PETER DEVONALD - THE DAY BEFORE YOU FORGET IT ALL COMPLETELY

From the wonderful opening line – ‘I play you a symphony of memories,’ this poem is musical and vital and written with a delicately subtle hand. Lovely.

JINNY FISHER - THE ASTROPHYSICIST TRANSFORMS HIS ANXIETY

Made up of four quatrains, this poem expertly and concisely demonstrates the evolution of the protagonist from child to the astrophysicist of the title. A skilled poet indeed.

NAOSIE GALE – PLATE

So much energy, vitality, movement. Dynamic imagery. Almost overwritten, yet strangely irresistible.

NAOISE GALE – THESE DAYS

This is an unusual poem written in the first person. It is full of great lines such as ‘imagining a future more boastful.’ But it is also unsettling in its syntax, jarring the reader with its staccato l Ike diction It portrays a weird and wonderful world.

LIZZY LISTER - CHRISTMAS DAY CROSSING - Such an important and visceral theme - doesn't sentimentalise. Unflinching

JULIA STOTHARD - THE INTERVIEWER ASKS ABOUT FAMILY IFE

Through the tone used and control displayed, this poet has successfully managed to indicate a view of family life that is both rosy and yet not. Foreshadowing a future that might happen, the poem is powerful indeed.

PETER SURKOV – BURIED RIVERS

Accomplished and quietly, coolly ambitious. Trusts itself, those subtle juxtapositions across its segments. Its clarity hides as much as it reveals, while its fluid obscurities nevertheless weave a way through

ELIZABETH WILSON DAVIES – EXISTENTIALISM ON THE GRAVELLY HILL INTERCHANGE

... Unusual, elusive subject; it would have been so easy to fail to coax substantial genuine meaning from it.

Results

HIGHLY COMMENDED - Christmas Day Crossing by Lizzy Lister

3rd: EXISTENTIALISM ON THE GRAVELLY HILL INTERCHANGE by Elizabeth Wilson Davies

2nd: PLATE by Naoise Gale

Winner: BURIED RIVERS by Peter Surkov