

# SEREN

2023 & Highlights



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Now over forty years old, quality and innovation remain at the heart of Seren. In recent years we have introduced the annual Seren Cardiff Poetry Festival, embraced the digital landscape with online and live-streamed events, launched a subscription service (three new titles a year, plus exclusive content), and created The Seren Poetry Podcast.

Seren was founded to nurture talent and celebrate writing from Wales, and the world. Representing diversity is consequently in our publishing DNA. This catalogue gathers new titles and recent highlights, perhaps the biggest being Seren poet Kim Moore winning the 2022 Forward Prize for Best Collection for *All The Men I Never Married*. This well-deserved achievement was the first time a publisher from Wales had published the winning title, demonstrating once more that Seren punches above its weight in the industry.

That quality sits at the heart of our list for 2023. Kim Moore's ground-breaking book *Are You Judging Me Yet? Poetry and Everyday Sexism* is a canonical contribution to feminist literature. *Republic* by Nerys Williams is a poetic anti-memoir about class, culture and community in west Wales. *You'll Never Be Anyone Else* by poet Rachael Clyne is a powerful exploration of Jewish and lesbian identity.

New voices arrive in the shape of Nathan Munday who pushes the boundaries of style and form in his novel *Whaling*. Poet Rachel Carney plays with language and metaphor to explore the intricacies of neurodiversity in her debut *Octopus Mind*. *Cymru and I* collects ten personal accounts of Wales and Welshness by new writers from its under-represented communities.

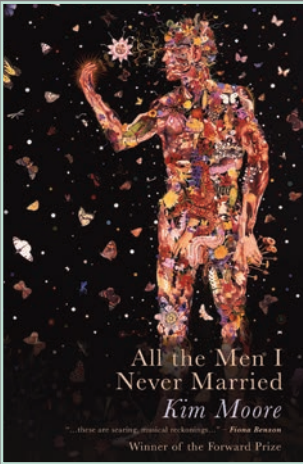
Other highlights include Bruce Cardwell's photographs of the Welsh sheep farming industry; Diana Powell's engrossing novel of love and survival set in the Black Mountains; and Jon Woolcott and Daryl Leeworthy uncovering *Real Dorset* and *Real Pontypridd*.

As always, we are grateful to everyone who buys our books, attends our events and supports our authors. Follow us on social media or sign up to our newsletter for the latest news. Help independent publishing thrive.

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£9.99

9781781726419

## All the Men I Never Married

### Kim Moore

Winner of the Forward Prize  
for Best Collection

Kim Moore's Forward Prize-winning collection *All The Men I Never Married* is recognised as a powerful contribution to feminist literature. Phenomenal, brave, taboo-breaking and searingly honest, the book is a gallery of exes and significant others, a source of rage, pain, guilt, and love.

These poems observe relationships between men and women with fresh eyes. Moore doesn't shy away from acknowledging female desire, and the inherent power that comes with it. Nor can terrifying episodes of violence and abuse in public, private, and online, be ignored.

"Moore's brilliant ability to gaze upon the fragilities that motivate men's literal consumption of women's bodies... is so precise and deadpan... She remains one of the UK's most compelling poets... whenever I see her name on a publication, I don't know exactly what I am in for, but I know I will be led."

– Poetry Foundation

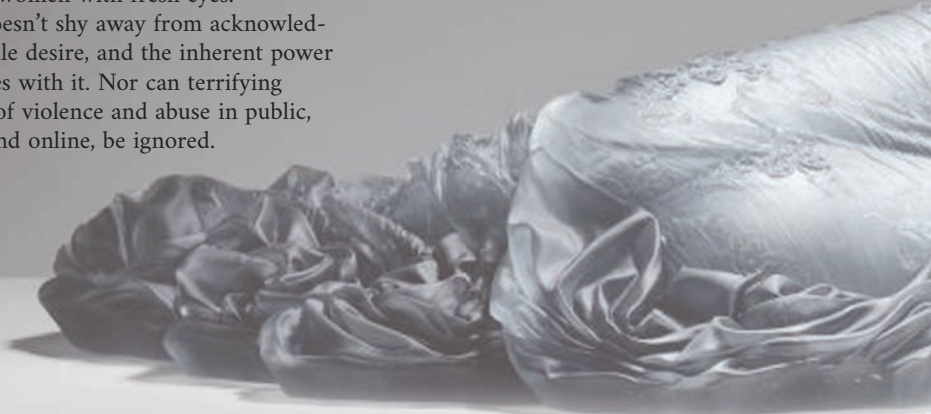
"Moore's poetic testimonials expose the underbelly of society's misogynist micro-infractions... Her provocative poems are urgent and necessary and vital."

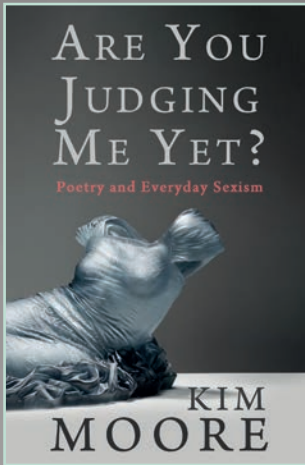
– Malika Booker

"Moore's collection hits all the right notes in a wide-ranging view that is both lyrical and actual... Her vision is incisive and crisp and invites us to act and to voice who we are." – The London Grip

The poems are not to do purely with sexual relationships – friends and strangers also appear, especially in poems about the 'easy misogyny' of everyday life.

*All The Men I Never Married* speaks powerfully to the experiences of all women. It is a deeply felt and important collection by one of the best poets writing in the UK today.





£9.99

9781781726877


## Are You Judging Me Yet?

*Kim Moore*

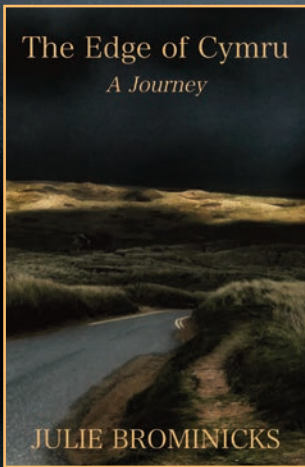
*Are You Judging Me Yet?* is a ground-breaking volume of lyric essays by award-winning poet Kim Moore. In it, she explores the relationship between poetry and everyday sexism, drawing on her PhD research and experience of writing and performing poems in her Forward Prize-winning collection *All The Men I Never Married*.

Through a balance of memoir, academic treatise and poetry, Moore tackles subjects ranging from heckling at poetry readings, problems with the male gaze and explorations of what the female gaze might look like in poetry, to discussions about complicity, guilt and objectification, the slipperiness of the word sexism and whether poetry can be part of transformational change.

Moore says, “I believe the time is right for a book like this to make an impact. As a female poet, I know there is a need for such a book to examine the intersection between writing, performing, feminism and sexism. I’ve had many conversations with other female poets who have confirmed my thinking – that female poets are navigating these things regularly, and yet nobody is really writing or talking about them.”



