



ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION  
QUEENSLAND BRANCH

# 2024 ROLY SUSSEX SHORT STORY COMPETITION

## OPEN DIVISION WINNING ENTRIES

*Congratulations to the following winners:*

### FIRST PLACE (TIED)

*Music Played in a Cafe*

by Roxeena Bidgood

*and*

*Blue Is the Limit*

by Paulette Gittins

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

*Howl*

by Daniel Fallon

*and*

*Help for Kitty Hopkins' Nerves*

by Rachel Bowman

#### Judges' Comments

“The quality of this year’s entries testifies that short fiction is alive and thriving and, in the name of Roly Sussex, well supported by the English-Speaking Union.

The winners share strong creative thought and exceptional execution, supported by intense characterisation, vivid authorial voice and accomplished but varying use of language. Each story leaves the reader with a feeling of satisfaction – for themselves and for the characters whose fictional lives they have briefly shared. We looked for creativity, effective and evocative use of language and, importantly, a powerful ending that brought it together. “

*For further information and updates, visit our website or find us on Facebook.*