

VERY SHORT FICTION AWARD WINNERS

1st Place

Corey Flintoff receives $2,000 for "Early Stages."

Hydrangeas. Chickadees—those are the birds. Chenille—that's the fabric of the bathrobe. He feels buoyed by the memory of so many words.

Corey Flintoff is a former NPR foreign correspondent whose assignments included Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Haiti, Ukraine and Russia. Born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, he now lives in Maryland. Flintoff's fiction has appeared in the *Virginia Quarterly Review* and is forthcoming in *Fantasy & Science Fiction*. Follow him on Twitter *@CoreyFlintoff*.

2nd Place

Irene Doukas Behrman receives $500 for "Permission."

Two weeks later, you receive a congratulatory email, which you forward to Sahar and to your parents. Will you accept the gift of a lifetime?

Irene Doukas Behrman studies creative writing at Marylhurst University near Portland, Oregon. She is a graduate of the Independent Publishing Resource Center's Certificate Program in Independent Publishing (Fiction/Nonfiction track), and her nonfiction piece "A Woman Named M" was awarded an honorable mention in the 84th Annual Writer's Digest Competition. Irene's work can be found online at *M Review* and *Peach Mag* and is forthcoming at *Gaze*. She coedits a literary journal called *Pom Pom*.

3rd Place

Itoro Udofia receives $300 for "To the Children Growing Up in the Aftermath of Their Parents' War."

The first thing a war does is dislocate skin from bone, head from neck, and joint from finger until it moves to dislocating nations, lands, and regions.

Itoro Udofia is a writer, cultural worker, and educator based in the San Francisco Bay area. She loves to tell stories that showcase strong female protagonists defying social conventions. As a first generation Nigerian writer, writing in this way is a liberating process. You can find her work in *Slice*, *aaduna magazine*, *Saraba*, *The Book Smugglers*, *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*, and the anthology *Two Countries: US Daughters and Sons of Immigrant Parents* from Red Hen Press.