

A writing magazine

Issue 13 Autumn/Winter 2023/24

THE
CURIOSITY
ISSUE

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PaperBound

For the young, and the young at heart

PLUS

A FASCINATING
ARTICLE
ON WRITING
FROM YA AUTHOR
LAURA STEVEN
+
MUCH MORE

YA Author Interview Special

with

JOYCE EFIA HARMER
TASHA HARRISON
ANIKA HUSSAIN
AMIE KAUFMAN
JENNIFER LANE
&
MAUREEN JOHNSON

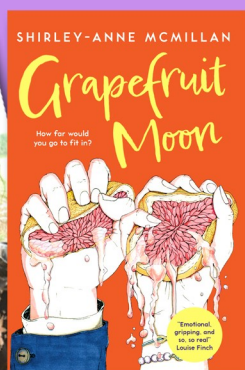
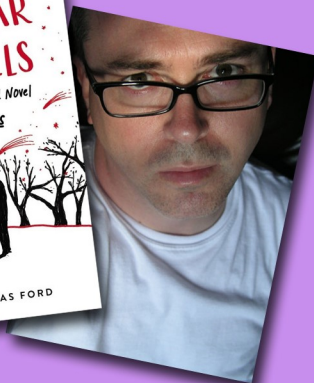
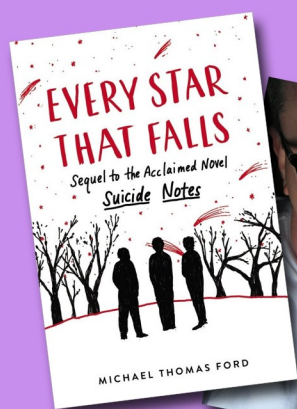
NEW

WRITING &
ILLUSTRATIONS
From

AMY CHANDLER	HYKIE BREEZE	CARMEN CARREIRA
REBECCA GARDYN LEVINGTON	JULIE ANNA DOUGLAS	IMOGEN HARTLAND
LARA PORTER	CLAIRE LEWIS	LAURI C. MEYERS
	SHIRLEY SHELBY	SARAH STEINBACHER



Did you know PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE ALSO HAS A BLOG WITH EVEN MORE BOOKISH CONTENT?



Check it out at
paperboundmag.com





Find out more about our fantastic cover illustrator, Hykie Breeze, on page 56

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PaperBound Magazine is an online magazine for the young, and the young at heart. It is dedicated to showcasing authors and illustrators of children's and young adult fiction. It strives to deliver inspiring content, new and exciting writing, book recommendations and top tips for aspiring young writers. PaperBound has been created by Emily, Lucy and Rayan who met while studying an MA in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University.

If you are interested in contributing to the magazine please see full submission details on our website.

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Edited by Emily Ould, Lucy Mohan and Rayan Phillips.

Masthead design by Carys Tomos
Cover Illustration by Hykie Breeze

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Letter from the editors

Autumn/Winter 2023-24



Dear Readers,

Thanks so much for choosing to read another issue of PaperBound. We really hope you enjoy our curiosity issue. As always it's full of author interviews, inspiring articles, book reviews, writing and illustrations – like these lovely locked books from illustrator Imogen Hartland – and more.

You may have noticed, we've made a few changes to the way we are running PaperBound, with two issues a year instead of four, and a more active blog with extra bookish content. You can read lots more interviews and articles at paperboundmag.com.

Another huge thanks to all of our contributors, and the publishers and publicists who help put us in touch with the fantastic authors and books you see featured every issue.

If you'd like to be a part of a future issue, please get in touch. We're always on the look out for new writing and illustrations as well as interviews, articles and book reviews. Check out our website for more details.

We hope you enjoy the CURIOSITY issue!

Happy reading!

Emily, Lucy and Rayan



If you would like to contribute to a future issue, tell us what you thought of this one, or contact us about anything else, we'd love to hear from you.

www.paperboundmag.com
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Locked book illustrations by
IMOGEN HARTLAND
You can read more about Imogen on page 56.

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Carmen Carreira

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Is
ANYONE
Out THERE?



by Rebecca Gardyn Levington

Rebecca Gardyn
Levington

Rebecca Gardyn Levington is a children's book author, poet, and journalist with a particular penchant for penning both playful and poignant picture books and poems – primarily in rhyme. She is the author of *BRAINSTORM!* and *WHATEVER COMES TOMORROW* and has six additional picture books forthcoming, including *AFIKOMAN*, *WHERE'D YOU GO?* which releases Feb. 13th. Rebecca's award-winning poems and articles have appeared in numerous anthologies, newspapers, and magazines. Find out more about Rebecca at www.RebeccaGardynLevington.com.

Follow Rebecca on social media:
@WriterRebeccaGL (Twitter/ X),
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‘Mom, do you think there’s a planet out there
where people are living like us?

Are there kids just like me who wake up, watch TV,
eat pancakes then get on a bus?’

‘Are there kids just like me who enjoy reading books,
and biking and hiking and sports?

Are there kids just like me who play video games,
who never wear pants, only shorts?’

‘I don’t know,’ Mom replies. ‘Many people think yes.
It’s a subject of lots of debate.

The astronauts — someday — will figure it out,
but until then I guess we’ll just wait.’

‘That’s a terrible plan!’ I say to my mom.

‘There ARE other kids. I’ve no doubt!

Come on, grab your keys and let’s, you and I,
fly over to Earth and find out!’



AMIE KAUFMAN



WE WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO CATCH UP WITH AMIE
KAUFMAN ABOUT HER BRAND-NEW YA FANTASY

THE ISLES OF THE GODS

THE ISLES OF THE GODS IS THE FIRST OF A NEW FANTASY SERIES PACKED FULL OF ACTION WITH A GREAT CAST OF CHARACTERS. WITHOUT SPOILERS, CAN YOU TELL READERS A LITTLE MORE ABOUT IT?

I'd love to! It's a high seas fantasy adventure, featuring a roguish prince, and a sailor girl who has absolutely had enough of his shenanigans. It's set in a world of elemental magic and sleeping gods—and if the two of them want to keep those gods from waking up and going to war, then they have to make it

to an ancient temple on a forbidden island. There's also gangsters, speakesies, a bookworm who didn't volunteer for a quest, bare-knuckled boxing, and much more.

“ I DO OFTEN HAVE A SECRET FAVOURITE [CHARACTER] – LIKE A PARENT, THOUGH, I'M NOT SURE I'M SUPPOSED TO TELL YOU WHO MY FAVOURITE CHILD IS! ”

YOU HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN *THE AURORA CYCLE* AND *THE ILLUMINAE FILES*. WAS THIS STORY ALWAYS SOMEWHERE IN YOUR MIND WHILE WRITING THEM, OR DID THE IDEA COME AFTERWARDS?

I originally had the idea for this book back in May 2013, exactly a decade before it was released! I worked on it on and off for many years – although it’s a romp of an adventure, there’s some very complex worldbuilding in it, and finding a way to convey all that without overwhelming the reader took time. I’m really glad I waited until I was good enough to do it justice, because I’m so proud of the end result.

WHEN YOU WRITE, DO YOU FIND YOURSELF FAVOURING CERTAIN CHARACTERS? IF SO, WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITES IN *THE ISLES OF THE GODS*, AND WHY?

I do often have a secret favourite – like a parent, though, I’m not sure I’m supposed to tell you who my favourite child is! I really did love writing Prince Leander, who’s such a playboy prince on the outside, and of course such a ball of vulnerability on the inside.

ALL THE CHARACTERS IN THIS BOOK ARE CONNECTED IN SOME WAY. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR WRITERS WHO ARE WRITING ABOUT MULTIPLE CHARACTERS AND BLENDING THESE TOGETHER?

I’ve definitely got a reputation for

writing books with big casts, and multiple points of view! If you’re writing a squad, the main things to think about are making sure that each character brings something to the plot, and challenges the other characters in some way. What part of the story does each character push along, that nobody else could? And what do they bring out in the other characters that we wouldn’t otherwise see?



IS YOUR WRITING INSPIRED BY ANY OTHER NOVELS, WRITERS, OR MEDIA?


Always! I read constantly, and I think perhaps the most direct influence on this book was Tamora Pierce’s *Tortall* books – I grew up reading them, and I always loved the mix of fantasy and everyday life, and the feeling that the characters were people who could sit next to me in school, full of real feelings and

problems. That's something I worked hard to convey in this book.


WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP TIP FOR ANY ASPIRING YOUNG WRITERS HOPING TO WRITE FANTASY?

If you're going to feature magic in your book, make sure you know what it costs – whether you have to spend years learning the magic, or it's physically tiring, or you need strange ingredients, there has to be some reason that magic isn't simply used for everything. Know exactly how your magic works, what it can and can't do, and who can use it – and then make sure you know how the magic existing changes society. There's a lot to think about when you introduce magic!

THIS BOOK ENDS ON A THRILLING CLIFFHANGER. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE SERIES?

As I answer these questions, I've just handed in my final edit for book two, so I can! We get to visit one of my favourite settings I've ever written – the Bibliotek. The Bibliotek is a university, and is considered the greatest library in the world. It's actually a series of hundreds of libraries, every one devoted to a different subject, all joined together. I visit libraries everywhere I go, so I feel like I've been preparing to write this place all my life! 

The Isles of the Gods is out now and published by Rock the Boat/OneWorld. It's also available in the US, Australia, and coming soon in several other languages.

Read our review on the next page 



AMIE'S WRITING PROMPT

Write a couple of paragraphs about two people having an argument – it can be about anything you like, but if you're stuck, make it about one of them deciding to learn magic.

Make sure your paragraphs are completely from one person's point of view – we should be feeling what they feel, seeing things the way they see them, angry for all the same reasons they are.

And then write those paragraphs again – but this time from the other person's point of view. Show us all the things we didn't know the first time around. **This is what really good multi-POV books do!**

AMIE KAUFMAN

Amie Kaufman is a New York Times and internationally bestselling author of fantasy and science fiction, whose multi-award winning work is published in nearly thirty languages. You can come behind the scenes on her writing at amiekaufman.substack.com to learn what she's working on next.

YA Book Review Corner

THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OUR REVIEWERS. IF YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE A REVIEW FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE, CHECK OUT THE DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM/SUBMIT



RECENT RELEASE

THE ISLES OF THE GODS BY AMIE KAUFMAN

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE



YA

The Isles of the Gods is the first book in a sweeping fantasy series from Amie Kaufman, full of sleeping gods, action, romance, friendships old and new, and high-stakes adventure.

