

Rowan Heath wins the 2023 Jolley Prize

Rowan Heath is the winner of the 2023 *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize. They receive \$6,000 for their story 'The Mannequin'. Heath was announced as the winner of the Jolley Prize by judge Maria Takolander at a Zoom ceremony on 17 August, which featured readings by all three shortlisted authors.

Judges' Comments

'In "The Mannequin", a solitary truck driver, who fossicks for valuables in junkyards, finds a dumped store mannequin outside a roadhouse. The mannequin becomes an ambiguous companion on his journey, provoking troubling memories of his ex-wife and estranged children, reminding him of what has been lost through his intransigence, while simultaneously suggesting the liberating possibility of transformation. A superbly controlled and nuanced story, "The Mannequin" is a haunting exploration of the mysteriousness at the heart of ourselves.'



Rowan Heath
(Photo by Alice Capstick)

Rowan Heath's Comment

'I'm honoured by the result of this year's Jolley Prize. I'm incredibly grateful for the feedback and community connection the prize brings, particularly for writers who are building their careers. Sincere thanks to *Australian Book Review* for once again connecting lovers of stories across the globe.'

About Rowan Heath

Rowan Heath is a writer, editor and LARPer living in Melbourne. Their creative work has appeared in *In Flux: Trans and Gender Diverse Reflections and Imaginings*, *Monstrous Appetites*, *Perspektif*, *Verge*, and *Antithesis*. Their fiction will be published in *Strangely Enough*, an ASSF anthology, in late 2023. They have edited for publications such as *Farrago*, *Inkspot*, and *CAMP*. They currently work in the higher education sector.

Jolley Prize Shortlist and Judges

The other two shortlisted authors are: **Uzma Aslam Khan** (United States), runner-up for her story 'Our Own Fantastic' and **Winter Bel** (France/United Kingdom), placed third for her story 'Black Wax'. [All three stories appear in the August issue.](#)

This year the *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize (worth a total of \$12,500) received 1,200 entries from thirty-eight different countries. It was judged by **Gregory Day, Jennifer Mills and Maria Takolander**.

Interviews

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