

Editorial

Welcome to the twelfth issue of *Flash*, which features new stories from Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Ethiopia, France, India, Ireland, Sri Lanka, and the USA. It opens with the winner of the UK's inaugural National Flash Fiction Youth Competition (2014), 'Unborn' by Seeun Choi, a talented A-level student at Cardiff Sixth Form College. The competition was organized by *Flash* and the Department of English, University of Chester; it was judged by the editors and leading flash-author David Gaffney. For further information and to read the two runners-up, see *Flash's* website.

'*Flash Presents*' contains four pieces – 'A Harbinger', 'Doctor Chevalier's Lie', 'Old Aunt Peggy', and 'Ripe Figs' – by Kate Chopin (1850–1904), a writer of subtle and often poignant fiction set mostly in 1870s and 1880s Louisiana, in the post-Civil War American South.

In our third-ever '*Flash Essay*', 'Samuel Beckett's Faint Fiction', Tim Lawrence reminds us that the great playwright and novelist was also author of haunting, lyrical fragments that might best be regarded as flashes. Alongside the essay, we are pleased to reprint 'The Cliff', translated from Beckett's original French.

'*Flash Reviews*' ranges from the humorous (*Flash Fiction Funny*) to the serious (*Flashes of War*), the masculine (*Beasts and Men*) to the feminine (*The Kind of Girl*), and concludes with a novella-in-flashes (*Liliane's Balcony*). Each review is accompanied by a sample story. One of the pieces collected in *Flashes of War*, by Katey Schultz, was first published in *Flash*, 4.1. Readers interested in Schultz's collection may also like reviewer Vanessa Gebbie's *Storm Warning: Echoes of Conflict* (2010), reviewed in *Flash*, 4.2. A new, related story by Gebbie appears in this current issue, in which David Swann is also attuned to echoes of war.

We hope you enjoy *Flash*.

Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler

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- Sample story: 'The Cliff'

***Flash* Reviews**

Tom Hazuka (ed.), *Flash Fiction Funny*

- Reviewer: *Andrew Tate*
- Sample story: 'The Waiting Game' *Arthur Hoppe*

Katey Schultz, *Flashes of War*

- Reviewer: *Vanessa Gebbie*
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Kelcey Parker, *Liliane's Balcony*

- Reviewer: *Christine Simon*
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