Selly's plans are dashed when her ship is commandeered by handsome, but spoilt, prince Leander late at night. Prince Leander is on a covert mission to perform a ritual on the Isles of the Gods, to ensure the gods' continued protection, and to keep the peace.

But not everyone wants him to succeed. When a shocking tragedy strikes, Selly is swept up in a perilous mission, with the world as they know it at stake.

The Isles of the Gods is set in a fascinating new world for readers. The relationships between the characters are wonderfully drawn and complex, especially the unlikely but delightful friendships developing between Selly, Leander and Keegan. It has everything you could want from a fantasy, or any novel: shocking twists, unique magic systems, unthinkable tragedy, slow-burn romance, seafaring adventure, complicated pasts, and much more - a wonderfully written book, full of nuanced characters and magical worldbuilding.

Waiting for book two will not be easy!

THE ISLES OF THE GODS IS PUBLISHED BY ROCK THE BOAT AND OUT NOW

Note: this book deals with some mature issues and themes.

MORE REVIEWS





BABUSHKA BY NATASHA DEVON

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE

'A little babushka is made when you're young and something happens to you that leaves a scar ...'

Utterly unputdownable, Natasha Devon writes teenage adversity that packs a punch and shines a spotlight on what it was like to be a young woman growing up on the forefront of the millennium. Set in 2000, *Babushka* is Cerys's story, a sixteen-year-old from South West Wales who dreams of making it in London to pursue a career in fashion.

Staying in the city with her glamorous Auntie Wyn (the exact opposite of Cerys's overbearing mam), Cerys can't wait to get her foot in the door of the art and fashion world. But art college isn't everything Cerys dreamed it would be and, pretty soon, she discovers she has to balance first love, her studies, and decisions for the future while learning who to trust.

A prequel to the author's debut YA novel, *Toxic*, yet easily readable as a standalone, *Babushka* highlights attitudes towards sex education at the turn of the 21st century, the power of celebrity culture, and the complexities of first love and independence. Not only does Natasha Devon write teenage vulnerability with brave authenticity, but she also highlights manipulative behaviour that readers will hopefully be able to recognise as red flags in their own lives when they come across them. A young adult book good for the soul, and great for the babushka inside all of us.

BABUSHKA IS PUBLISHED BY UCLAN PUBLISHING AND OUT NOW

YA



RECENT RELEASE



YA

THIEVES' GAMBIT BY KAYVION LEWIS

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE

Thieves' Gambit is a masterful addition to the YA thriller pantheon. Full of tense scenes and awesome characters, and a complex world of thievery and family secrets, Ross Quest enters the *Thieves' Gambit* in order to save her mother, competing with other master thieves to gain the prize - a wish.

Thieves' Gambit is a perfect book for fans of *The Inheritance Games* and *The Hunger Games*, with cut-throat scenes making you question who Ross should trust and who she should take down. It's also perfect for fans of the enemies-to-lovers trope, as the book balances the tension of the competition as well as the relationship between Ross and her arch nemesis.

THIEVES' GAMBIT IS PUBLISHED BY SIMON AND SCHUSTER AND OUT NOW



FULMAR BY ROBIN FALVEY

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE

YA

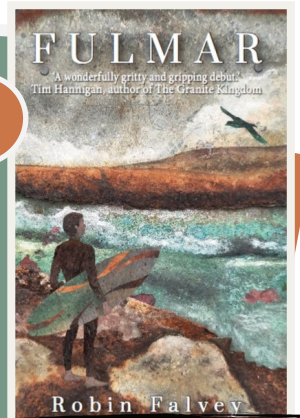
Jacob Penhallow is on a rocky road to a future that already seems laid out for him - and it's not looking good. So when he gets handed a surfboard by a stranger in the middle of the street, he's given an opportunity to change.

Determined not to fall into bad habits with a local group who only ever seem to land Jacob in trouble, he joins a local life-saving crew on the Cornish beach and battles the waves and his demons following the aftermath of his dad's arrest, and his mum's declining mental health. But when trouble keeps finding him no matter where he is, it's up to Jacob to choose the right path for his future - and not become like his dad.

Fulmar swept us away in Jacob's story from the very first page. Honest, brave and bold, if you want something refreshingly different to the Cornwall usually represented on postcards, this book is for you.

Note: this book deals with mature issues and themes.

FULMAR IS PUBLISHED BY HERMITAGE PRESS AND OUT NOW



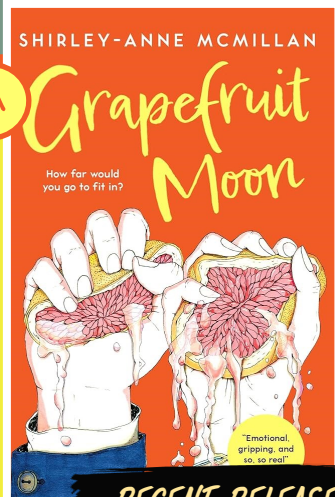
RECENT RELEASE



GRAPEFRUIT MOON BY SHIRLEY-ANNE MCMILLAN

REVIEWED BY JAYNE LEADBETTER

YA



RECENT RELEASE



When Drew from the local council estate enrolls into sixth form at Cooke's Academy in Northern Ireland, he is initiated into the elite Steward's Club. Despite disliking the manipulative, entitled president of the club, Adam, Drew stays, hoping to gain a scholarship to uni.

Drew is secretly in love with Charlotte, but Adam has made it clear—Charlotte is his ex and out of bounds. When Adam texts Charlotte intimate videos that he secretly recorded, her life is in turmoil. Meanwhile, Drew lets his lifelong friends from his council estate down and must work out what is more important, his friends, his scholarship, or helping Charlotte hold Adam accountable.

Told from both Charlotte and Drew's perspectives, this novel deals with issues of cybersexual abuse, bullying, themes of power and social class, and gender inequality. But above all *Grapefruit Moon* is a tender, subtle coming-of-age love story and confirms the power of true friendship and trust.

Note: this book deals with mature issues and themes.

GRAPEFRUIT MOON IS PUBLISHED BY LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS AND OUT NOW

YOU CAN READ AN ARTICLE FROM SHIRLEY ON THE PAPERBOUND BLOG: WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM

MORE REVIEWS



OVEREMOTIONAL BY DAVID FENNE

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE

Hilarious and down-to-earth, *Overemotional* follows the adventures of Steven, a seventeen-year-old with weird powers that do different things based on what mood he's in, including exploding the brain of a boy during their first kiss.

Having escaped to a sleepy seaside town, he thinks he's keeping himself hidden, but his friends won't give up on him that easily.

The supporting cast are funny and have strong bonds with each other, with dialogue and action that makes them really feel like authentic teenagers. The sci-fi element in an otherwise contemporary British setting is so different from other book releases this year, which boldly makes *Overemotional* stand out.

OVEREMOTIONAL IS PUBLISHED BY BONNIER BOOKS AND OUT NOW

RECENT RELEASE



YA



THE SCARLET VEIL BY SHELBY MAHURIN

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE

The Scarlet Veil is a compulsive YA dark vampire romance, based in the word of the bestselling *Serpent and Dove* series. This spin-off duology follows the character of Célie, who fans of the previous trilogy will recognise, however this book can easily be read as a standalone.

Célie is struggling with her new life as the first huntswoman living amongst the male dominated Chasseurs, including her captain and fiancé, Jean Luc. But things take a dark turn when bodies start appearing, drained of their blood. With her past still haunting her, and a new threat on her very doorstep, Célie is determined to find out who and what is responsible and begins an exhilarating journey to find the truth and herself, full of twists, betrayals and an irresistible new romance.

With an enthralling cast of characters, a spellbinding romance, and a fantastic fantasy world, this is a beautifully written, addictive read. Just like the vampires in this book, *The Scarlet Veil* will compel and enthrall you, until you're dying for more. With the sequel and final part of the story due in 2024, next year can't come quick enough! A masterclass in dark romantasy fiction.

Note: this book deals with mature issues and themes.

THE SCARLET VEIL IS PUBLISHED BY ELECTRIC MONKEY AND OUT NOW

YOU CAN READ AN INTERVIEW WITH SHELBY ON THE PAPERBOUND BLOG!

WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM

YA



RECENT RELEASE





QUIZZES

DON'T FORGET TO UNSCRAMBLE THE ANAGRAMS
 CLUE: THEY ARE ALL BOOK TITLES ON OUR CURIOSITY BOOKSHELF!

1. DREAMLIKE TURNS MOULDY

2. THE FELINE QUOTES

3. SLOW HOOTS INTERVENED

Y	H	L	N	Z	R	E	G	P	J	N	P	L	D	E	V	O	Q	A	F
N	I	M	D	F	V	Y	D	Q	J	L	I	V	P	I	S	Z	B	M	C
X	N	E	I	P	V	R	B	J	L	K	G	A	S	X	V	J	R	G	U
B	S	L	L	A	R	F	Y	R	E	V	O	C	S	I	D	M	A	W	R
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G	C	W	Z	T	C	D	H	K	H	C	R	A	E	S	F	J	O	F	P
D	R	U	U	B	K	Z	Q	U	C	F	L	P	W	R	W	B	Z	I	H
U	K	X	L	M	J	K	U	B	C	K	K	Y	C	W	I	L	U	C	X
R	K	X	W	Y	W	U	E	D	X	C	F	O	O	M	G	L	J	A	G
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M	Z	V	U	C	C	F	T	C	C	J	E	X	J	T	A	F	I	X	G
F	Y	X	X	O	Q	U	F	V	G	G	X	T	C	H	S	F	K	N	A


CAN YOU FIND ALL
 THE WORDS IN THE
 WORDSEARCH?

- CURIOUS
- INQUISITIVE
- CAT
- PUZZLE
- MYSTERY
- QUEST
- SEARCH
- DISCOVERY
- BIZARRE
- INTRIGUING
- MAP
- WONDER

Illustration by the
 brilliant...
Claire Lewis
 You can find out more
 about Claire on page 56



YLLISOINOJ CURIOSITY



BANS

Curiosity Bans: A Palindrome
by Sarah Steinbacher

Sarah Steinbacher

Sarah Steinbacher (she/they) is a disabled nonbinary author, poet, and instructor at The Writing Barn. She is a former national curriculum writer with an Ed.D. in education. In 2023 she was named a PB Rising Stars Honorable Mention and a #KidLitZombieWeek winner. Sarah lives in South Carolina USA with her husband, three children, three cats, and a tortoise. Her poems can also be found at The Dirigible Balloon, Tyger Tyger Magazine, Little Thoughts Press, and Paper Lanterns. Sarah is represented by Joyce Sweeney at The Seymour Agency.