“Kim Moore’s ground-breaking new volume is a compelling study of what it means to be objectified, to exist in a world whose limits are foreshortened by the predominating male gaze. A seminal contribution to a necessary dialogue.” – *The Yorkshire Times*



£12.99

9781781726846

## The Edge of Cymru

### Julie Brominicks

“Bursts with beautiful, descriptive prose, which picks up the minutia of each moment... Brominicks skilfully examines broad social, environmental, political, economic and even geological changes without the book feeling dry... as accessible as a novel and would make a great holiday read as much as a bedside book.”

– Countryfile Magazine

“...something that is much more than a simple description of a walking trip. It is Julie Brominicks’s own journey, her inner reflections, that make *The Edge of Cymru* such a compelling read.”

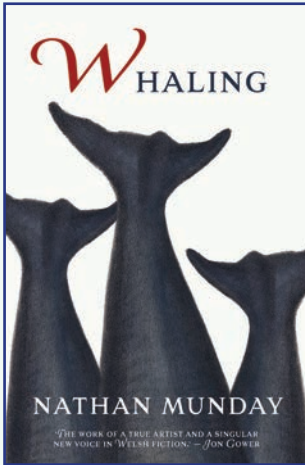
– Psychogeographic Review

“Socially engaged, ecologically informed and politically aware, this is an invaluable guide to understanding Wales past, present and future.” – Morning Star

*The Edge of Cymru* is the story of Julie Brominicks’ walk around Wales – over a thousand miles – in the course of a year. As an environmentalist she already appreciated the country’s landscape and natural resources. But as a long established incomer from England and more recent Welsh learner, she wanted to know more about its history, about Wales today, and her place in it.

As her walk unwinds the history of Wales is also unwound, from the twenty-first century back to pre-human times, often viewed through an environmental lens. Brominicks’ observations of the places and people she meets on her journey make a fascinating alternative travelogue about Wales and the lives its people live. Her writing is lyrical, marked with engaging and striking coinages and images which carry the reader along, entertained and informed. Brominicks brings the everyday alive in thought-provoking ways in a lively book, which gives the long view of Wales, discovering the roots of the present in the past. A quest of personal discovery, the narrative of *The Edge of Cymru* is also a refreshingly different way at looking at place, identity, memory and belonging.

Julie Brominicks worked at the Centre for Alternative Technology before becoming a freelance writer. She is a regular contributor to the BBC’s *Countryfile* magazine, and is an inveterate walker and traveller who lives off grid. *The Edge of Cymru* is her first book.



£9.99

9781781727065

## Whaling

### *Nathan Munday*

1792. Fifteen Nantucket whale men and their families arrive in Wales to establish the port of Milford Haven. A whale is washed up there at the same moment. What does this mean? What is to be done with it? The whale divides the incomers and local people, divisions that inexorably deepen and slip into hysteria, fusing and replaying the biblical stories of Jonah and Noah.

*Whaling* is a counterfactual novel which deals in the timeless themes of guilt, language, power, the environment, immigration, and what happens when religion, language, and community are abused. Weaving fact with fiction, this heir to *Moby Dick* asks searching questions about the past, the present and ourselves.

Munday's debut novel is an exciting mélange of original fiction and historical texts, adorned with contemporary images. His sinuous and forceful prose is a compelling and thought-provoking narrative of change and upheaval.

Nathan Munday is a young Welsh writer from Carmarthenshire. He completed post-graduate research in religious literature and became the custodian at Tŷ Mawr Wybrnant, the birthplace of Bible translator William Morgan. He has also worked in international development for Christian Aid. His creative non-fiction book *Seven Days: A Pyrenean Adventure*, was praised for its 'energy and ambition'.

"The story of a whale, yes, but with so many things drawn into its gargantuan wake. This bright collage of words is the work of a true artist and a singular new voice in Welsh fiction." – Jon Gower

Selected for the Booksellers' Association Summer Catalogue

Author interview by Horatio Clare at the Hay Festival





£9.99

9781781726969

## Republic *Nerys Williams*

Nerys Williams's explosive poetry collection *Republic*, came from her need to tell an alternative social history, one that commits an oral history to paper. In it she opens a window on life in rural west Wales during the 1980s and 90s, a period of cultural, political and social change.

As an 'anti-memoir' *Republic* challenges a nostalgic narrative of west Wales. A story of class, culture and community, it is told through the eyes of a young woman listening to the post-punk music of the 1980s and indie labels of the 1990s, decades which culminated in 'Cŵl Cymru' and new devolutionary powers in Wales.

Many of the poems attempt to sift through the poet's relationship with Welsh as a minority language. Collecting stories overheard, handed down, magnified and often translated from Welsh, *Republic* creates a patchwork of narratives in which music, politics, feminism and family life collide, as the poet questions what constitutes a republic?

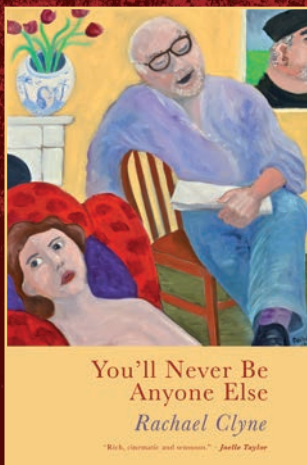
"Pitched against nostalgia, Williams's prose poems are tough-minded, shrewd and hugely evocative of the times she chronicles." – Gwyneth Lewis

"A 'gold rush' of a book, at times explosive and at other times meditative and soulful. Her magnificent lyrical inventions, veering from the zany to the profound, should make this a modern day classic." – Menna Elfyn

"A west Wales Baudelaire in Dr. Martens." – Peter Finch

"If *Republic* were set to music it would be Nina Simone meets Crass." – Rhys Mwyn





£9.99

9781781727034

## You'll Never Be Anyone Else *Rachael Clyne*

*You'll Never Be Anyone Else* is the confident second collection by poet Rachael Clyne. Through the empowering persona of her alter ego 'Girl Golem', based on the mythical man made from clay and spells to protect Jewish people from persecution, Clyne opens up an exploration of Jewish and lesbian identity, migrant heritage, domestic violence and ageing.

From the first page her voice is direct and assured as she deftly weaves different poetic forms and wildly versatile subject matter – even interspersing Yiddish phrases as part of her own poetic idiolect – to create a unique story of survival and empowerment. Treating even dark subjects with warmth and humour, Rachael Clyne is a distinctive voice with a powerful message about self-acceptance.

"Rich, cinematic and sensuous."  
– Joelle Taylor



£9.99

9781781727010

## Say It With Me *Vanessa Lampert*

"Lampert is one of the most enthralling new poets writing in – and of – the great aftermath of England." – Glyn Maxwell

Vanessa Lampert's debut poetry collection *Say It With Me* is a call to unite. Rooted in place and character, these wry, candid poems playfully record the foibles and fables of domestic life. Filled with portraits of the communities we live in and our interconnectedness, the likeable speakers scrutinise their subjects with dry humour and wisdom.

Often the poems represent specific places and people, brought to life through perceptive, vivid storytelling. Poems about family beach trips with loved ones now departed feel nostalgic whilst others are flights of fancy: imagining a park of one's dreams, an ode to the small pleasures of life, or inventing a new history where a father's life was longer. Scattered with curious twists and turns, this illuminating debut lays bare human truths that are curious, funny and moving.



