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**From:** Progressive PR on behalf of *Australian Book Review*  
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## Madeline Lucas wins the 2018 Jolley Prize

At a ceremony at fortyfivedownstairs on [Monday, 20 August](#), Madeline Lucas was announced as the overall winner of the 2018 *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize for her story '[Ruins](#)'. Madeline Lucas receives \$7,000.

Madeline Lucas is an Australian writer and musician based in Brooklyn, New York. She is the senior editor of *NOON* literary annual and a teaching fellow at Columbia University, where she is completing her MFA in fiction. She has been the winner of the *Overland*/Victoria University Short Fiction Prize and was short-listed for the Griffith University Josephine Ulrick Literature Prize. She is currently at work on her first novel.

The judges had this to say about Madeline Lucas's winning story:

*'Sensual, tactile and full of quiet fire, "Ruins" is a story bold and assured enough to take the questions that lurk in literature's heart – questions of love, desire and choice – and ask them outright. As a mother and her newly-adult daughter drive out to a ruined lighthouse, they slip back into old roles, but carry new secrets. Richly anchored in place, and alive to Australian history, this story speaks strongly to how women learn to inhabit themselves and the world. Timely and gorgeously evocative.'*



**Madeline Lucas**  
Jolley Prize winner

The other two shortlisted authors are **Sharmini Aphrodite** (Singapore), who receives \$2,000 for her story '[Between the Mountain and the Sea](#)', and **Claire Aman** (NSW), who receives \$1,000 for '[Vasco](#)'. All three shortlisted stories appear in the August Fiction issue.

This year the prestigious [ABR Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize](#) (worth a total of \$12,500) attracted almost 1,200 entries from thirty-five countries. The judges were Patrick Allington, Michelle Cahill, and Beejay Silcox.

The judges also commended three other stories: 'Joan Mercer's Fertile Head' by S.J. Finn (VIC), 'Hardflip' by Mirandi Riwoe (QLD), and 'Break Character' by Chloe Wilson (VIC). The commended authors each receive \$850 and their stories will appear online in coming months. A longlist of fourteen stories appears on our website.

### Further information

More information about *Australian Book Review* and the Jolley Prize can be found on the *ABR* website or by contacting Progressive PR on (03) 9696 6417 or [darren@progressivepr.com.au](mailto:darren@progressivepr.com.au)

**The shortlisted authors will be available for interview.**

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