Follow Sarah on Twitter @SarahSteinbac11,
on Instagram @SarahSteinbacherWrites, and on her blog at
<https://sarahsteinbacherwrites.blogspot.com/>



Children can't be trusted
For who could believe
Kids know their own minds
What children read must be carefully guarded
Even if some foolishly think
Kids are inherently good and capable
The reality is
It's an illusion
Total control
Is essential
An understanding of others
Isn't necessary
A strict boundary
Empowers children
Knowledge
Corrupts children
A ban on inclusive books
Is the answer
For a free-thinking child

People who ban books
Don't want
Curious children

(now read bottom up)



Anika Hussain



WE SPOKE TO ANIKA HUSSAIN ALL ABOUT
ROMANCE AND HER YA DEBUT,
THIS IS HOW YOU FALL IN LOVE!



COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT
YOUR NOVEL, *THIS IS HOW YOU FALL IN
LOVE*, AND THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT?

Of course! *This is How you Fall in Love*, despite its title, is not a step-by-step guide on how to fall in love but rather a story about friendship, family, and about following your own path. The book follows our protagonist, Zara, who is a rom-com fanatic through and through. She breathes

romance—the only problem? She’s never had one herself! And, when the opportunity presents itself to be in a relationship, even if it is a fake one with her best friend Adnan, Zara is hesitant with a capital H. But Zara then realises that it might just be what she needs to save her parents’ marriage, which hasn’t been the greatest recently, and since they love Adnan and have been Zara and Adnan shippers since day one, Zara thinks

this might just be the thing to save them once and for all. At least for a little while.

The story was inspired by some of my own experiences of fake-dating in sixth form but also because I wanted to tell a story, one which was inherently joyful and not trauma based, with South Asian main characters. I've read so many books with South Asian characters which are purely about something tragic or an arranged marriage and I wanted to change that narrative because there are so many stories with South Asians which are nothing like that. We have stories to tell that are fun and joyful, too!

THIS IS HOW YOU FALL IN LOVE IS SUCH A FUN READ, FULL OF COMPLEX CHARACTERS WHO HAVE SUCH STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER. WOULD YOU SAY WRITING CHARACTERS IS ONE OF YOUR FAVOURITE PARTS OF WRITING?

Absolutely. Whenever I start writing, I always begin with my characters and then build a plot around them. I've always been more fascinated with characters and their actions rather than the situations they are put in. For me, characters either make or break a story so it's really important to me to make them as three-dimensional and authentic as possible.

YOU DO SUCH A GOOD JOB SUBVERTING THE 'FRIENDS TO LOVERS' TROPE IN THIS BOOK,

AND LIKE ZARA YOU SEEM TO KNOW ROMANCE TROPES REALLY WELL. WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INTO READING OR WATCHING ROMANCE?

When I was little, my grandmother and I used to share a single bed together and we used to stay up late into the night telling stories as a way to tire my over-active brain out. Since then, I've always loved stories.

But I wasn't always into reading and, in fact, most of my teenage years was spent watching television instead. In a way, watching television was a way for me to study characters and their relationships along with a way for me to analyse storylines. My love for television somehow expanded to a love for reading and stories in general.

My love for romance has always stemmed from the over-the-top storylines I watched on screen. I've always enjoyed watching two characters realize they were always meant to be but having to go through a journey to find each other. For me, it's all about the journey rather than the destination.

“ I WANTED TO TELL A STORY, ONE WHICH WAS INHERENTLY JOYFUL ”

IF YOU, LIKE ZARA, WERE ABOUT TO MAKE A FRIEND BECAUSE OF ROMANCE MOVIES, WHICH ONES WOULD YOU RECOMMEND TO TALK ABOUT? WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE ROMANCE STORIES (INCL. FILMS/TV PROGRAMMES TOO)?

My favourite is probably *John Tucker Must Die* since it's more than just about romance—it's also about friendships. I think that's a theme for me wherein I like romance films/books which also tell stories about relationships that aren't necessarily involved in the romance itself but are on the peripheral, such as friendships or family relationships.

Another film I will never stop recommending is *A Cinderella Story* with Hilary Duff and Chad Michael Murray. I can probably recite the monologue at the end by heart and the soundtrack is an absolute killer!

When it comes to television, I am an absolute sucker for *One Tree Hill*, *The Summer I Turned Pretty*, and *Never Have I Ever*.

THE SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND SETTING IS SO REFRESHING TO SEE IN UKYA. ARE YOU THE SORT OF WRITER WHO LIKES USING MATERIAL INSPIRED BY YOUR LIVED EXPERIENCES? THE LOCATIONS MENTIONED WERE SO VIVID.

For sure. I like to visit the places I

write about because, although I write fiction, I like there to be an element of truth to my writing. I want my readers to be able to visit the places I write about and remember a scene out of my books, possibly even imagine it happening right in front of their eyes.

WITHOUT SPOILERS, WE GASPED AT THE THIRD-ACT TWIST. YAHYA ABSOLUTELY STOLE OUR HEARTS. WITH A GENRE THAT LOVES ITS TROPES, HOW DID YOU NAVIGATE WEAVING IN FRESH AND SHOCKING TWISTS?

This was so tricky for me because while I wanted a twist, I didn't want to change the narrative entirely. There is a reason why we love romance stories—we know how they're going to end! There's a comfort in knowing that the book you pick up will inherently follow the genre and satisfy you with the ending you want. At the same time, I *love* twists and I wanted to keep my readers on their toes. So, keeping those two factors in mind, I decided to try and weave in both my love for tropes and twists and gave my readers the ending they wanted but in a way that they necessarily wouldn't expect.

DID YOU EVER THINK ABOUT WRITING FROM ADNAN'S POINT OF VIEW TOO?

I didn't, actually. I wanted the focus to be on Zara and *her* story rather than Adnan's story, but it would be

interesting to explore *his* story as well one day... never say never!

“ I DECIDED TO TRY AND WEAVE IN BOTH MY LOVE FOR TROPES AND TWISTS AND GAVE MY READERS THE ENDING THEY WANTED BUT IN A WAY THAT THEY NECESSARILY WOULDN'T EXPECT. ”

HAVE YOU READ *THIS IS HOW YOU FALL IN LOVE*? WHY NOT TRY ANIKA'S WRITING PROMPT?

Imagine you are in Zara's position and everyone around you is obsessed with you and your best friend, what would you do to shut them down once and for all?

LAST CHEEKY QUESTION, BUT WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE (NOT NECESSARILY ROMANTICALLY) ADNAN OR YAHYA?

Ah, this is such a hard one! I absolutely love Adnan's banter and pick-up lines, but I love how warm Yahya is and how he isn't afraid to be himself—maybe that's why I wrote in two loveable love interests, so I didn't have to choose! But if I really had to choose... I would choose Adnan any day. He's the kind of friend you can rely on and will make your life interesting (in ways you wouldn't necessarily want but know is good for your personal journey!).

This is How you Fall in Love is out now and published by Hot Key Books in the UK, and by Bloombury in the US (Feb 24, hardback). A Polish translation is coming soon.



ANIKA HUSSAIN

Anika Hussain is a graduate of Bath Spa MAWYP. Not having seen herself in the books she read as a teenager, Anika writes angsty YA novels with South Asian characters at its focus.

Born in Sweden, Anika now lives in Bristol but frequently returns to Sweden where she has made TV and radio appearances, speaking about the impact writing has had on her life, and her work with The Ministry of Storytelling.

When not writing, you can find Anika yelling at the telly about inconsistencies or listening to true-crime podcasts. She also loves corgis with a scary passion.

Ara AND THE Mountain

by Amy Chandler



Once there was a village full of stories. Tales about the forest, legends about the lake and, most of all, myths about the mountain that loomed over the stone cottages.

The villagers would gather in the inn to spin their tangled yarns. Ara the inn-keeper's daughter was a listener. She was curious about everyone and everything. But although she stored all their stories in her head, she never said a word.

Her older sister Una was a fighter. 'One day, there will be stories about me,' she said, stringing her bow as she prepared to go hunting in the forest.

Their Pa was a dreamer. He locked every spare penny in a wooden chest, and dreamed of turning copper into silver and gold.

When Ara was serving in the inn, she lingered longest at the table of Frey the shepherd. Some of his stories were funny. 'The Mountain Spirit comes in the dark and takes what it finds. So don't leave your washing out overnight or the Spirit will steal your underwear!'

Others made Ara gasp. 'Once the Spirit took Old Tew's goat. Tew said the Spirit had "eyes like fire", and the goat was never seen again.'

Ara's favourite story began, 'If you climb to the peak on a moonlit night, the Spirit will offer you a bargain ...'

Frey said the Spirit would reveal the Secret of the Mountain *if* you gave it half of everything you had. The price was high, but Ara was desperate to know the Secret. Curiosity burned inside her like the Spirit's blazing eyes.

One day, Pa closed the inn early. Ara fetched him a jug of ale. Una asked, 'Are you ill?'

He said simply, 'I can wait no longer.'

That night, Ara woke when Una shook her arm. 'Pa is gone. We must go after him.'



Oddly shaped thoughts crowded inside Ara's head – spiky questions and twisted worries. But no words passed her lips. Instead, she put on her warmest cloak while Una fetched her bow.

Clouds smothered the moon, but Ara knew the rough stones beneath her feet well. This was the track that led to the mountain. Although she slipped on the shale, she was glad of the darkness because it hid them from the Spirit. But as they reached the snowy peak, the clouds thinned and the moonlight broke through.

There was Pa straining to hold up the wooden chest. The sisters crouched behind a rock to watch.

'Spirit,' Pa said, 'won't you tell me your Secret?'

Ara had not realised that Pa shared her burning desire to know the Secret. She understood his curiosity, but she still feared he was making a mistake.

Bracing the chest against his body, Pa opened the lid. 'Here is half of everything.'

Eyes like hot coals glowed in the gloom, and a hurricane voice said, 'No, it is not.'

Pa opened the lid of the chest wider, letting the coins glint in the moonlight. 'This would be enough to buy my inn. If I give it to you, the inn will be all I have left. So this is half. It must be. I counted it twice.'

'The price is half of *everything*.'

'I have nothing else, except ...' Pa paused, his arms shaking with the weight of the chest. 'No, you can't mean my girls.' He shut the lid. 'I should not have come.'

'The bargain has been made,' said the Spirit.