£9.99 9781781726945

## In Orbit

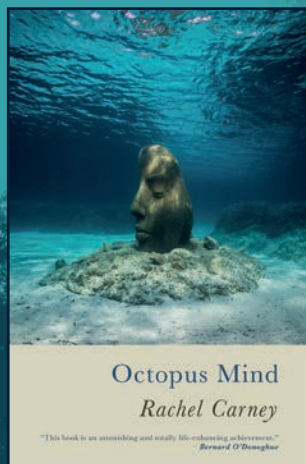
*Glyn Edwards*

*In Orbit* is a sustained narrative of love, loss and longing which explores grief and how we come to terms with losing someone close to us. The moon, stars, sky, and nature offer sustenance and a new perspective in the face of intense emotions as a man struggles to come to terms with news of a beloved teacher's death.

The narrative shifts in time as the narrator grieves, moving from the man's teenage years to the present day when he himself has become a teacher. Observations from the classroom illuminate the compassionate work educators do, and in grieving over the death of his own mentor, the narrator finds himself rudderless.

This deeply moving collection reminds us that the pain of loss can be soothed by the act of remembering.

"A fusion of love, grief and wonder at the beauty and complexity of the universe."  
– Matthew Francis



£9.99 9781781727102

## Octopus Mind

*Rachel Carney*

"...an astonishing and totally life-enhancing achievement." – Bernard O'Donoghue

Rachel Carney's debut collection *Octopus Mind* plays with an array of rich and original metaphors to explore the intricacies of neurodiversity, perception and the human mind. These poems articulate the desire to understand and be understood by oneself and others in a complex world as they observe the nuances of creativity, art, relationships, and self-expression through the lens of neurodiversity, reflecting on the poet's experience of being diagnosed with dyspraxia as an adult.

The 'Octopus Mind' evokes the possibilities of what it means to be human, through obsession, self-deception, realisation, and acceptance. Armed with new knowledge, we journey with the speaker beyond self-criticism to reclaiming the self as they begin the complex process of re-imagining one's place in the world. This is a remarkable debut from a unique new voice in Welsh poetry.



£9.99

9781781727089

## Viva Bartali!

*Damian Walford Davies*

Inspired by the lyrical, mythic mode of Italian sports journalism from the 1930s to the 1950s, *Viva Bartali!* is a biography-in-verse of the iconic Italian cyclist, and two-time Tour de France winner, Gino Bartali (1914-2000). Richly evocative of the joys and tragedies, defeats and victories which characterised Bartali's career and personal life, we are given an insight into the fascinating world of competitive cycling during a golden age.

But this isn't just the tale of an élite athlete. Bartali is also seen as a fond and loving father, a devout Catholic, and a resistance courier who helped save the lives of hundreds of Italian Jews during World War Two. Ultimately, Damian Walford Davies shines a light on Gino Bartali's remarkable life.



£9.99

9781781727461

## Free Verse

Poems for Richard Price

*Ed. Damian Walford Davies  
and Kevin Mills*

Richard Price is an underacknowledged architect of the modern world, who defined and advocated for many of our freedoms today. Philosopher, mathematician, political theorist, dissenting minister, and an internationally admired (and vilified) champion of liberty and the individual conscience, Price was a close friend of Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Joseph Priestley, Mary Wollstonecraft and many other radicals and freethinkers of the revolutionary age. Paine called him 'one of the best-hearted men that lives'. His political thought helped shape the American constitution, his moral philosophy pre-empted Kant, and his work on probability laid the foundations for modern insurance and for AI.

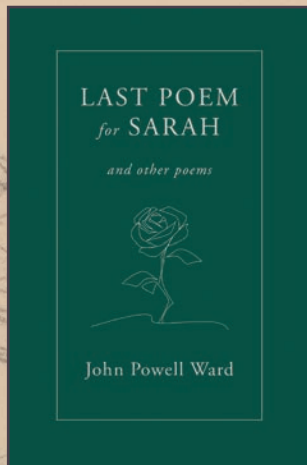
Poets from Wales and beyond have written *Free Verse* to celebrate Price's tercentenary. They include Robert Minhinnick, Zoë Skoulding, Richard Margraff Turley, Patrick McGuinness and Abeer Ameer.



God's Little Artist  
Sue Hubbard

£9.99

9781781727164



LAST POEM  
for SARAH  
and other poems

John Powell Ward

£6.00

9781781727195

## God's Little Artist *Sue Hubbard*

*God's Little Artist* is a biography-in-verse of Welsh painter Gwen John (1876–1939). Illustrated with precision, authenticity and a keen painterly eye by poet, novelist and art critic Sue Hubbard, it traces John's career from her childhood in Tenby to her life in Paris where she pursued an artistic career until her untimely, premature death.

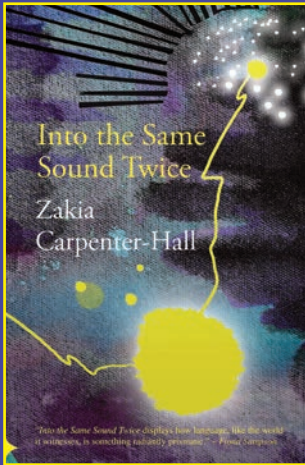
Through close observation, and a landscape of colour, these poems bring John's artistic eye to the fore. In an introductory essay, Sue Hubbard details her research into Gwen John's career and discusses how the loss of her mother as a child could have impacted her later life. Regardless of the tragedies and challenges she undoubtedly faced, Gwen John was a woman of great passion. With precision and authenticity, succinctness and warmth, Sue Hubbard animates her singular life.

"Sue Hubbard delicately evokes the haunted atmosphere of Gwen John's own wonderful art." – Ruth Padel

## Last Poem for Sarah *John Powell Ward*

*In Last Poem for Sarah and Other Poems*, John Powell Ward, now in his seventh decade as a poet, revisits his childhood and time spent living and working in Wales, to conjure memories of a life well-lived.

While centred around the poignant titular elegy to his late wife Sarah, this pamphlet also captures intense memories of joy and pain in a series of fourteen sonnets called 'childhood and after'. Saturated with place and time, these poems capture the nuances and flavours of the twentieth century. With a Wordsworthian appreciation for 'unremembered acts' that take on great importance, Ward reaches back into the past, into childhood, adulthood and loss and sets those memories aflame



£6.00 9781781727058

## Into the Same Sound Twice *Zakia Carpenter-Hall*

“A rare, and hugely important, new talent. Her grave intelligence is lightly worn.” – Fiona Sampson

Zakia Carpenter-Hall’s stunning debut pamphlet *Into the Same Sound Twice* is a place where ‘the ordinary rules of motion’ don’t always apply. In language that is at once precise and tender, she leads us into rituals of care, ancestral memory and various forms of rupture and repair. Physical experiences, and their linguistic expression, plunge us into magical realities where our connections to the natural world can be both calming and destructive, and words, bodies and environments thrum with music.



