in Creative Writing from Birkbeck. She came first in Sunderland/Waterstones ‘Sun’ competition in 2019 and third in Brick Lane Bookshop’s competition 2020. Kate is from Cardiff and is working on a collection of short fiction and a novel. **Kate says on winning, ‘this is a very special milestone for me as a writer. To be chosen for this Prize, celebrating a great writer, and by three judges whose work I admire so much, is a real boost. I’m bowled over.’**

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Notes to Editors

The 2020 shortlist



Susan Clegg ‘Dogwood’

‘A story that turns the mundane into magic, sleight of hand sentences that the eyes can’t help but follow.’ – Derek Owusu. Susan Clegg gained a Distinction in MA Creative Writing from Sheffield Hallam University in 2013. Her short stories have been published in *The Stinging Fly*



Charlotte Derrick ‘Christmastime, Paracetamol, and Wine’

‘Acute characterisation in a moving tragic tale.’ – Barbara Jenkins. Charlotte Derrick was the winner of Spread the Word’s Life Writing Prize 2019. Her work has been featured in many publications including *The Honest Ulsterman*, *The Open Ear* and *The Esthetic Apostle*.



Ciarán Folan ‘Spell’

‘An intricate, intriguing and elegant story with its mystery laced in character.’ – Kate Clanchy. Ciarán Folan has had stories published in *New Irish Writing*, *The Dublin Review* and *The London Magazine*. He has won the RTÉ Francis MacManus Short Story Award twice and was a runner-up in the Michael McLaverty Short Story Award in 2016 and 2018.



Ed Hogan ‘A Guide to Household Infestations’

‘Wonderfully paced reveals.’ – Barbara Jenkins. Edward Hogan’s novels include *The Electric* (John Murray, 2020) and *Blackmoor*, which won the Desmond Elliott Prize.



Sarah Zimmerman ‘Lexi’

‘An account of childhood trauma told in sharp, high-coloured prose.’ – Kate Clanchy. Sarah Midori Zimmerman was born and raised in Berkeley, California. One of her stories was shortlisted for the 2020 Mogford Prize.

History of the Prize

Prospect

The V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize was founded by the RSL in 1999 to commemorate the centenary of an author widely regarded as the finest English short story writer of the 20th century. The Prize seeks to preserve a tradition encompassing Pritchett’s mastery of narrative.

Each story is anonymous when read, by a different panel of judges each year. The RSL is grateful to *Prospect* for publishing the winning entry online.

Royal Society of Literature

Founded in 1820, the RSL is Britain’s national charity for the advancement of literature. We act as a national voice for the value of literature, engage people in appreciating literature, and encourage and honour writers. In addition to the V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize, the RSL awards annually the new RSL Christopher Bland Prize for debut writers over 50, the RSL Ondaatje Prize for books best evoking the spirit of a place, the Encore Award for best second novel of the year, the RSL Giles St Aubyn Awards for Non-Fiction (first major commissioned works) and the RSL Literature Matters Awards to reward and enable literary excellence and innovation.