

**PERILOUS  
ADVENTURES:  
THE WRITERS  
ACCOMPLICE**

# **SHORT STORY COMPETITION RESULTS**

# **CONGRATULATIONS!**

*to the winners of the 2008 short story competition*

## **THE SHORTLIST**

*Dogs*  
by G Fitzgerald

*The Mirror's Kiss*  
by Caroline Fletcher

*Saturday Mornings*  
by Robert Cocker

*Ten Letters, Unsent*  
by Cameron Brockmann

**And The Winner Is ...  
*Ten Letters, Unsent*  
by Cameron Brockmann**



### WINNER

#### ***Ten Letters, Unsent* by Cameron Brockmann**

This story is really impressive: restrained, elegant, and moving. It is intelligent without being obscure or excessively 'writerly', narratively-satisfying, and replete with succinct and eloquent descriptions. The writing is limpid and graceful. It is a wonderful example of a story that says a great deal through a deft arrangement of images and observations. In that sense, it is poetic: saying a great deal in a compact and epigrammatic manner.

### SHORTLISTED ENTRIES

#### ***Dogs* by G Fitzgerald**

This story is a terrific twist on the familiar genre of women traveling in Europe, investing in real estate and engaging in romantic dalliances with the locals. While drawing on this tradition, *Dogs* is a far more adventurous and rewarding story: evoking a sense of the main character's ambiguity about the pleasures of Spain, its men, and some aspects of its culture. The relationship between Linda and Francisco is deftly evoked and developed, and then neatly 'undone' with Linda's discovery of his surprising betrayal. The details of the local Spanish culture inform the tone of growing threat, delicately underscoring the theme of this engaging story.

#### ***Saturday Mornings* by Robert Cocker**

This story is a terrifically tense evocation of a relationship between a troubled father and his young son. The tenderness with which these portraits are drawn is very engaging. The barely-contained threat of the father's anxiety and his potential loss of control add an edge of tension that is both terrifying and perfectly-balanced, investing the story with a mixture of gritty horror, anxiety and empathetic sadness. We were very moved by this story.

#### ***The Mirror's Kiss* by Caroline Fletcher**

This story held us gripped to the last sentence. It's a terrifying story with a wonderful command of pace, and vivid, brave characterisation. The writing is tense and precise, and the horror and cruelty of the characters and their situation pitilessly and clearly drawn. The style is deceptively simple and the denouement that wonderful mixture of being both surprising and inevitable. It truly horrified us!

Congratulations to the winners of the 2008 Perilous Adventures short story competition!

Each of the shortlisted entries, including the winning story, will be published online at [www.perilousadventures.net](http://www.perilousadventures.net) on August 18, 2008.

Thank you to all those who entered; we had a wonderful time reading all of the stories.