£6.00 9781781726938

## Flamingo *Kathryn Bevis*

“A poet of real wisdom, compassion and fearlessness, with an almost old-school faith in poetry as way of shedding light, of making sense of the most senseless aspects of the world.” – Don Paterson

“A stunning and original pamphlet... inspiring, impressive and wonderful.”  
– The London Grip

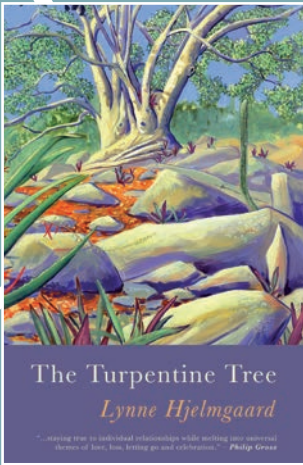


£6.00 9781781727003

## Angola, America *Sammy Weaver*

Winner of the *Mslxia* Poetry Pamphlet Competition

“An incredibly courageous and sustained highwire act of empathy... Weaver’s imagination is powerfully transformative, and her musical skills as a poet are unsurpassable.”  
– Fiona Benson



£9.99

9781781727140

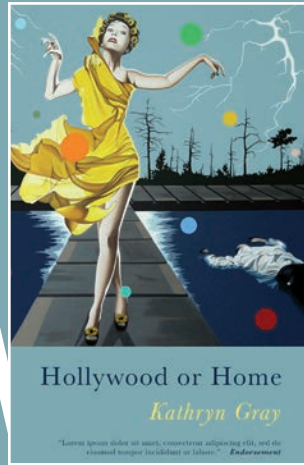
## The Turpentine Tree *Lynne Hjelmgaard*

In *The Turpentine Tree*, Lynne Hjelmgaard employs strong, sensuous imagery to explore displacement, solitude and the search for connection. Drawing on memories from a life uprooted by time spent at sea, widowhood, and loss, she conjures vivid portraits of family, friends and loved ones. Often these recollections are bittersweet, recalling friends and lovers lost, including her later partner, Dannie Abse.

From her experiences of loss and solitude come landscapes of silence: atmospheric, rich in emotion, exploratory and questioning. Hjelmgaard's poems reveal uncertainty, loneliness and longing but also celebration. Others take solace from ocean journeys that still inform her present and from what is garnered from the natural world. Celebrating universal themes of love, loss and letting go, this tender collection is a reminder of how it feels to be alive.

"Childhood, womanhood, children, ageing and love, mixed, as everything is, in one body/mind. Tender and magical."

– Alice Notley



£9.99

9781781727126

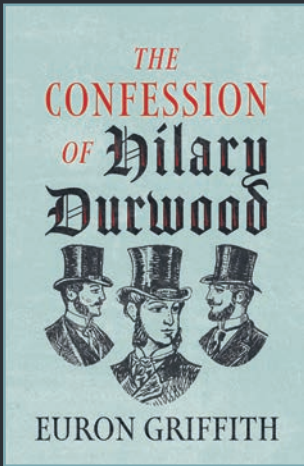
## Hollywood or Home *Kathryn Gray*

"Bristling with energy, humour and kick-ass bravura, at the same time these poems tremble with deeply felt emotion."

– Julia Copus

Kathryn Gray's long-awaited second collection *Hollywood or Home*, has as much ruthless glamour as any old Hollywood movie. These worldly-wise poems are seriously playful and playfully serious as they explore celebrity culture. Spectres of Hollywood – moguls, politicians, starlets, and monsters – leap from screen to page. Common tropes are observed, and industry secrets revealed.

In decadent celebrity culture, where a star is born every minute and becomes a flop even more quickly, these fierce and funny poems open space for the writer to reassess failures and successes, to overcome writer's block, and to remember that we never stop longing for our old dreams to come true. Writing at the top of her game, Gray manages to find spectacle – and survival – out of Hollywood's brutal disdain for failure.



£9.99

9781781726983

## The Confession of Hilary Durwood

*Euron Griffith*

“I have done unspeakable things” writes the imprisoned Hilary Durwood, condemned to be hanged for murder. How has this come to pass for a young man, eager for glory as an explorer in the further reaches of the Empire?

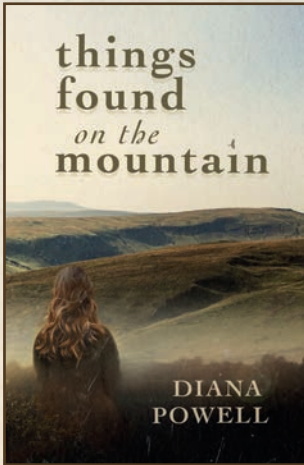
He has survived a semi-mythical mission, in semi-mythical lands. He has evaded dangerous islanders intent on eating human flesh, a huge cat with a wooden leg, a giant centipede, and a man who is determined to taste every animal on the planet. He has been fed by birds bringing hallucinogenic berries and held up the crumbling Tower of Ectha. After many adventures and setbacks he has returned to Victorian London destitute, full of remorse, and seeking revenge against the Gentleman Explorers who taught him so many hard lessons. Meanwhile a serial killer, The Slasher, stalks the streets. And inevitably their paths will cross...

It’s a strange world. And yet it’s real. Why would Hilary Durwood lie?

This dark comedy thriller is a page-turning and riotous engagement with the notions and myths of Empire, entitlement, the nature of reality, the power of lies and the gullibility of those who wish to believe, even in the face of the truth.

Euron Griffith is the author of three novels in Welsh. His first novel in English, *Miriam, Daniel and Me*, was published in 2020. He lives in Cardiff, where he works as a producer and plays in a band.





£9.99

9781781727188

## Things Found on the Mountain

*Diana Powell*

Farmer's daughter Beth is a child of nature, utterly at one with the rugged landscape on which she tends the farm's sheep in a remote valley in the Black Mountains. But change is coming. The modern world arrives with the construction of a reservoir in a neighbouring valley. Part of the mountain is taken away to build the dam; there are people, machinery, noise. Then the farms are emptied of their young men by the First World War, including Beth's beloved brother Daniel, who goes missing in action. Her mother turns to religion, her father falls silent.

Diana Powell is an award-winning short story writer. Her novella *Esther Bligh* was published in 2018 by Holland House, and a story collection, *Trouble Crossing the Bridge* appeared in 2020. Powell, who lives in Pembrokeshire, is writing a sequel to *Things Found on the Mountain*.

Beth takes to the mountain, and a solitude interrupted by the arrival of a colony of artists led by the charismatic Eric Gill. And among them is Gill's apprentice, Gabriel. When the colony moves on, Beth faces a terrible choice: can she leave the Mountain to be with Gabriel?

*Things Found on the Mountain* is a Hardy-esque coming of age story. At its heart is the dramatic landscape, which, like Beth, suffers an end to innocence. This lyrically written novel, reminiscent of Sarah Hall, marks the arrival of an appealing new voice in fiction.





£9.99

9781781726648

## This Is Not Who We Are *Sophie Buchaillard*

1994. Iris and Victoria are pen friends. Iris writes about her life with her family in Paris, Victoria about her family in Rwanda. One day Victoria's letters stop.

Twenty years later Iris, newly a mother, is a journalist in London. As she prepares to return to work, she thinks of Victoria. She pitches a story to her editor which sets her on a journey to find her pen friend. But as Iris follows the story, things emerge that make her question her own past. Are her childhood memories more fiction than fact? Why is she looking for Victoria, really?

