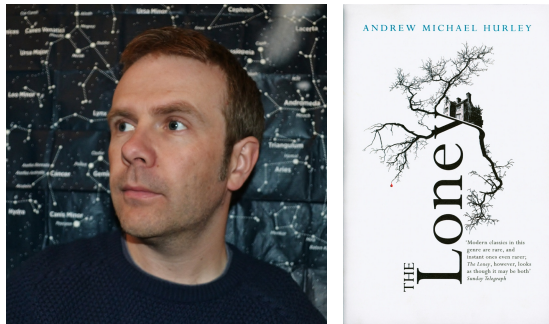


COSTA FIRST NOVEL AWARD WINNER 2015



The Loney by Andrew Michael Hurley *John Murray*

About the book:

'If it had another name, I never knew, but the locals called it the Loney - that strange nowhere between the Wyre and the Lune where Hanny and I went every Easter time with Mummer, Farther, Mr and Mrs Belderboss and Father Wilfred, the parish priest. It was impossible to truly know the place. It changed with each influx and retreat, and the neap tides would reveal the skeletons of those who thought they could escape its insidious currents. No one ever went near the water. No one apart from us, that is. I suppose I always knew that what happened there wouldn't stay hidden forever, no matter how much I wanted it to. No matter how hard I tried to forget . . .'

About the author:

Andrew Michael Hurley is from Preston in Lancashire and, after living in Manchester and London, he returned to the north-west in 1999 where he lives with his family. Before the success of *The Loney*, writing had to be fitted in first around teaching and then library work and, before tackling a novel, he published two collections of short stories – *Cages* (2006) and *The Unusual Death of Julie Christie* (2008). He still continues to teach Creative Writing on a freelance basis.

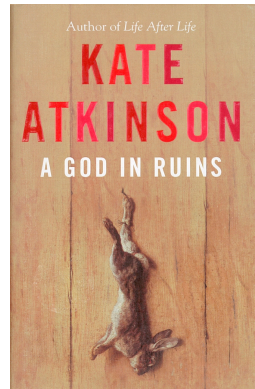
The Loney was originally published in November 2014 by Tartarus Press in North Yorkshire as a limited edition hardback and as an e-book. After many good reviews in the trade press and in supernatural fiction magazines, the novel was credited in a *Sunday Telegraph* article as being part of a new wave of British gothic fiction. It was shortlisted for the inaugural James Herbert Award in 2015.

In February 2015, the rights to *The Loney* were acquired by John Murray (Hodder) and since then it has gone on to be published in several different languages and the film rights have been sold. Hurley appeared at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August and *The Loney* was the book of the festival at Sheffield's 'Off the Shelf' literary events in October. Hurley was inspired to write *The Loney* by the landscape of his native north west, particularly around the lonely Morecambe Bay area, the folklore of northern England and also his own Catholic upbringing.

What the judges said:

"We all agreed this book is as close to the perfect first novel as you can get."

COSTA NOVEL AWARD WINNER 2015



A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson

Doubleday

About the book:

Kate Atkinson's last novel, *Life After Life*, explored the possibility of infinite chances, as Ursula Todd lived through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. In *A God in Ruins*, Atkinson turns her focus on Ursula's beloved younger brother Teddy – would-be poet, RAF bomber pilot, husband and father – as he navigates the perils and progress of the 20th century. Spanning back and forth across his lifetime, Teddy's story offers not the dizzying concept of multiple possibilities but the painful reality of a life quietly lived. A life of courage and warfare, but also of words unspoken, of secret heartbreak and missed opportunities. For all Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge will be to face living in a future he never expected to have.

About the author:

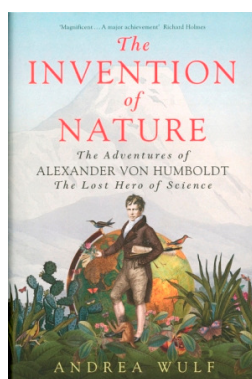
Kate Atkinson won the Whitbread (now Costa) Book of the Year in 1995 with her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*. Her four bestselling novels featuring former detective Jackson Brodie became the BBC television series *Case Histories*, starring Jason Isaacs. Her last novel, *Life After Life*, was the winner of the 2013 Costa Novel Award and the South Bank Sky Arts Literature Prize and was also voted Book of the Year for both the UK and the US Booksellers Associations. She was appointed MBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours List, and was voted Waterstones UK Author of the Year at the 2013 Specsavers National Book Awards.

What the judges said:

"Utterly magnificent and in a class of its own. A genius book."



COSTA BIOGRAPHY AWARD WINNER 2015



The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander Von Humboldt, The Lost Hero of Science by Andrea Wulf

John Murray

About the book:

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) is the great lost scientist. More things have been named after him than anyone who has ever lived – towns, rivers, mountain ranges, a penguin, a giant squid and even the Mare Humboldtianum on the moon. He inspired generations of thinkers and writers – Darwin set sail on the *Beagle* because of Humboldt, Napoleon was jealous of him and Captain Nemo in Jules Verne's famous *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* owned all of his books. Yet today he is almost forgotten. *The Invention of Nature* brings this remarkable man back to life.

