**The Love on the Road 2014 Writing Contest**

Malinki Press will accept submissions from May 1, 2014 to July 31, 2014.  They will choose their favorite 12 submissions and send those to their independent panel of judges. The judges will choose first-, second-, and third-prize winners. They'll announce the winners in September and award them prizes of $200, $100, and $50, respectively.

They're looking for stories about two people making a connection, whether this connection is platonic, the kind that leads to a wedding, the kind that just leads to a bed, or the kind that leads to a heartbreak. They're interested in stories about two people traveling together, a traveler who meets someone while on the road, or a person who meets a traveler passing through.

Submissions should be 4,000 to 6,000 words and can be fiction or nonfiction. They must be original and cannot have been previously published. There is a $10 per story reading fee. Go to malinkipress.com.

**Prizes**

**Baileys Women’s Prize for Fiction shortlist**

The shortlist for the first Women’s Prize for Fiction under their new sponsor has been announced…



Every book on this year’s list, bar [***The Undertaking***](http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/products/audrey%2Bmagee/the%2Bundertaking/10090420/), has been previously nominated for a major award – [***A Girl is a Half-formed Thing***](http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/products/eimear%2Bmcbride/a%2Bgirl%2Bis%2Ba%2Bhalf-formed%2Bthing/9673839/) was on [the inaugural Folio Prize list](http://www.waterstones.com/blog/2014/02/inaugural-folio-prize-for-fiction-shortlist-announced/); [***Burial Rites***](http://www.waterstones.com/blog/2014/03/book-club-burial-rites/) was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award; [***The Lowland***](http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/products/jhumpa%2Blahiri/the%2Blowland/9580108/) made it to the Man Booker shortlist; whilst [***Americanah***](http://www.waterstones.com/blog/2014/03/fiction-book-of-the-month-americanah/)beat **Donna Tartt**‘s [***The Goldfinch***](http://www.waterstones.com/waterstonesweb/products/donna%2Btartt/the%2Bgoldfinch/9741716/) to the American National Book Critics’ Circle Award last year.

The winner, to be announced on 4th June, will receive a cheque for £30,000 and a limited edition bronze known as a ‘Bessie’, created by the artist **Grizel Niven**.

**Waterstones Children’s Book Prize 2014**

Oxford University Fellow and tightrope walker **Katherine Rundell** is the overall winner of this year’s Waterstones Children’s Book Prize… **Katherine Rundell** was crowned the overall winner of the 2014 Waterstones Children’s Book Prize. Rundell’s Rooftoppers about a young girl’s race to find her missing mother over Paris’ rooftops, was inspired by the author’s own night-time trespassing on the rooftops of Oxford’s colleges.

Revealed earlier in the night as the winner of the 5-12 age category, ***Rooftoppers*** beat off fierce competition from teen category victor Geek Girl, a debut novel by former model **Holly Smale**, and Open Very Carefully by **Nicola O’Byrne**, which triumphed in the picture book category.

**The Last Word – From Danielle Chinnon**

There is a **FREE** course that members may be interested in: the Open University is running a FREE eight week course on writing entitled, **Start Writing Fiction**, beginning **28th April 2014**. Go to <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/start-writing-fiction>

**Carpe Diem**

**Doris Gooderson Short Story Competition**

Short stories (on any theme), Maximum 1200 words; Closing date **14th July 2014;** Entry fee = £3 per story; First Prize = £150, Second Prize = £70, Third Prize – £40. Entries should be submitted to dorisgooderson@gmail.com

**2014 Swansea & District Writers Circle Short Story Competition**

The 2014 Swansea & District Writers Circle Short Story Competition is their inaugural short story contest, and have decided to theme it around WW1. They welcome stories of between 1500 and 2500 words written in any style, even fantasy, so long as WW1 is central to the narrative.

There are 3 cash prizes, including £100 for the winner. The writers of the best stories will also be offered the chance of publication in an anthology. The closing date is 16 June 2014.

Go to [www.swanseawriters.co.uk](http://www.swanseawriters.co.uk/).

**gritLIT  2014 Writing Competition**

Hamilton's Literary Festival is now taking submissions for this year's Writing Competition!

A submitted story may be up to **3,000 words,** on any subject. A suite of poems may be up to **300 lines,** on any subject.

Poetry submissions may consist of a single poem or multiple poems (up to 15) as long as the total number of lines is 300 or less, including titles. **Deadline: July 31, 2014. Fiction Prizes: First place $200 •  Second place $100 •  Third place $50**

Entry Fee $20 per story submission. **Poetry Prizes: First place $200 •  Second place $100 •  Third place $50**

Entry Fee $20 per submission of up to 300 lines. For further information on the writing competition, email Jen Jones at **contest@gritlit.ca**.