Victoria has made a new life with her youngest brother Paul, and left the past behind. Or so she thinks until she is suddenly confronted with the decision to reconnect with her middle brother Benjamin.

How have the lives of these two women, who shared a moment in time, changed? As the pressure of long-kept family secrets builds, will they ever find each other?

"A stark and terrifying reminder that only the most fragile screen separates the familiar from the abyss. It is an elegant and sombre reflection on what it means to retain one's humanity in the face of a brutal and dehumanising cataclysm."

– Richard Gwyn

"This is a fine novel... a powerfully empathetic and sensitive book, which reserves its real rage for the ideological fanatics who deliberately mutate anger at oppression into a specious salvationist enterprise, hate-fuelled, directed at other victims of that same oppression."

– Niall Griffiths

"...so resonant to our times, so relevant to the issues that we live with daily, that we are instantly sympathetic to Buchaillard's starting point and aims... There's much fine, restrained writing." – Wales Arts Review

"A multi-layered and very moving novel about the Rwandan genocide and the culpability of the French government. The central idea of pen friends whose letter-writing is disrupted by war feels original and offers a fruitful way into this complex subject matter. An excellent debut and I can't wait to see what Sophie Buchaillard writes next." – Katherine Stansfield

"A poignancy that stays with you long after you've turned the last page." – Rachel Rees

BRUCE CARDWELL

**A Hardy Breed**

Sheep Farming In Wales

£15.00

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## A Hardy Breed

*Bruce Cardwell*

*A Hardy Breed* is a collection of 100 black and white photographs celebrating shepherding and sheep farming in mid and north Wales. It records a way of life under pressure for the past couple of centuries, and more than ever today. This is an important social document, of reportage, portraiture and documentary photography of an industry threatened by the outcomes of Brexit and other issues – climate change, biodiversity, agricultural developments. Importantly, many of the communities in it are centres of Welsh language and culture, also under pressure.

Above all though, this is a book with heart. Cardwell discusses the many issues facing farmers and includes interviews with the subjects of some of the images. His photographs offer stunning landscapes and intimate peeks into the distinctive work and lives of sheep farmers, shepherds and their dogs. It is an insight into a singular society, of farming, shearing, shows, markets and mountains.

The photographs are from Cardwell's 'Calon Wlan' exhibition at Aberystwyth Arts Centre, which were collected alongside his other works by the National Library of Wales.

Bruce Cardwell is a folk musician and photographer living in Ceredigion. He is the author of *Hoofpicks: Photographs of the Horse in Wales*, *Noteworthy: Images of Welsh Music* and *The Harp in Wales*.

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## Cymru and I

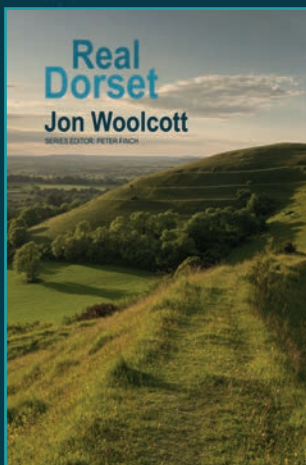
*Emily Price & Siriol Griffiths*

In *Cymru and I* ten new writers look at what Wales means to them as people from backgrounds previously largely under-represented. Their various viewpoints make this book a new look at Wales, or show a Wales for the most part hidden: a Wales unwritten. Here are essays on integration, identity, the power of language to welcome or divide, acceptance, personal aspiration, civic decline, and hill walking. Wales is the first official Nation of Sanctuary. Among the contributors are those who have sought sanctuary: immigrants – current and first or second generation – neurodivergent people, members of the LGBT community, and of working-class communities.

*Cymru and I* is made of ten very human stories about Wales and the many different kinds of Welshness it encompasses. It is published in collaboration with Inclusive Journalism Cymru, an organisation committed to creating opportunities for and representing writing from communities in Wales conventionally under-represented in publishing.

The contributors are: Gosia Buzzanca, Tia-zakura Camilleri, Kelechi Ronald Ikpe, Mo Jannah, Bethany McAulay, Laura Mochan, Debowale Omole, Alice Roberts, Hanin Abou Salem, Anthony Shapland.

Emily Price is an award-winning journalist from the south Wales Valleys, who is a news editor for the online news-site, Nation. Cymru. Siriol Griffiths has had a long career with a range of outlets in broadcast and print media. She is currently Wales editor at The Conversation. Both Emily and Siriol are directors of Inclusive Journalism Cymru.



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## Real Dorset

*Jon Woolcott*

*Real Dorset* is a personal, detailed, discursive, humorous and idiosyncratic look at Dorset. The county is famous for its spectacular coastline, for its historic towns, for its eco-foodie reputation, for Hardy and Fowles. But there's much more behind the tourist-friendly façade – subversion, rebellion and revolt, wealth and poverty, ghost stories and rich folklore. Its history can surprise – from the murky origins of the Cerne Abbas Giant to the revived pagan ritual of the Filly Loo.

Woolcott criss-crosses the county, making connections, uncovering the hidden and the forgotten. The largest (and lost) Neolithic earthwork in Britain contrasts with Victorian pleasure gardens and nightlife in Bournemouth. Trade unionism originating from Tolpuddle, the legacy of black GIs, the model village of Milton Abbas, vie for the reader's attention with the importance of Dorset for writers like William Barnes,

The 27th volume in Seren's acclaimed Real Series of offbeat guides by writers who know their place.

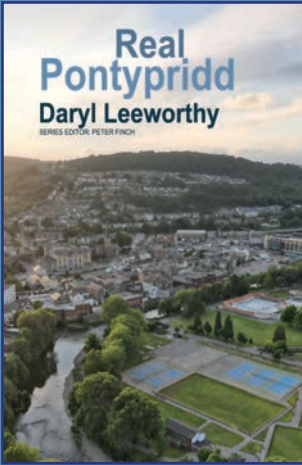
An unusual and thought-provoking guide to Dorset, past and present.

Witty, entertaining and informative, it offers a fascinating journey into this singular place packed with the history behind the magnificent landscapes and coast.

Illustrated with the author's black and white photographs.

TE Lawrence, Hardy, Fowles and Shelley, and artists John Piper, Rena Gardiner and Elisabeth Frink. Tombstoning at Lulworth, exploring Chesil Beach and the Fleet, boat trips along the coast, walking the Dorset Gap: *Real Dorset* covers all aspects of life past and present in this richly historical and much-visited edge of south west England. Locals and tourists alike may think they know Dorset: Jon Woolcott's book may well prove that there is plenty more to learn about it.

Jon Woolcott is a writer and publisher, who lives in Dorset, where he currently works for the acclaimed independent publisher, Little Toller. He also edits *The Clearing*, the online journal for new writing about place and nature. He has held senior marketing and buying roles for Stanfords, Waterstones and Ottakar's. His writing has appeared widely, including in *The Guardian*.



