

Testimonies of the Rocks: the Hugh Miller Writing Competition 2015-16

Under 16 Winner in prose

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The Hugh Miller Writing Competition 2015-2016 invited entries inspired by the geological and landscape writings of Hugh Miller, Scotland's celebrated self-taught geologist. The competition was organised by the Scottish Geodiversity Forum, the Friends of Hugh Miller and many other partners.

Further details of the competition, and all the winning entries, are available at www.scottishgeology.com/hughmiller/

We hope that this writing competition has encouraged a renewed interest in Miller's work, a catalogue of superb new writings inspired by one of Scotland's greatest nature writers and greater awareness and appreciation of Scotland's geodiversity.

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The sun is falling in the sapphire blue sky, I'm going to collect water for mathair. As I walk, menacing black rocks are trying to burst out of the sea and land as if trying to reach the sunlight, if they were people they would not care about the chaos they are causing everywhere.

I pump water from the well into the pales, the icy cold water splashes up my arms. Huge rock cliffs surround me like a fence. As I walk I see the islands also have the pain of having rocks bursting through their land. There are no rolling hills on which you can run without a care in the world instead these hills have been taken by rocks and as you walk, you have to watch every step you take.

The sun is sinking behind the unforgiving mountains across the calm blue sea. Athair will be arriving home from working in the slate quarries. The walls and floors of the quarries are jagged and dangerous and as the men blow it up and chip away at the slate, it finally escapes from the darkness of underground, the iron parities glistens in the sun light as if celebrating.