Pa tried to turn away but tripped. As he fell, the chest opened and tumbled to the ground. Copper, silver and gold coins stained the mountainside, but they were soon swallowed by the snow.

'I will take one daughter,' said the Spirit. 'Which one is up to you.'

Pa was on his hands and knees. 'You can't. They're safe at home in ...' But he did not finish the sentence because the ground shook. The rock the sisters were hiding behind trembled and cracked in two.

Quickly, Una lifted her bow, but what good was a bow against a Spirit?

Ara's thoughts narrowed, becoming as sharp as Una's arrows. She had to do something to help her father, to stop her sister from getting in a fight she could not



win. Throwing off her heavy cloak, Ara ran past Una and Pa. She stopped only when the Spirit's smouldering eyes were as big as her head.

'I ...'

'What do *you* have to say?'

Ara faltered. Was the Spirit right to doubt her? What could she say? Fingers of darkness closed around her, lifting her up, blocking out Una and Pa. Soon, she would be as lost as Old Tew's goat.

Her thoughts came and went like ripples on the lake. But finally, she found the courage to speak. 'Spirit, I offer you a *new* bargain.'

Laughter boomed like thunder. 'You, girl, have nothing, and half of nothing is useless to me.'

But Ara searched inside herself and found she had something to give after all. 'I have stories, and stories are the whole world.'

The eyes glowed a little brighter.

So Ara began. 'In the village, they say, "Don't leave your washing out or the Spirit will steal your underwear!"'

The darkness gripped her more tightly. Perhaps the Spirit did not like that story.

She tried again. 'Once the Spirit took Old Tew's goat. All he could remember were fiery eyes, and the goat was never seen again.'

Laughter rumbled. 'Another.'

Ara told stories about how the mountains were made and the spirits came to be. About the lake flooding and the villagers building the dam. About the oldest oak and the youngest lamb. About the great and the small, the mighty and the powerless.

'Do not stop,' the Spirit commanded.

Ara talked until she had run out of stories and had to invent new ones. She spoke of foolish fathers and brave sisters, and a village where anyone could have a voice. She continued until her mouth was dry and her chest ached, and still the Spirit called for 'More!'

She was very tired, and her thoughts were taking on the spiny, crooked shape of anger. So she said, 'Once there was a girl who made a bargain with the Mountain Spirit, but the Spirit broke its promise.'



The darkness swirled, tossing Ara this way and that. A voice like whipping wind said, 'The price has not been paid.'

Ara cried out through the wind and the snow, 'There are more stories than stars in the sky, than drops of water in the sea. As long as there are people, stories will never run out. So I cannot pay your price. Half of nothing may be useless, but half of everything is impossible.'

The churning air stilled and Ara plummeted into a snow drift. The snow glowed white as the darkness lifted.

Raising her head, she gazed once more into the dazzling red eyes. 'Ara the innkeeper's daughter, I accept your payment. I will tell you and only you the Secret of the Mountain ...'


The sun was high in the sky when Ara found Pa and Una clutching each other tightly on the steep, stony path. At the sight of her, their sobbing turned to tears of happiness.

Together, they returned to the inn. Life was the same as before, except that the village was even more full of stories, and everyone wanted to hear Ara tell them.

But whenever she told the tale of Ara and the Mountain, she always stopped before the end. The villagers begged her to reveal the Secret. Usually, she would only smile. But occasionally, she would take one person aside and whisper, 'I will tell you and only you ...'

To Pa, she said, 'Money isn't everything. Learn to live with joy.'

To Una, she said, 'Winning isn't everything. Learn to let go.'

And to Frey the shepherd, she said, 'Stories are everything. Won't you tell me another?' 



AMY (HANDLER



Amy lives in London and writes for children and adults. In fact her brain is constantly swirling with words. Her poetry has recently been published on The Dirigible Balloon website.

Twitter / X: @A_M_Chandler



TASHA HARRISON

TASHA HARRISON CHATTED TO US ALL ABOUT HER YA NOVEL, *THE THING ABOUT LEMONS*.

THE THING ABOUT LEMONS IS SUCH A STRIKING TITLE WHICH WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE! CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE BOOK?

Thank you! *The Thing About Lemons* is about a girl called Ori who makes the mistake of kissing her BFF's boyfriend and experiencing the knock-on effect that moment has. Her friends turn their backs on her and all her fun summer plans get cancelled. Instead she's forced to go on a road trip with her estranged grandad to his house in the French countryside. While Ori wishes she could turn back time, her mum assures her that when life gives you lemons (or in this case, when you chuck a lemon at yourself), the best thing to do is to make lemonade...



YOUR MAIN CHARACTER, ORI, IS VERY RELATABLE AND WE REALLY ROOTED FOR HER, DESPITE HER FLAWS. WAS IT FUN TO WRITE HER AS A CHARACTER?

Yes, I loved writing her! She has a dry sense of humour and finds most adults

fairly irritating! But inside she just wants to be loved like everybody else. She beats herself up big time for betraying her best friend, and it's only thanks to spending time with her grandad and great aunt that she eventually learns to forgive herself. I really wanted to explore the subject of making mistakes, self-loathing and self-forgiveness, as I think it's something we all battle with, even if we're not aware of it. I want young people to know it's OK to make mistakes, and that messing up and doing the wrong thing doesn't make you a bad person. We're all flawed, human and a work-in-progress, whether we're 16 or 86.

WE LOVE STORIES THAT SHOW THE UPS AND DOWNS OF GRANDCHILD-GRANDPARENT BONDS. DID ANY OTHER STORIES, OR MEDIA, INSPIRE YOU TO INCLUDE THIS THEME IN *THE THING ABOUT LEMONS*?

The inspiration for inter-generational family relationships in *The Thing About Lemons* came from my own family. Odette is loosely based on my elderly second cousin who lives in France and takes in stray cats and dogs, while Claude is a mash-up of different relatives rolled into one! Before the pandemic when we last visited my elderly cousin before driving further south for a holiday, I wondered what it would be like if she joined us on our family road trip with our teenage daughters. She isn't one to sugar-coat her

opinions, so I started to imagine some very amusing conversations and arguments that could arise between different family members if we were all cooped up in a car together for a few days. I also borrowed from my own teenage diaries to help develop Ori's character.

THIS BOOK HAS BEEN PRAISED AS A SUMMER READ PERFECT FOR FANS OF *TO ALL THE BOYS I LOVED BEFORE* AND *THE KISSING*

BOOTH. DO YOU THINK THAT CONTEMPORARY ROM-COM STORIES IN YA ARE SET TO GET EVEN MORE POPULAR?

I've got the feeling they are! And it's great to see more LGBTQ+ contemporary romcoms being published, too. We all need more love and more laughs in our lives!


THIS BOOK IS BASED LARGELY IN FRANCE. DID YOU EVER THINK OF SETTING IT ANYWHERE ELSE, AND DID YOU HAVE TO DO A LOT OF RESEARCH IN TERMS OF WRITING PLACE?

I didn't have to do much research as we go on a family road trip to France most years and usually visit my relative while we're there. The village of Frenac is fictional, but it's inspired by lots of other places including Montignac near the Dordogne and Sommieres near Nimes.

“ WE'RE ALL FLAWED,
HUMAN AND A WORK-IN-
PROGRESS, WHETHER
WE'RE 16 OR 86. ”

Claude's music studio/performance space is inspired by my uncle's studio, which is actually based in Germany, not France!

THIS IS YOUR DEBUT BOOK FOR YA, WHILE YOU HAVE ALSO WRITTEN FOR MIDDLE-GRADE READERS. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT MIGHT BE NEXT FOR YOUR WRITING?

I'm happy to stay with YA for the time being and contemporary comedy is what comes most naturally to me. I'm writing another YA romcom at the moment, this time set in Australia. And I've got another idea that's starting to percolate in the back of my mind about a holiday romance that happens on a teenager's last family holiday... 



The Thing About Lemons is published by UCLan Publishing and is available now in the UK and out soon in Australia.



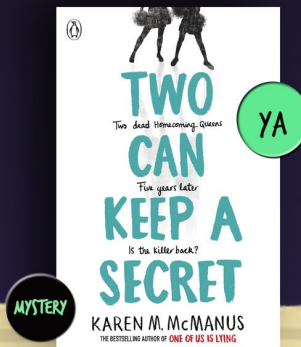
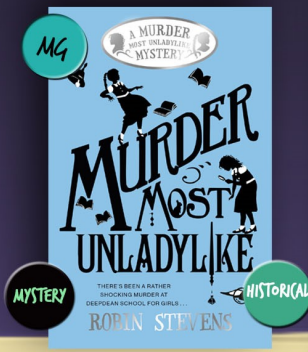
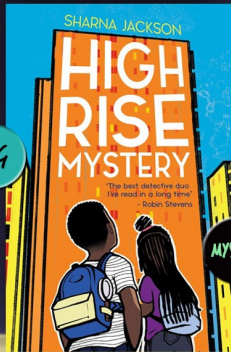
TASHA HARRISON

Tasha Harrison is the author of YA romcom *The Thing About Lemons* and middle grade comedy *Clementine Florentine*. A former sub-editor and copywriter, she has an incurable weakness for puns, rhymes and alliteration. She lives in Brighton with her family and food-obsessed Labrador.

CURIOSITY

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New Writing



ZOMBIE PROM

by Lauri C. Meyers

Lauri C. Meyers

Lauri C. Meyers' poetry for children and zombies has been published or is forthcoming in Highlights High Five, Ember, Little Thoughts Press, and others. When she's not writing, she can be found giving tummy rubs to her Shih Tzu or dominating at Yahtzee with her family in New Jersey.

She chats about poetry, squirrels, and other nonsense at www.laurimeyers.com and [@laurimeyers](https://twitter.com/laurimeyers) (Twitter/ X).





Picking a date for the dance can be tough.
Lucas—all muscles—brawny and buff.
Brayden is moody; his feelings are deep.
Tyler is rich, and limos aren't cheap.
Ashley appreciates classical arts.
Joey is funny, but jokes about farts.
Kai has the rhythm to rock the dance floor.
Greg is athletic, he'll shoot and he'll score.
Then there's the guy in the library stall...
He thinks that you're cute but he's too shy to call.
Christopher aces his tests without sweat,
Studies new facts that he'll never forget.
Look past his pimples and dated attire,
He knows all the answers... that boy is on fire.
A zombie's decision is quick to explain:
Say *yes* to the date with the juiciest brain.