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## Real Pontypridd *Daryl Leeworthy*

Pontypridd receives the Real treatment. The unofficial capital of the South Wales Valleys, Pontypridd is a place of sometimes surprising contrasts. It boomed from an earthen house at the confluence of the Taff and Rhondda rivers in to a pulsating urban and industrial centre. Its early wildness attracted Turner, its industry produced thinkers like William Price and developed trade unions, its proud Victorian society gave us the Welsh national anthem and *Cwm Rhondda*. Its industrial decline coincided with writers like Alun Richardas and Elaine Morgan, singers like Tom Jones, and other actors, composers and opera singers.

Daryl Leeworthy goes in search of Pontypridd: the places, the people, the communities which formed the bedrock of the town. From the pit villages of Ynysybwl and Cilfynydd and the industry of Treforest and Tumble, to the bustle of the town centre and its famous market, and from the empty hilltop of Llanwonno to the leafy suburbs of Church Village and Tonteg, all of

The 28th volume in the acclaimed Real Series of offbeat guides about place.

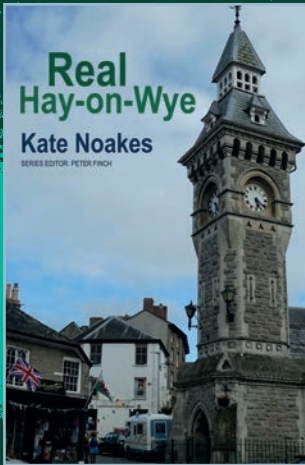
An informative history of the capital of the south Wales Valleys.

Illustrated with the author's black and white photographs.

Pontypridd is here. Like turning a kaleidoscope, Leeworthy finds the iconic arched bridge, the chainworks, Ynys Angharad Park, the 'House of Pain' (Pontypridd RFC), the Lido, the famous market, the space-age new library, the churches and chapels, the Italian cafés, the traffic, the Rocking Stone.

Drawing on personal memories, an encyclopaedic knowledge of the local history, and many many long walks and conversations, Daryl Leeworthy describes the essence of this iconic south Wales Valleys town.

Daryl Leeworthy is a historian and biographer. He is the author of six books including lives of television screenwriter Elaine Morgan and novelist and playwright Gwyn Thomas, the pioneering *A Little Gay History of Wales* and several studies in the history of Welsh social democracy. Born in Weston Super Mare, he grew up in Ynysybwl. He now lives in Pontypridd.



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## Real Hay-on-Wye

### *Kate Noakes*

This addition to the Real Series explores Hay-on-Wye, Town of Books and home to the prestigious Hay Literature Festival and How the Light Gets In festival of ideas and music. Kate Noakes ventures into its rural hinterland, historically so much a part of the town too. The Black Mountains to the south, the river and Clyro to the north, rural Herefordshire to the east, and out towards Brecon to the west fall into her rich and varied territory, featured in so many travel guides and so much literature, and in the DNA of Hay locals as their patch.

Noakes surveys the Literature Festival and the many bookshops oriented towards the visitor, which give Hay-on-Wye its rich cultural identity. But she also goes beyond, into the old town, the markets and shops of the locals and the cafés and galleries of more fashionable incomers and tourists.

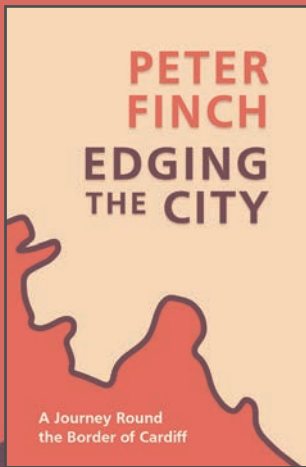
An offbeat tour of the Town of Books and its hinterland.

New thoughts and old histories from a porous border crossing that has seen centuries of restless questioning.

Launched at the Hay Festival.

She discovers that Hay is a town with a split personality of rural culture on the one hand and almost metropolitan culture on the other, with its growing numbers of second homes and incoming good-lifers. Spiced by many local oddities Hay's story is one common to rural towns reinventing themselves in the face of general 'progress'. There's a sense in which Hay's history repeats itself, the invention of the Town of Books being a response to changing times.

Kate Noakes is a poet and author based in London who has a longstanding relationship to Hay-on-Wye and the surrounding area. Her poetry has been published widely in *The North*, *Poetry Wales*, *Mslexia*, *Planet*, *Magma*, *The Interpreter's House* and other journals. She has published six collections of poetry, most recently *The Filthy Quiet*.



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## Edging the City

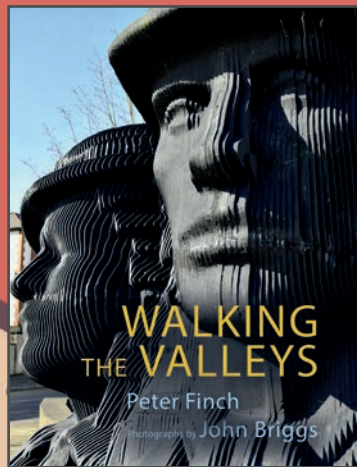
*Peter Finch*

What do psychogeographers do when COVID confines them to their local authority? They walk its border. 58.4 miles.

Cardiff's dotted boundary travels across fields, along motorways, up rivers, through forests, and along miles of mudflats on the edge of the Severn. Rainsoaked treks up hillsides, bridges, diversions, disentanglements and discoveries play a part as Finch walks around the city he thought he knew.

*Edging the City* explores why and where borders exist, their purposes, their love of water courses. It considers how they change and what happens when politics intervene. Finch tracks Cardiff's medieval and other boundaries. He provides textual diversions on border history, north Cardiff trees, words for mounds, the mountains of Cardiff, the city's coalmines, its triads, historical figures, battles, poets, politicians and other divertissements.

“Defamiliarizes and enriches these landscapes, with allusion, digression and depth, all painted in seemingly effortless poetic prose.” – Nation.Cymru



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## Walking the Valleys

*Peter Finch & John Briggs*

Author Peter Finch and photographer John Briggs venture into the South Wales Valleys with fifteen illustrated walks. In two centuries the Valleys went from idyllic rural landscape to the engine room of the British Empire to post-industrial decline. As coal mining and iron and steel grew, the Valleys crammed two-hundred and fifty thousand people between their steep sides. They produced fuel and products exported globally, but also archetypal working-class communities, with their chapels, union militancy, workers' institutes, and seemingly unbreakable identities. Fuelled by massive immigration, they were a social experiment in assimilation and radical politics.

Today the pits and foundries have become heritage sites, the Institutes largely closed, and the chapels converted to shops or housing. Finch and Briggs explore how the Valleys have changed. Their book is one of record, and of evolution into the twenty-first century in places like Aberdare, Pontypridd, Merthyr Tydfil, Bargoed, Porth and Treherbert. Walkers and armchair travellers, natives and visitors will much to inform and delight them.



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## Delirium

*Robert Minhinnick*

Robert Minhinnick's square mile on the coast of south Wales is the starting point for a series of pieces which journey outwards to Sicily, Iraq and Burma among other places. They start too in the personal – hospital visiting, clearing a house, covid lockdown – and expand into the universal. And they begin in the everyday and take in life afflicted by the globalisation of society and of the mind. Minhinnick searches for meaning in a world of change, particularly of environmental change which is rushing towards an unpalatable future for the planet and its people.