**Highlands and Islands Short Story Competition**

For their **2014 Competition** as well as the **£400 Prize Money** there is an additional offer of a **Writing Retreat in Wales**, running from Monday to Friday, with breakfasts and dinners included, a package **worth almost £600**. Closing date each year: 31st July; Maximum Word Count: 2,500; Entry Fee: £5 per story or 3 stories for £12; the theme is open, with no link to Scotland needed by either entrant or theme. Go to **info@hissac.co.uk**

**Wells Festival of Literature Competitions 2014**

**Our Prizes:** ● Poetry and Short Story: First Prize £500, Second Prize £200, Third Prize £100. ● Crime Novel (our fastest growing competition!) The winning entry will be read by a major publisher and by a leading agent.  In addition there will be a cash prize of £100.  The judge may also arrange for an exceptional runner-up entry to be read by an agent or a publisher.

Go to www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk

**The 2014 *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize**

The *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize is open to anyone worldwide who has not published a complete book. Submissions in one of three categories: Poetry, Fiction and Life Writing. Entry fee of UK Sterling £6 if entering one category, £10 for two and £15 for three categories. The closing date is 5pm GMT on 25 July 2014.

A maximum of 5 poems can be entered and the word limit for Fiction and Life Writing is 3000. Other terms and conditions apply. £300 will be awarded to the winner in each category and their work will be published in *Wasafiri*. Go to www.wasafiri.org

**Eggzactly Easter!**

Easter is the Christian festival/holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His resurrection took place on the 3rd day after his crucifixion. The New Testament teaches that this is the foundation of the Christian faith and is why we celebrate Easter.

Easter is the culmination of the Passion of Christ, this was preceded by Lent. Lent is the 40 day period traditionally of fasting, prayer and penance. The last week of Lent in Christian faith is called the Holy Week, this commemorates the Last Supper; as well as Good Friday which commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

Easter is one of the most celebrated festivals of the Christian Church. History shows us that the Christian Church has, over time, changed the meaning of Easter. An English historian, St Bede, believed that Easter owes its origin to the Teutonic mythology. St Bede also believed that the word Easter originally derived from the word Eostre, who according to Greek mythology is the goddess of Spring. It was believed that Eostre would bring her light and warmth of Spring after a long, cold winter year after year. The celebration of Spring is the Pagan festival. The Christian Church changed this festival, the coming of Spring, to celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

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Today Easter customs vary across the world, this includes sunrise services, the paschal greeting and the decorating of Easter eggs. The decoration of an egg actually symbolizes the empty tomb. Some additional customs associated with Easter include egg hunting, the Easter bunny and Easter parades. Both Christian and non-Christians participate in these customs.

Easter Sunday in the UK is traditionally about Christ's resurrection, however many of us use the day to decorate Easter eggs for the children, eat our weight in all that chocolate and participate in the known game of Egg hunting! Easter has been largely commercialized by companies manufacturing goods and items, including greeting cards.

The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox. It is the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the March equinox. This year we will be egg hunting on Sunday April 20. Have fun everyone!

Shona Mawby

**Writing for the Competition**

**Ledbury Poetry Festival Poetry Competition 2014**Closing date: 10th July, 2014. Prizes: Adults:  First Prize: £1000 and a week at Ty Newydd; Second Prize £500; Third Prize £250. See website for details of Young People and Children's competition section. Winners have the opportunity to read their poems at the 2015 Ledbury Poetry Festival.
Entry fee: first poem £5, for each subsequent poem £3. Children and Young People enter their first poem free.
Judge: Ian McMillan.
For more information visit website. [poetry-festival.co.uk/poetry-competition.html](http://www.poetry-festival.co.uk/poetry-competition.html)

**Dream Quest One Poetry Contest**Closing date: 31st July 2014
Prizes: First Prize(USD): $250, 2nd: $125, 3rd: $50.
Entry fee: $5(USD) per poem submitted. Mail entries/fees along with title of poem, name, address, phone#, and brief bio (tell us a little about yourself), on the coversheet to: Dream Quest One Poetry Contest, P.O. Box 3141, Chicago Illinois 60654.
Open to anyone who loves expressing thoughts and feeling into the beautiful literary art of poetry! Write a poem, 30 lines or fewer, on any subject or theme, typed or neatly hand printed. Multiple and simultaneous contest entries are accepted. And don't forget to bring your dreams with you... All contest winners will be announced and published online, 20th September 2014.
Visit [http://www.dreamquestone.com](http://www.dreamquestone.com/) for details on how to enter!

**Dream Quest One Writing Contest**
Closing date: 31st July, 2014.
Prizes: First Prize(USD): $500, 2nd: $250, 3rd: $100.
Entry fee: $10(USD) per story submitted.
Open to anyone that enjoys writing a story that's worth telling everyone! Write a short story, 5 pages maximum length, on any subject or theme, typed or neatly hand printed, using single or double line spacing. Multiple and simultaneous contest entries are accepted. And don't forget to dream... All winners will be announced and published online, 20th September 2014.
Mail entries/fees along with title of story, name, address, phone#, and brief bio (tell us a little about yourself), on the coversheet to: Dream Quest One Writing Contest, P.O. Box 3141, Chicago, Illinois 60654.
Visit [dreamquestone.com](http://www.dreamquestone.com/) for details on how to enter!

**The Small Print**

Don’t forget you entries for the Thurrock Writers’ Festival Competition.

Newsletter submissions to: twcnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk

**Apr ‘13**

**The Thurrock Writers’ Circle Newsletter October 2013**