Jennifer Lane

WE SPOKE TO AUTHOR, JENNIFER LANE, ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ISSUES AND INSPIRATION BEHIND HER YA NOVEL,

THE BLACK AIR.

***THE BLACK AIR* IS A YA NOVEL STEEPED IN MYSTERY AND OBSESSION, WITH THE THEME OF WITCHCRAFT AT ITS HEART. CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE BOOK, AND WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO WRITE IT?**

The Black Air is about Cate, Tawny and Bryony – three girls living in a remote village, *overshadowed by a gruesome legend and ancient superstitions.* The legend of the Long Byrne witches has haunted the village for 400 years and is a part of everyone's psyche, especially Cate's. She can't get enough of the old tales. But when beautiful, serene Bryony Hollingworth arrives at school, the whole of Long Byrne starts talking. Who is she? And why has she mysteriously arrived just before the anniversary of the legendary witches' deaths? This is a story about obsession,

mental health, disordered eating, the supernatural and the lengths that teenage girls will go to for the sake of all-consuming friendships. I've been a fan of witchy YA for a very long time and had the idea for the book around the time of the 400-year anniversary of the infamous Pendle Witch trials in 2012. As a practising witch myself, I became a bit obsessed with the legends and wanted to know more about the personal stories of those who were killed in Lancaster all those years ago. What if they could come back now in the present day? What would they say and, more importantly, how would they get their revenge?



Cover illustration by Sarah Dennis

THIS BOOK IS PACKED WITH POWERFUL EMOTION THAT, AT TIMES, FELT VERY RAW TO US AS READERS. DID YOU BASE ANY CHARACTERS, OR WHAT THEY GO THROUGH IN THE NOVEL, FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES?

I feel like a lot of young adults can relate to the strong emotions in the book – navigating deep friendships, sexuality and new relationships in an intensely claustrophobic school environment can bring out seemingly uncontrollable emotions; something I definitely remember from my time at high school! However, the main character Cate is dealing with other issues that are very closely related to my own experience. While writing *The Black Air*, I was going through a period of poor mental health and disordered eating. I poured a lot of my direct experience into Cate and I found writing the book so cathartic as a result. For me, writing was such a powerful tool to help me process what was happening in my real life and led me to getting the right help I needed to recover.

WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE WITCHY STORIES HERE AT PAPERBOUND. DO YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR FAVOURITES WHEN IT COMES TO RECOMMENDING OTHER BOOKS/MEDIA?

Absolutely! I grew up on *Charmed*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *The Craft* and have lost count of how many witchy books I have on my shelves. At the moment, I'm reading the *Three Dark Crowns* series by Kendare Blake about three sisters with magical gifts who must kill one another to become queen and

fulfil a very dark prophecy. I also love Adalyn Grace's *Belladonna*. While this isn't witchy per se, it's filled with magic, potions and otherworldly beings. But for me, the ultimate witchy series is *Wicca* by Cate Tiernan – I fell in love with it back in the early 2000s when I was first discovering my own witchcraft path and I love it just as much, if not more, when I reread it today.

“ FOR ME, WRITING WAS SUCH A POWERFUL TOOL TO HELP ME PROCESS WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN MY REAL LIFE... ”

THERE ARE SO MANY IMPORTANT THEMES IN THIS BOOK, FROM THE POWER OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIPS TO MENTAL HEALTH, GRIEF, AND TRAUMA. DID THESE THEMES COME INTO THE NOVEL AS YOU WROTE IT, OR DID YOU ALWAYS KNOW THAT YOU WANTED TO INCLUDE THEM?

I started writing *The Black Air* a few years ago and I don't think the world was ready for such stark conversations about mental health back then. There was still so much stigma but I think we've come a long way. I knew that I wanted to write about how grief and trauma can stay tied to an area when something awful has happened there and mental health has always been an important theme in my writing. The plot and the experiences that Cate, Tawny and Bryony go through came out naturally in my writing as their friendship grew more


intense. They go through so much over the course of one book, it really felt important to explore these themes, even if it takes us on a darker journey than we might first expect.

DID YOU ALWAYS KNOW YOU WANTED TO BECOME AN AUTHOR, AND DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS OR ADVICE FOR ASPIRING WRITERS?

I always loved creative writing at home and in school but, as with many millennial authors, I think the first time I knew I wanted to be an author was when I fell in love with the *Harry Potter* series. Those books shaped my childhood and reading was all I wanted to do – if I can write stories that inspire such dedication and heartfelt joy in others then I will be incredibly happy. My advice for aspiring writers would be to read, read, read as widely as you can. You may know you want

to write in a certain genre (be it coming-of-age, horror or comedy) but you may be surprised at what style tips and beautiful metaphors you can pick up when reading other genres too. Also, follow your favourite authors online – this will give you a good idea of what ‘the life of an author’ is really like and might give you insights into the publishing industry as a whole.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ WHAT YOU WRITE NEXT. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE YOU'RE CURRENTLY WORKING ON?

There's a lot going on right now! I have a children's/middle-grade novel out with UCLan Publishing in early 2024 all around the power of imaginary friends and unexpected friendships (it's yet to be announced so you heard it here first!). I'm also working on my third adult non-fiction book with September Publishing – *Underwing: In search of the witch's familiar and other magical creatures* is out in October 2024. 

JENNIFER'S WRITING PROMPT

Write about walking into a building where you can *feel* its history. How does the building make you feel? What is the temperature? What can you smell? Are there any strange artefacts there? Do you know the story of what really happened inside?

The Black Air is published by UCLan Publishing and available now!



JENNIFER LANE

Jennifer discovered the legend of the Pendle witches at a young age while exploring the moors of Lancashire and became fascinated by all things mystical. Her first book, *The Wheel: A Witch's Path Back to the Ancient Self*, on her journey to reconnect with nature and Paganism, was published by September Publishing in October 2021. In June 2018, she won a Northern Writers' Award for her children's fiction which looks at destigmatising mental health issues for a younger audience.

Jennifer is now a Reiki healer and practising witch. She has a varied career in magazine publishing and now writes and edits environmental content to encourage people to explore the great outdoors. Follow Jennifer on Instagram: [@thegreenwitchwriter](https://www.instagram.com/thegreenwitchwriter)

PRINTABLE CURIOSITY WRITING PROMPTS

Cut up the characters below and pop them in an envelope.

Do the same with the objects.

Pick one at random from each envelope and create a story using the figure you choose, and the object, that you have selected.

What weird and wonderful stories will you create?

Scientist

Explorer

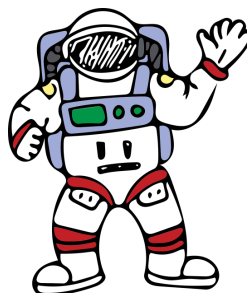
Cat

Lost child

Astronaut

Monkey

Pirate



Lightbulb

Treasure

Mirror

Diary

Spaceship

Pawprints

Time machine

PRINTABLE WRITING PROMPTS

Wonderful illustrator **Shirley Shelby** shared this **curiosity illustration** with us, which we think works beautifully as a writing prompt!



Using inspiration from the image above, try to think of a story and start writing. See where it takes you.

Where is this character going? How far have they travelled? Are they going somewhere familiar, or is this somewhere completely new?!

We'd love to read what you come up with so send them along to paperboundmagazine@outlook.com.

You can read more about Shirley on page 56.

A large rectangular area defined by a dashed border, containing 25 horizontal solid lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the page.



ILLUSTRATION BY LARA PORTER
Find out more about Lara
on page 56.

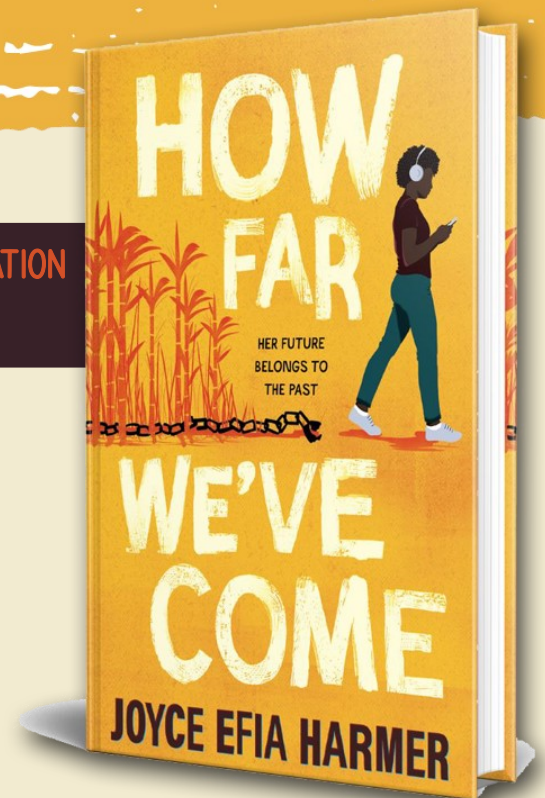


JOYCE EFIA HARMER

AUTHOR JOYCE EFIA HARMER SPOKE TO US ABOUT THE INSPIRATION BEHIND HER DEBUT NOVEL, *HOW FAR WE'VE COME*.

COULD YOU INTRODUCE YOUR NOVEL, *HOW FAR WE'VE COME*?

The novel is about a teenage girl enslaved on a plantation in the 19th century who time-travels to our present day! Here Obah, the protagonist, explores and compares how black people's lives have improved but also spots where there's still room for improvement in race relations. It's a probing look at our culture today through the eyes of the past – what is the legacy of slavery? But it's also a commentary on what is important in life, is it just home comforts or is it belonging, community and higher purpose?



THE NOVEL HAS SUCH AN ORIGINAL CONCEPT, WITH IMPORTANT THEMES. COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT WHERE THE IDEA CAME FROM, AND MORE ABOUT THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IT?

The idea originally came from a picture in my mind I had about a slave girl having an unlikely friendship with a

white child. As I wrote, the exploration of race relations became a natural focus. After the death of George Floyd in 2020 it got me thinking about how far we've come and what a girl on a plantation would make of how much progress there had been. My favourite genres are historical fiction and science fiction – specifically time-travel so it was such a joy to be able to play around in these two worlds.

THE BOOK IS WRITTEN IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE WAY, AND OBAH HAS SUCH A STRONG VOICE THROUGHOUT. DID YOU FACE ANY CHALLENGES WHEN WRITING THE BOOK, AND DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR WRITERS DEVELOPING THEIR OWN STYLE AND CHARACTER VOICE?