*Delirium* is classic Minhinnick. Consumerism, poetry, the implacability of the algorithm, local history, nature and much else jostle with each other. The writing is characteristically wide-ranging in thought and style, with a poet's eye for the telling image and ear for the lyrical. From the war diaries of his father and to the depleted uranium of the Gulf War, from the Ford dealership in Bridgend to the ancient dunes

Recipient of the Hay Festival Medal for Poetry 2022

A stylistic tour de force which skewers Covid, climate crisis and consumerism

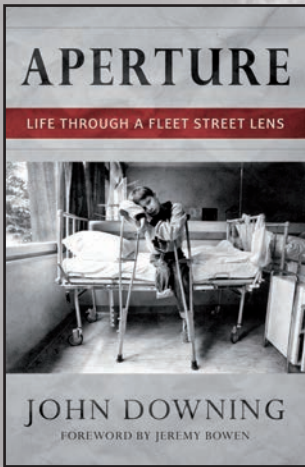
“A series of bright, burnished pieces which sparkle with intent and energy.”  
– Nation.Cymru

“Busy, fragmented prose, which is polyphonic in voice, time-bending in span, and a whirlwind to read.” – Wales Arts Review

a few miles away, from sunflowers to Emily Dickinson, this is a kaleidoscopic book which provokes and intrigues.

Robert Minhinnick is one of Britain's most eminent writers. He is a multi-prizewinning poet, essayist and novelist; his most recent poetry collection was shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize and won Wales Book of the Year, which he has won three times. Two of his novels have been shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize. He was the editor of *Poetry Wales* for ten years.





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## Aperture *John Downing*

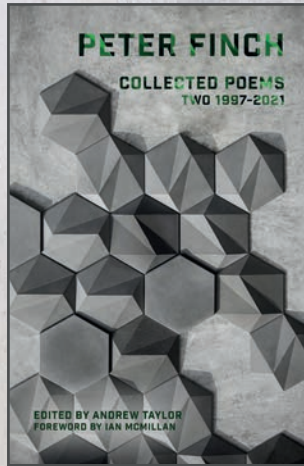
John Downing was the pre-eminent press photographer of his generation, winning British Press Photographer of the Year seven times. As a photojournalist Downing recognised a good story, and how to tell it. *Aperture* is a fascinating and engaging mix of recording the heyday of Fleet Street – multi-million daily sales of the only source of readable news and information, driven by dynamic characters and with its own cultures – and Downing’s less glamorous personal experiences on the job. These included long assignments in hotspots around the world, including South Sudan, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Uganda, Bangladesh and Chernobyl, which are vividly described. Widely respected by colleagues, Downing’s work includes some of the iconic images of the period, including the only photograph of Thatcher immediately after the IRA bombing.

*Aperture – Life Through a Fleet Street Lens* describes the glamour and excitement of journalism at the time: the hard-nosed editors, the rivalries, the ‘work hard, play hard’ culture, foreign assignments issued at the drop of a hat, the toll on journalists and photographers. Newspapers were a hugely important part of daily life then, the world was less accessible, and newspapers played a vital role in shining light into some of its darker, more inaccessible parts. John Downing played a significant part in this, not without some personal cost.

Completed shortly before his death, with the help of colleague Wendy Holden, Downing filed a story for the final time: his own remarkable life.



£19.99 9781781726709



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## Collected Poems

### *Peter Finch*

These two volumes chart the course of a remarkable writing career. After reading Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* as a young man Finch was inspired to become a poet, found the *second aeon* magazine and publishing house, and become a poetry entrepreneur, bringing to all these things an unquenchable vitality which set him apart in contemporary poetry.

Volume One 1968-1997 makes available poems from long lost chapbooks, broadsheets and limited editions, as well as more conventionally published work. Here are concrete poems, sound poems, typographical poems, visual poems, poems as cartoons or as crumpled photocopies. Whatever their form, Finch's poems are always vivid and alive, pulsing with inventive energy. This is work which pushes the idea of poetry on until it breaks, flowers, or dissolves.

Volume Two 1997-2021 covers the 'second half' of Finch's career, when his poems appeared in his prose books, and in public places on sculptures and buildings. Although

the poetry landscape of Britain has changed since Finch's first poem, his desire to experiment, to question and to challenge remains undiminished and relevant.

These *Collected Poems* are a testament to the experimental, to the different, to an alternative modernist culture. They remind us that there is interesting and vital writing outside the calcified canon of British poetry. With poets like Bob Cobbing and Henri Chopin Paul, Peter Finch was at the cutting edge.

Editor Andrew Taylor has included an informative Introduction, a timeline of Finch's artistic activity, and helpful notes. Poets Nerys Williams and Ian McMillan provide appreciative Forewords.

**"Since the early 1970s, Finch has been the principal innovator in Welsh poetry... he deserves a Welsh knighthood." – Richard Kostelanetz, Dictionary of the Avant-Gardes**



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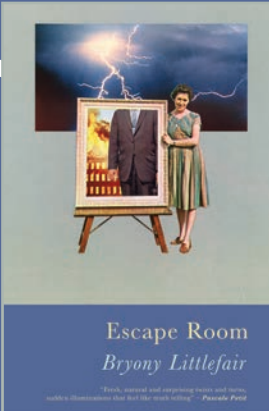
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## Goliat

### Rhiannon Hooson

“...a rich and assured gift – complex truths are revealed in language that is precise and luminous.” – Menna Elfyn

*Goliat* is the long-awaited follow up to Rhiannon Hooson’s Wales Book of the Year shortlisted debut *The Other City*. An intelligent and beautiful book, *Goliat* offers absorbing stories of a precarious world on the brink of climate emergency. Employing startling imagery and a deep sense of history, these poems explore the irreplaceable beauty of a wild world, and the terrible damage that humans might do to each other and the earth.



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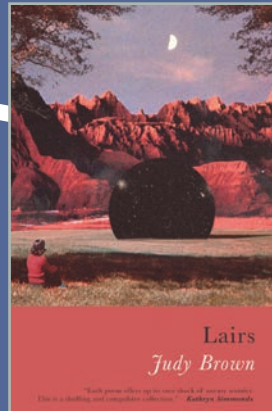
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“Fresh, natural and surprising twists and turns, sudden illuminations that feel like truth telling” – Pascal Petit

“Powerful in its simplicity... Littlefair observes the detail of daily life but also lets her imagination roam free and, at times, draws the reader into an alternative universe.” – The London Grip



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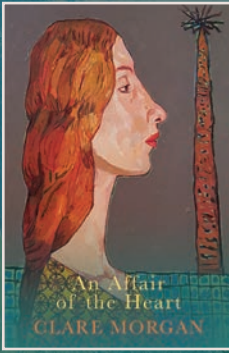
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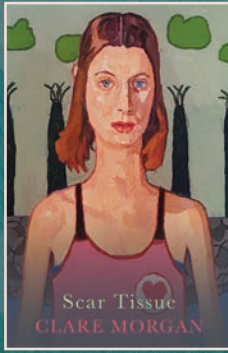
### Judy Brown

“Sometimes narky, sometimes tender and afraid, each poem offers up its own shock of uneasy wonder. Judy Brown troubles the edges of certainty in poems that greet us with a glittering strangeness. This is a thrilling and compulsive collection.”