About the author:

Historian and writer Andrea Wulf was born in India, moved to Germany as a child, and now lives in Britain where she studied at the Royal College of Art in London. She is the author of several acclaimed books. *The Brother Gardeners* won the American Horticultural Society 2010 Book Award and was longlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize 2008. Her books *Founding Gardeners* and *The Invention of Nature* were on the New York Times Bestseller List.

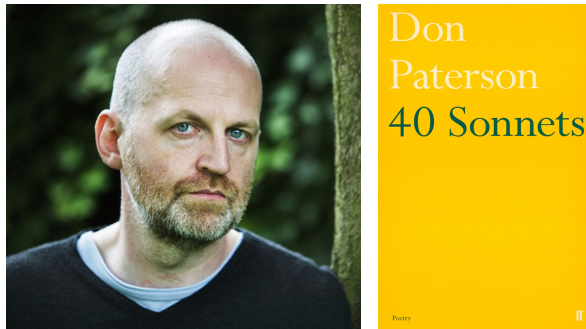
Andrea has written for many newspapers including the *Guardian*, *LA Times*, *WSJ* and *New York Times*. She was the Eccles British Library Writer-in-Residence 2013 and a three-time fellow of the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello. She has lectured widely to large audiences in the UK and US – at the Royal Geographical Society and Royal Society in London, the New York Public Library, Cornell University, Jefferson's Monticello and the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia amongst many others. In 2014 she co-presented the four-part BBC TV garden series *British Gardens in Time* and she appears regularly on radio.

The Invention of Nature was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize 2015 and is shortlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Non-Fiction 2016. It was also chosen as one of the 10 Best Books of 2015 in the *New York Times*.

What the judges said:

"Alexander von Humboldt is the most brilliant polymath you've never heard of. The thrillingly readable story of a visionary 18th century scientist and adventurer who travelled the globe, from the South American rainforests to the Siberian steppes, and foresaw the destructive impact of mankind on the world."

COSTA POETRY AWARD WINNER 2015



40 Sonnets by Don Paterson

Faber and Faber

About the book:

While some take a traditional form, and some are highly experimental, all the poems in this collection display the cool intelligence and lyric gift that has been the hallmark of Paterson's work since his first book, *Nil Nil*, in 1993. Addressed to friends and strangers, the living and the dead, to children, poets, musicians and dogs – as well to as the author himself – these poems display an ambition in their scope and tonal range matched by the breadth of their concerns. In *40 Sonnets*, Paterson returns to his central themes: contradiction and strangeness, tension and transformation, the dream world and the divided self.

About the author:

Don Paterson was born in Dundee in 1963. His previous poetry collections include *Nil Nil*, *God's Gift to Women*, *Landing Light*, *Rain* and *40 Sonnets*. He has also published two books of aphorism, as well as translations of Antonio Machado and Rainer Maria Rilke.

His poetry has won many awards, including the Whitbread Poetry Award (2003), the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and all three Forward Prizes; he is currently the only poet to have won the TS Eliot Prize twice.

He was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2009. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the English Association and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and is currently Professor of Poetry at the University of St Andrews. Since 1997 he has been poetry editor at Picador Macmillan, and he also works as a jazz musician and composer. He lives in Edinburgh.

What the judges said:

"A tour de force by a poet at the height of his powers - these poems buzz with life and intelligence. The stand-out collection of the year."



COSTA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD WINNER 2015



The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge

Macmillan Children's Books

About the book:

When Faith's father is found dead under mysterious circumstances, she is determined to untangle the truth from the lies. Searching through his belongings for clues she discovers a strange tree. A tree that feeds off whispered lies and bears fruit that reveals hidden secrets. But as Faith's untruths spiral out of control, she discovers that where lies seduce, truths shatter....

About the author:

Frances Hardinge was brought up in a sequence of small, sinister English villages, and spent a number of formative years living in a Gothic-looking, mouse-infested hilltop house in Kent. She studied English Language and Literature at Oxford, fell in love with the city's crazed archaic beauty, and lived there for many years.

Whilst working full-time as a technical author for a software company she started writing her first children's novel, *Fly by Night*, and was - with difficulty - persuaded by a good friend to submit the manuscript to Macmillan. *Fly by Night* went on to win the Branford Boase Award, and was also shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Award. Her subsequent books, *Verdigris Deep*, *Gullstruck Island*, *Twilight Robbery*, *A Face Like Glass*, *Cuckoo Song* and *The Lie Tree* are also aimed at children and young adults.

Frances lives in Isleworth, is seldom seen without her hat and is addicted to volcanoes. *The Lie Tree* was shortlisted for the 2015 Independent Bookshop Week Book Awards (Children's Fiction) and Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and is nominated for the 2016 CILIP Carnegie Medal.

What the judges said:

"We all loved this dark, sprawling, fiercely clever novel that blends history and fantasy in a way that will grip readers of all ages."