Thank you! I think that I really wanted Obah to sound like Obah, so I resisted the temptation to write in the third person and created her voice in the first person, present tense – this felt much more immediate. She was telling the story in her own words rather than through mine. There were lots of challenges! I had to constantly be mindful of her vernacular and keep her sounding herself even when a different word might have been an easier choice! Her use of pronouns and articles is very fluid too – I had to rely on my gut instinct a lot. As for advice, I think gut

instinct is a strong one. Listen to it and be yourself, don't try to copy anyone else. You'll find your own style.

DID YOU HAVE TO DO A LOT OF RESEARCH FOR THIS BOOK? HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PROCESS? DID YOU FIND ANYTHING SURPRISING, OR ANYTHING DIFFICULT TO RESEARCH?

I carried out lots and lots of extensive research! I read lots of journals and academic papers on life on a plantation,

the clothing, food, medicines, working conditions, cultural traditions they had. I went to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool and the National Museum of African-

American History and Culture in Washington DC. I even visited Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia which is a living museum depicting life in the 18th century, this helped me with descriptions of the interiors at the Big House and the clothing of the ruling classes. I visited the slave fort in Cape Coast Castle, Ghana. I watched historical documentaries... I really wanted the reader to feel that they had gone back in time to see, smell, feel and hear what life was like. It was a very emotional experience.

I can share with you that Obah/Orrinda really existed! Her name was taken from a real manifest at Codrington Plantation in 1741, which listed names the slaves were given – their 'Christian' name and their 'plantation'

name! When I saw her name, I knew she was from Ghana and I was surprised at how so many names were Ghanaian in origin.

HOW FAR WE'VE COME IS YOUR DEBUT NOVEL. COULD YOU SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR WRITING JOURNEY, AND YOUR JOURNEY TO PUBLICATION?

I have been writing for as long as I can remember, it is the love of my life. But I was always too busy with work and family commitments to dedicate the time it takes to craft a novel. I got a place on a wonderful scheme called Megaphone run by Leila Rasheed where she mentored me for a year to give me the guidance I needed to create a first draft. I was really lucky. It allowed me to take my writing seriously. After a few hiccups and several drafts later, I landed my agent at Darley Anderson and we sold it to Simon and Schuster where I got lucky again with an incredible team to support me with fine tuning novel into something really special.

JOYCE'S WRITING PROMPT


Ok! Let's do a gory one!

You blink your eyes open to find you are lying on a straw floor in a farm barn. You are dressed in rags and there are mice nibbling at your sore feet. Looking down at your hands you notice they are covered in blood... You have no idea what happened or how you got here. Write a paragraph exploring your emotions at finding yourself in this situation.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR TOP 3 TIPS FOR ANY ASPIRING YOUNG WRITERS?

Ok, so top tip 1: Find support. Writing is a solitary occupation, and that's beautiful, and wonderful, and necessary. But when you're starting out, it can be scary. See if you can find a writing class where you can meet others working on their writing and that will help you to keep going down the long road when it feels too lonely to travel.

2. Write every day. Even for five minutes. It's so easy to find excuses not to get any writing, but you have to treat it like a job if you want it to be your job.

3. Write about what your gut tells you to write. The book you'd want to read. Don't try to follow a trend or genre you have no interest in. Readers can tell if your heart and soul's not in it. 

How Far We've Come is out now and published by Simon and Schuster. You can read our review in the Summer 2023 issue of PaperBound.

JOYCE EFIA HARMER

Joyce has taught English in Italy and Australia and more recently in a busy London comprehensive. In 2016 Joyce was selected as one of six to take part in the Megaphone Writers' Scheme to support diverse voices in literature. In 2017 she was selected as a finalist in Penguin's WriteNow scheme. She lives in London with her husband, two sons and a Havanese puppy. *HOW FAR WE'VE COME* is her debut novel. You can find Joyce Efia Harmer on Instagram and Twitter @joyceefia. More details at joyceefiaharmer.com



ON WRITING

with YA Author
LAURA STEVEN

All my life, I've been a spiky girl. I've felt like I'm *too* much.

I was an intense, introverted child with an inch-long fuse, and a perilously moody teenager who wanted to burn the world down approximately sixteen times a day. Then, in my twenties, the more I learned about the world, the angrier I felt. Everything was so broken, and the people in power didn't care.

Even now, as a thirty-something, rage is an ever-burning candle in my chest, fierce words licking up my throat whenever something frustrates or hurts me. I'm always getting in trouble for reacting with too much speed, too much heat, in situations where others would probably manage to keep their cool.

And for so long, I felt so much shame for it. Until I started writing my sapphic dark academia retellings that placed spiky girls front and centre, and something inside me started to heal.

The Society for Soulless Girls was dedicated 'to the girls who were born angry', while *Every Exquisite Thing* was dedicated 'to the girls who were born hungry'. Both of those states, anger and hunger, have negative connotations. They imply angst, turmoil, conflict, pain, the need to suppress, suppress, suppress.

But really they're the most natural things in the world. Simply put, they keep us alive.

ANGER

Let's start with anger. Girls and women have been shamed for our anger for thousands of years. We've been burned at the stake as witches, demonically exorcised in front of jeering mobs, electrified and lobotomised in asylums. There's nothing the patriarchy fears more than an angry woman, because an angry woman has agency. An angry woman can push society towards change. Anger is often the most powerful political tool we have.

One of my favourite quotes from *The Society for Soulless Girls* is:

'Anger left to run free is like wildfire, indiscriminate in its destruction. But if you learn to tame it, to position it, to take aim with it? Then it becomes a candle. And what is the candle but one of humanity's greatest assets? It warms, it nourishes. It shines a light in the darkest of places, and illuminates the path forward.'

And yet as girls and women, anger is considered an ugly emotion. From a young age, we're taught to be placid and compliant. We're never encouraged to play fight as kids, the way boys are. As teenagers, a boy who punches his

friend in an argument is just frustrated; a girl who does the same is feral.

Our anger is constantly forced downwards, away from our mouths and fists, pressed deep into our bellies, a pressure valve with no release. And we wonder why it so often spills over. We wonder why we feel so evil when it does.

We aren't taught how to channel that anger into a force for good, for change, for progress. A narrative journey I'll never be able to get enough of is a spiky girl learning where her own lines are, figuring out the hard way that lashing out in the wrong direction will only cause more hurt, learning and growing and healing enough to use it, and use it well.


HUNGER

Then there's hunger, which I dive deep into in *Every Exquisite Thing* (an enemies-to-lovers reimagining of Dorian Gray,



inspired by *Black Swan*). Hunger is an essential primal signal that we need to eat in order to survive. So why do girls and women feel so much shame around this very normal human thing? Why do we feel guilty for embracing and honouring that hunger? Why does it make us feel feral – that word again, violent and desperate and out of control – when we finally indulge it? Why do we feel so much pressure to shrink ourselves, to be more meek and palatable and frail?

Spiky girls exist in direct defiance of that idea. When spiky

girls try to fit inside smaller boxes, they detonate. And so if being angry and hungry makes me spiky, so be it. Frankly, I can't imagine writing unspiky girls. Spiky girls are complicated and misunderstood, rich seams to mine, the perfect source of conflict, fertile ground for emotional healing. (They're also often undiagnosed neurodivergent girls, but that's a topic for another day.) 

EVERY EXQUISITE THING IS
OUT NOW AND PUBLISHED BY
ELECTRIC MONKEY



LAURA STEVEN

Laura Steven is an award-winning author from the northernmost town in England. She has published several books for young adults – her recent dark academia titles include sapphic TikTok hit *The Society For Soulless Girls*, a feminist horror retelling of *Jekyll & Hyde*, and *Every Exquisite Thing*, which explores beauty standards and body image.

Her debut novel *The Exact Opposite Of Okay* won the inaugural Comedy Women In Print Prize in 2019, while *The Love Hypothesis* was optioned for TV by an Emmy-winning team.

Her books have been widely translated, and her work has appeared in *The i Paper*, *The Guardian* and *Buzzfeed*.



You can find her on Instagram at [@laurasteven](#) and TikTok at [@authorlaurasteven](#).

MG Book Review Corner



THE BEAUTIFUL SOMETHING ELSE BY ASH VAN OTTERLOO

REVIEWED BY SARAH STEINBACHER

In *The Beautiful Something Else*, a nonbinary child uncovers their identity and learns to stand out for all the right reasons.

Twelve-year-old Sparrow Malone teeters from the pressure of hiding their mother's addiction, while trying to live up to her gendered expectations. But when their personal sacrifices aren't enough to prevent Mom's drunken accident, Sparrow must live with their Aunt Mags, a trans woman with her own complicated relationship with Sparrow's mother. Sparrow's new home, the family estate at Windy Hall, holds shadows for Mom, Mags, and now Sparrow too.

Despite their shadow's initial troublesome vibe, it represents Sparrow's personified inner self, leading them to greater curiosity and self-discovery. Sparrow will have to lean on their love of nature, their found family and friends, and their newly revealed nonbinary identity if they hope to set healthy boundaries with Mom or risk losing all they have gained.

The Beautiful Something Else is an introspective, evocative, and deeply feeling queer coming-of-age story about generational trauma that handles sensitive topics with great care. It perfectly captures the daunting and sometimes chaotic journey of identity. Van Otterloo also explores themes of anxiety, perfectionism, friendship, and parentification. Fans of *Heartstopper*, Kyle Lukoff, and Alex Gino will love *The Beautiful Something Else*.

THE BEAUTIFUL SOMETHING ELSE IS PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC AND OUT NOW

READER REVIEW

A CLASSROOM OF STARS BY VAL HARRIS

ILLUSTRATED BY ANNA MATTHEWS

REVIEWED BY PAPERBOUND MAGAZINE

A Classroom of Stars is a fun and charming poetry collection jam-packed full of poems for all the family.

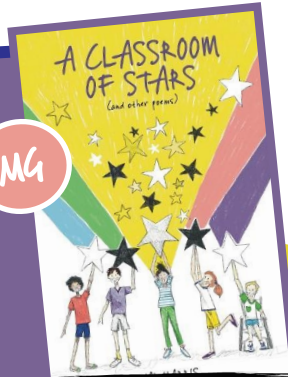
With over 60 entries, this collection includes poems from silly to inspirational. You'll find poems about books and writing, family and animals, poems that make you think, and poems that'll make you laugh. Some of our personal highlights include 'Where Poems Begin' and 'Some Dinosaur Superlatives'. There's even space for you to get creative and jot down your own ideas.

With fun illustrations from Anna Matthews, that perfectly match the tone of the book, there is something for everyone in this collection. Perfect to read alone, or perform aloud with friends and family.