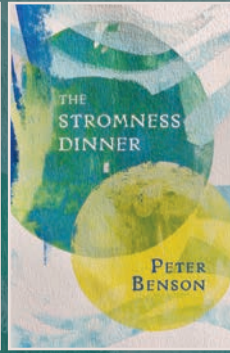
– Kathryn Simmonds



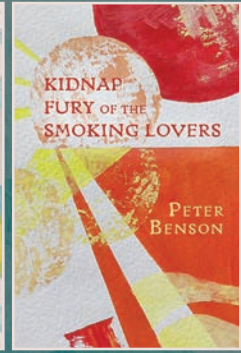
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## Clare Morgan

### An Affair of the Heart Scar Tissue

In a world of uncertainties, how do people navigate the increasingly complex inter-relations of love, desire, home, community? The stories in *An Affair of the Heart* and *Scar Tissue* offer a fresh perspective on the nature of individual existence in all its transient vulnerability.

From deep country on the Welsh borders to the metropolitan precincts of London or Paris; from the forests of Scandinavia to neatly clapboarded New England; from a Spanish finca to Dulles airport; and from the steamy environs of Mumbai to the cool spaces of a medieval farmhouse in Snowdonia – these disparate realms intersect with the perennial human need to belong and the impossibility of doing so. The irreducibility of time acts as a continuum in the stories in *Scar Tissue* and links loss with longing, hope with love and reveals the unbreakable hold the past can have on present aspirations.

## Peter Benson

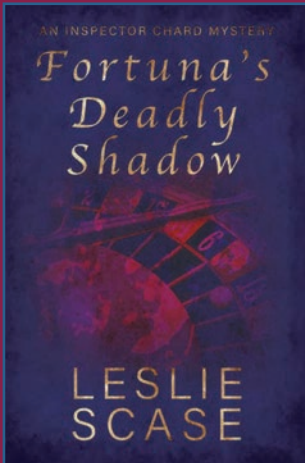
### The Stromness Dinner Kidnap Fury of the Smoking Lovers

Prizewinning novelist Peter Benson continues his exploration of relationships.

*Kidnap Fury of the Smoking Lovers* shouts the tabloid headline when 20 year old gardener (and school dropout) Fargo Hawkins and fortysomething abused wife Anne Swaine run away. They pitch up in north Wales, pursued by husband Harry, a firm of detectives and their emotions, though their journeys have very different directions.

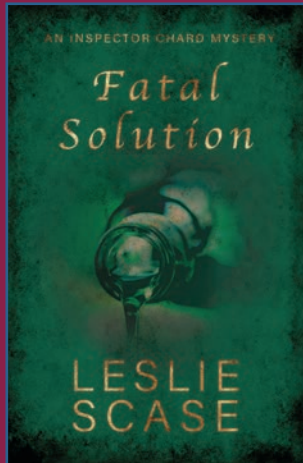
Ed fits kitchens in London, wondering if there isn't more to life. When banker Marcus asks him to refurbish a cottage in Stromness he thinks, why not? Marcus' sister Claire arrives, all city power and perfume, and events take an unexpected turn.

This is classic Benson: inventive, page-turning, full of lyrical images and unexpected turns. These novels confirm his place as one of the most individual voices in British fiction. Benson has written eleven novels, and has won the Guardian Fiction Prize, the Encore and Somerset Maugham Awards.



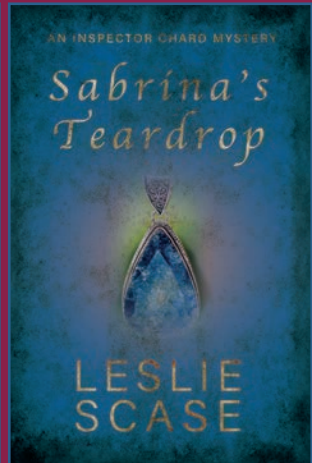
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## *Leslie Scase*

### Fatal Solution

Inspector Chard is confronted with murder in bustling Victorian Pontypridd. On the face of it the case appears unremarkable, even if it isn't obviously solvable, but following new leads takes Chard into unexpected places. A second murder, a sexual predator, industrial espionage and a mining disaster crowd into the investigation, baffling the Inspector and his colleagues, and putting his life at risk as the murderer attempts to avoid capture.

Leslie Scase takes the reader back to a Victorian society where life is cheap and passions strong. He brings Pontypridd vividly to life, and historical events drive along the plot of this page-turning story of detection, as Chard navigates a course through the clues, red herrings and a lengthening list of suspects, towards the poisoner.

### Sabrina's Teardrop

The third volume of the Inspector Chard series takes Thomas Chard back to his native Shrewsbury and reveals the circumstances under which he left for south Wales so abruptly. The Inspector finds himself under arrest for an horrific double murder. Imprisoned in the notorious Shrewsbury goal, he must fight to clear his name of charges which could result in execution. The page-turning plot includes a missing woman, human trafficking, trade-offs, foul play, scheming and brutal Victorian gentlemen, civic corruption, and a gang of Peaky Blinders.

Against a vividly drawn and atmospheric background of Victorian Shrewsbury the tension ratchets up as Chard fights for his freedom aided by the faithful Constable Idris Morgan, and May Roper. Together they must save Chard and search for the answer to the riddle of the fabulous sapphire which is Sabrina's Teardrop.



£25.00

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## Bar 44: Tapas y Copas *Owen & Tom Morgan*

This must-have Spanish cookbook, created by brothers Owen and Tom Morgan, is a selection of over 100 recipes, beautifully photographed, that takes your tastebuds on an unforgettable Spanish getaway. Served in the busy Bar 44 restaurants, these recipes elevate traditional Spanish cuisine to exciting new heights.

Chicken sobrassada and spiced yoghurt, beetroot gazpacho, tuna tartare with apple ajo blanco, lamb empanada, patatas bravas, strawberry and cava sorbet and pear and olive oil cake all feature. The book also has recipes for Spanish cocktails like the ever-popular Crema Catalana Old Fashioned and the perfect donostia-style Spanish gin and tonic, fashioned by International Sherry Educator Owen.

The book is peppered with vignettes of how the brothers became restauranteurs, and how they source ingredients and discover new dishes. The mountains, coasts and plains of their adopted country are their

'Passion for amazing food and drink and true warm family hospitality will always bring success. Their book will hit all the right notes as a great read as well as a great go-to recipe book.'

– Matt Tebbutt, Saturday Kitchen

'Every bit the equal of their cooking, filled with Iberian beauties, classic and modern alike, the sort of tome that becomes battered and splattered with constant use.'

– Tom Parker-Bowles, Mail on Sunday

As featured on the BBC's Saturday Kitchen.

larder as they visit caves full of cheese and taste sherry at the feria in Jerez.

Enjoy the passion of two of the most knowledgeable people celebrating modern Spanish food, drink and culture. More than just a cookbook, *Bar 44: Tapas y Copas* is a must-have experience which packs fun, food and flavour between the covers of a beautifully designed book.



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