A CLASSROOM OF STARS IS PUBLISHED THE LITTLE GULL PRESS AND OUT NOW

MG

RECENT RELEASE



THE DESTINY OF MINOU MOONSHINE BY GITA RALLEIGH

REVIEWED BY LAURA JONES

The Destiny of Minou Moonshine is an absorbing tale of identity and friendship, tyranny and freedom set in the mystic world of Indica, an alternate colonial depiction of India.

Finding herself alone after a deadly event, Minou joins the ranks of the Green Orchids, a band of ragtag rebels seeking to overthrow the city's oppressive General. Guided by the spirit of the Dark Lady, Minou's quest to uncover an important secret takes her high into the sky and deep into the jungle, armed only with a map and a mechanical elephant!

This captivating adventure finds its strength not only in the fierce determination and bravery of its heroine, but also in Ralleigh's fantastic worldbuilding. From the lush green of the jungle to the vast grey walls of the General's formidable fortress, the vivid imagery makes it easy for readers to feel as if they are accompanying Minou on her quest to restore ancient traditions to the queendom of Moonlally.

Ralleigh's gift for poetry also shines strong in the haunting prayers and rituals that become so important to Minou as she uncovers her own past and discovers the magic of her future. Perfect for fans of Jasbinder Bilan, Sophie Anderson and Vashti Hardy, Ralleigh's stunning debut children's novel is destined to become a classic and is a must-read.

THE DESTINY OF MINOU MOONSHINE IS PUBLISHED BY ZEPHYR AND OUT NOW

MG



READER FAVOURITE

THE HOUSETRAP BY EMMA READ

REVIEWED BY STEVE BLACKMAN @66BLACKMAN

MG



READER REVIEW

Deliah's best friend Claude is moving away after the summer holidays, but all he wants to do is hang out with his new pal – the irritating Sam. When Claude's little sister Ami disappears into nearby Badwell Woods, Delilah, Claude and Sam are sent to try and find her. Their search leads them to a strange house, but when they sneak inside, they quickly become trapped.

The kids try to escape, but it's impossible, like a malevolent force is intent on keeping them there. And if that's not bad enough, they realise they're not alone: there are ghosts in the walls, and they meet two suspicious brothers who have been trapped inside the house for thirty years. But will the brothers help them, or make the situation even worse?

The Housetrapped is another middle-grade delight by Emma Read – author of the excellent *Milton the Mighty*. It swivels and opens like an elegant puzzle box, with riddles to solve, clues to unravel, and twists that surprise. Part escape room, part haunted house and part mystery, *The Housetrapped* cunningly weaves together themes of friendship and growing up and resilience.

This reviewer found *The Housetrapped* almost impossible to put down: it's spooky and fun; it's perfectly paced and brilliantly planned, with an intricate – but easy to follow – plot. If you like thrilling adventures, puzzles and spooky stories – and if you have the courage – follow Deliah and her friends into *The Housetrapped*.

THE HOUSETRAP IS PUBLISHED BY CHICKEN HOUSE AND OUT NOW

YOU CAN READ AN INTERVIEW WITH EMMA ON THE PAPERBOUND BLOG

WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM

ADIA KELBARA AND THE CIRCLE OF SHAMANS

BY ISI HENDRIX

REVIEWED BY LAURA JONES

Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans, the first book in the *Children Who Come and Go* trilogy, is a story of magical realms, mysterious powers and unknown destinies.

When 12-year-old orphan Adia Kelbara accidentally destroys her village, she flees to take up an apprenticeship in the kitchens of the Academy of Shamans, believing herself to be an evil ogbanje. Once at the Academy, Adia quickly realises all is not as it seems when she overhears a secret that could change the world as she knows it forever. With the help of unlikely allies, Adia must learn to harness her mysterious powers, embrace her destiny and save her kingdom.

A thrilling debut from author Isi Hendrix, Adia's story is both authentic and compelling – perhaps no surprise, given that it is inspired by Hendrix's own experience of working with shamanic tribes in the Amazon and Gabonese rainforests. From the haunting world of the Horrorbeyond to the claustrophobic Swamplands, Adia's story is fast-paced, imaginative and has strong messages of self-belief, discovery and friendship which will inspire readers.

This book is perfect for fans of fantasy titles such as *Nevermoor*, *Amari and the Night Brothers* and the Percy Jackson series. Jam-packed with magic, powerful gods and goddesses and mysterious worlds, *Adia Kelbara and the Circle of Shamans* won't disappoint.

ADIA KELBARA AND THE CIRCLE OF SHAMANS IS PUBLISHED BY USBORNE AND OUT NOW



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THANKS SO MUCH TO OUR REVIEWERS!

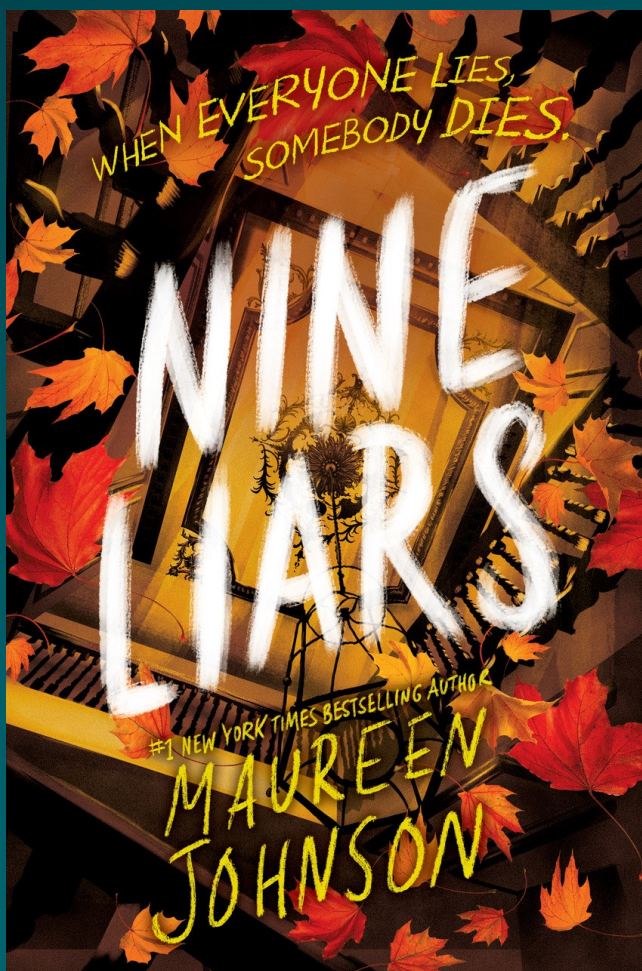
IF YOU'D LIKE TO WRITE A REVIEW FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE, CHECK
OUT THE DETAILS ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM/SUBMIT

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

WE WERE THRILLED TO
INTERVIEW THE MASTER OF
MYSTERY **MAUREEN JOHNSON**
ALL ABOUT THE STEVIE BELL
MYSTERIES AND HER LATEST
YA NOVEL, *NINE LIARS*.

MAUREEN JOHNSON

Photo by Angela Altus



COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR NEW NOVEL, *NINE LIARS*?

Stevie Bell and her friends have been invited to do a week's study abroad in London at the invitation of her boyfriend, David. The head of their school allows them to go on the provision that they stick to their schedule and absolutely do not get involved with any cold cases. That's fine by Stevie—for once, she's not interested in that. She wants to see London and make out. But as soon as she arrives, she meets one of David's new friends, a girl named Izzy. Izzy has a story to tell about something that happened in 1995. Izzy's aunt was part of Cambridge students who formed a sketch comedy group called The Nine. They also lived together and were each other's best friends. Days after graduat-

ing, The Nine went to a country house owned by one of their families to have a week-long send off party. On arrival, much champagne was consumed. While a storm raged outside, they proceeded to have a drunken game of hide and seek. All nine ran out into the rain, bottles of champagne in hand. Only seven came back in. In the morning, the bodies of the missing two are found in the woodshed, murdered with an axe. The murders were thought to be part of a burglary gone wrong.

Izzy's aunt was one of The Nine, and she recently had surgery. While on painkillers, she started talking about the killings, and revealed that she knew more about what happened that night. This was no burglary. Izzy convinces Stevie to meet her aunt and hear the story. Little do they all know that this will set off a series of events. Stevie and her friends have a week to figure out what happened with the axe in the woodshed in 1995—and also to solve a present-day disappearance—all while convincing the head of their school that they are doing a week of study aboard and absolutely nothing else. Definitely not solving a cold case.

WE ARE HUGE FANS OF THE STEVIE BELL MYSTERIES HERE AT PAPERBOUND. CAN YOU SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WRITE THEM?

As a kid, I was a lover of detective mysteries. When I say lover, I mean an obsessive fan. I set out to make a detective—one that could then appear in various mysteries, working on different cases. I have dreamed of fictional

detectives all my life! That's how Stevie Bell was born. She is my detective.

“ I HAVE DREAMED OF FICTIONAL DETECTIVES ALL MY LIFE! THAT'S HOW STEVIE BELL WAS BORN. SHE IS MY DETECTIVE. ”

THE CRIME IN YOUR NEW NOVEL OCCURS IN ENGLAND IN THE 1990S. HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE LOCATIONS AND ERAS FOR YOUR CRIMES/BOOKS?

Shorter answer: vibes.

Longer answer: crimes used to be investigated differently. There were different ways of handling scenes and evidence. (In some cases, it seems like the goal was to get as many people into the scene as possible, make sure they touched everything—really get that scene good and messy. Hand out clues as souvenirs. Take selfies. Just really enjoy the space. “You like that ashtray with the blood on it, Jim? Take it home!”) No one has their own DNA lab, so no amateur sleuth is going to solve a case that way. Old cases provide tangible clues, bit of evidence, records, photos—things anyone can work with, and possibly not something that requires a lab. It's a level playing field. Also, I have to have some kind of feel for the time. I tend to choose periods that

resonate with me for whatever reason.

1936 (for the *Truly Devious* series), 1978 (for *The Box in the Woods*), and 1995 (for *Nine Liars*) all felt right.

THERE IS A VAST RANGE OF FANTASTIC, VIVID CHARACTERS IN EACH OF YOUR BOOKS. HOW DO YOU ENSURE THEY ARE ALL FULLY REALIZED ON THE PAGE?

This is very kind of you to say. I have no idea? I just think about it a lot? I'm sure there is a better answer than that, but that's what I've got. It's instinctual.


WHAT TOP TIPS WOULD YOU GIVE AN ASPIRING WRITER ATTEMPTING TO PLOT A MYSTERY?

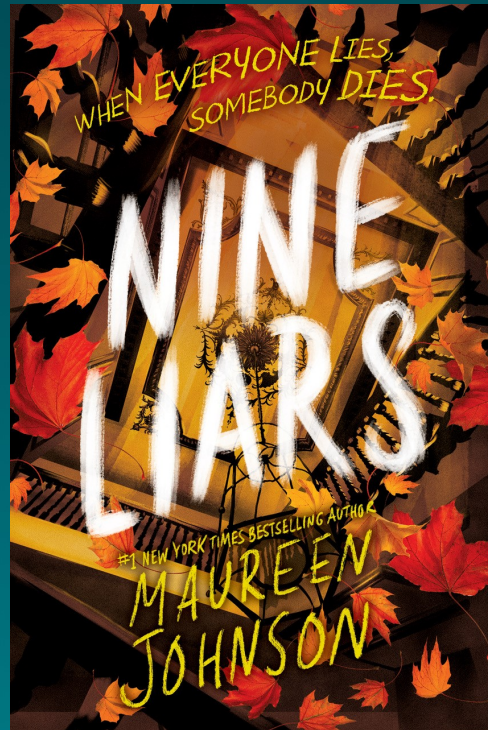
I try not to give tips about writing because everyone writes in their own way. I can only say what I do, and maybe that will be helpful to someone. I start with the event—the crime. I start with the why, then I move on to how and who. I build everything very carefully from the murder. I write the solution, everything that happened. I have to know everything—then I work out from there, moving backwards, distributing clues,

“ I BUILD EVERYTHING VERY CAREFULLY FROM THE MURDER. ”

making sure everyone in the story is exactly where they need to be, and that they know what I need them to know about the mystery and nothing more.

CAN YOU SHARE ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE WORKING ON NEXT? ARE THERE MORE STEVIE BELL MYSTERIES IN THE WORKS (PLEASE SAY YES!)

There are two more Stevie Bell books on the way! My next book is not a Stevie book—it's a standalone mystery called *Death at Morning House*. But the next Stevie will come right after that! 



Nine Liars is published by Harper360, and is out now in hardback.

The paperback will soon be available in November 2023 (UK).

MAUREEN JOHNSON

Maureen Johnson is the #1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of more than a dozen young adult novels, including the *Truly Devious* series, the *Shades of London* series, *Suite Scarlett*, and *13 Little Blue Envelopes*. Her collaborative books include *Ghosts of the Shadow Market* (with Cassandra Clare), as well as *Let It Snow* (with John Green and Lauren Myracle), which was also a hit feature film on Netflix. Her books have sold more than three million copies worldwide and have been published in more than thirty countries.



by Julie Anna Douglas

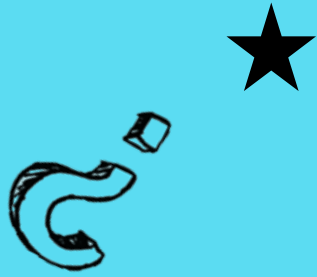
POETRY Q and A ?



Julie Anna Douglas

Julie lives on the West Coast of Scotland. She has been writing poems for as long as she can remember and many of them have found beautiful homes with The Emma Press, McMillan, The Caterpillar, The Toy, The Dirigible Balloon, Ladybug, Spider and now PaperBound too!





‘What will we tell them?’ *P* said to *O*.
‘Fables and facts and all that we know.’

‘How will we show them?’ *O* said to *E*.
‘We’ll paint with our pens and set the words free.’

‘What will we sound like?’ *E* said to *T*.
‘The whispers of secrets and roar of the sea.’

‘Where will we take them?’ *T* said to *R*.
‘To cities and forests and galaxies far.’

‘What will we teach them?’ *R* said to *Y*.
To wish and to wonder.
To laugh and to cry.’



MEET THE ILLUSTRATORS



HYKIE BREEZE



Hykie Breeze is a Hong Kong born illustrator and graphic designer living in Dharawal country (Sydney, Australia). Her first published illustration appeared on the cover of the school cookbook when she was ten, and while she was hooked on drawing from an early age, it took a meandering journey through marketing, events management, and communications design before finally setting foot in the illustration world again. She grew up on and remains inspired by Janet and Allan Ahlberg's *The Jolly Postman*, Quentin Blake, and Japanese animation.

Hykie is drawn to creating for kids and young adults because she wouldn't be the bookworm she is today if she didn't have access to wonderful literature as a child herself, and because she believes all kids need to see themselves and others in the books we read. She uses pencil and ink, alongside digital techniques to create her work.

When not working, she loves reading books by diverse creators, exploring the local national park and chasing after her two rescue cats, Panda and Zelda.

Hykie illustrated the front cover of our curiosity issue. We loved it so much, she's this issue's winner, and a little prize will be on its way soon.

You can visit her at hykiebreeze.com or follow her art experiments on Instagram: [@hykiebreeze](https://www.instagram.com/hykiebreeze)





CARMEN CARREIRA

Give me a day to do whatever I choose and I'll gladly sit for hours at my desk doodling away, usually with a mug (or pot) of tea nearby and my cat Charlie never far away. I love to work in paint (especially watercolour), soluble pencils and pastels, sometimes with collage too. If my three boys are at home they'll often work alongside me - we are a family who loves to paint, make and draw. I think encouraging creative expression is so important. My other passion is wildlife conservation and wherever possible I seek to include elements of the natural world in my work.



Carmen illustrated the contents page in this issue of PaperBound.

Lara Porter

Lara is a South African born children's book illustrator based in Sydney, Australia. She started out her creative career as a designer and then art director in the advertising industry, working around the world in Cape Town, Bristol and Sydney. After a decade of corporate life, she completed a BA Honours Degree in Illustration in the UK and began freelancing. She pivoted from editorial illustration in the pandemic to follow her true love... creating children's picture books. She has just completed illustrating her second children's book due out early 2024, published by New Frontier. Lara illustrated a writing prompt in this issue.



Claire Lewis

Claire is a picture book author/illustrator who lives in Mid Devon. She is represented by Kate Scarborough of Tyild's Agency, and her writing and illustrations have appeared in The Toy, The Dirigible Balloon and Little Thoughts Press magazine. She uses traditional media for her illustrations (gouache, watercolour, ink) but adds finishing touches in Photoshop. When she's not writing or drawing, she can be found doing design and display work for her local independent non-profit bookshop. You can find out more about Claire on her website: www.claireflewis.com. Claire illustrated the quizzes page this issue.





SHIRLEY SHELBY

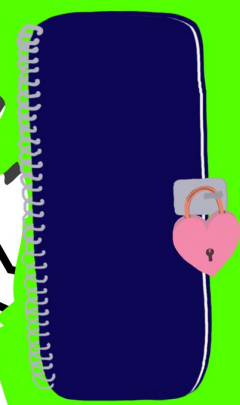
Shirley Shelby is a children's book illustrator and letterer. She usually works digitally these days using Photoshop or Procreate but also likes to hand draw her illustrations from time to time as well. She has illustrated two picture books and taken several courses in illustration and design. She loves to inspire others with her work and especially loves illustrating animals and nature.



Shirley illustrated a writing prompt in the curiosity issue of PaperBound.



IMOGEN HARTLAND



Imogen Hartland is an aspiring picture book author/illustrator. She's inspired by all the extraordinary things in life masquerading as the everyday—and she's grateful to her two young kids for always pointing them out! Imogen lives and works in Dharawal country in Sydney, Australia, near some rock pools and the bush. Imogen's illustrations can be found on the Letter From the Editor's page in this issue.

You can find her online on Instagram @i.hearts.arts.and.crafts, and on her website, at www.imogenhartland.com.



IF YOU'RE AN ARTIST OR ILLUSTRATOR AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR WORK IN A FUTURE ISSUE, YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE HERE:

WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM

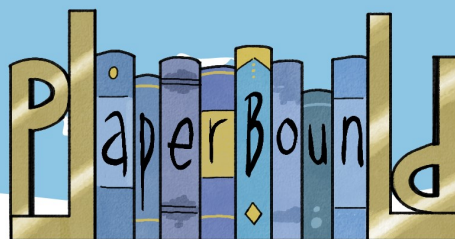
Would you like to be involved in a future issue of PaperBound?

WRITE FOR US: WHETHER IT'S FICTION, POETRY, SCRIPTS, OR ARTICLES ABOUT WRITING OR BOOKS – WE LOVE IT ALL. (CHECK OUR SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR MORE DETAILS.)

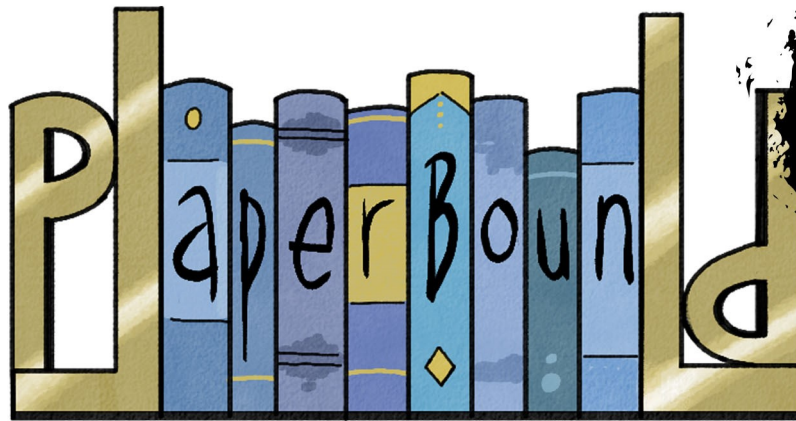
(CREATE ART FOR US: WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ARTWORK TO DECORATE EACH ISSUE. (CHECK OUT OUR SUBMISSION GUIDELINES TO SEE WHAT WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR.

BE INTERVIEWED BY US: IF YOU'RE AN AUTHOR OF MG OR YA FICTION, AND HAVE A BOOK COMING OUT, WE WANT TO KNOW! GET IN TOUCH!

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.PAPERBOUNDMAG.COM
IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, REACH OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA
OR CONTACT US AT PAPERBOUNDMAGAZINE@OUTLOOK.COM



Don't miss our next issue
coming Spring/Summer 2024



for the young, and the young at heart

New Writing

New Art

Author Interviews

Writing Tips

Book Recommendations

and more...

Don't miss the next issue of PaperBound in May

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