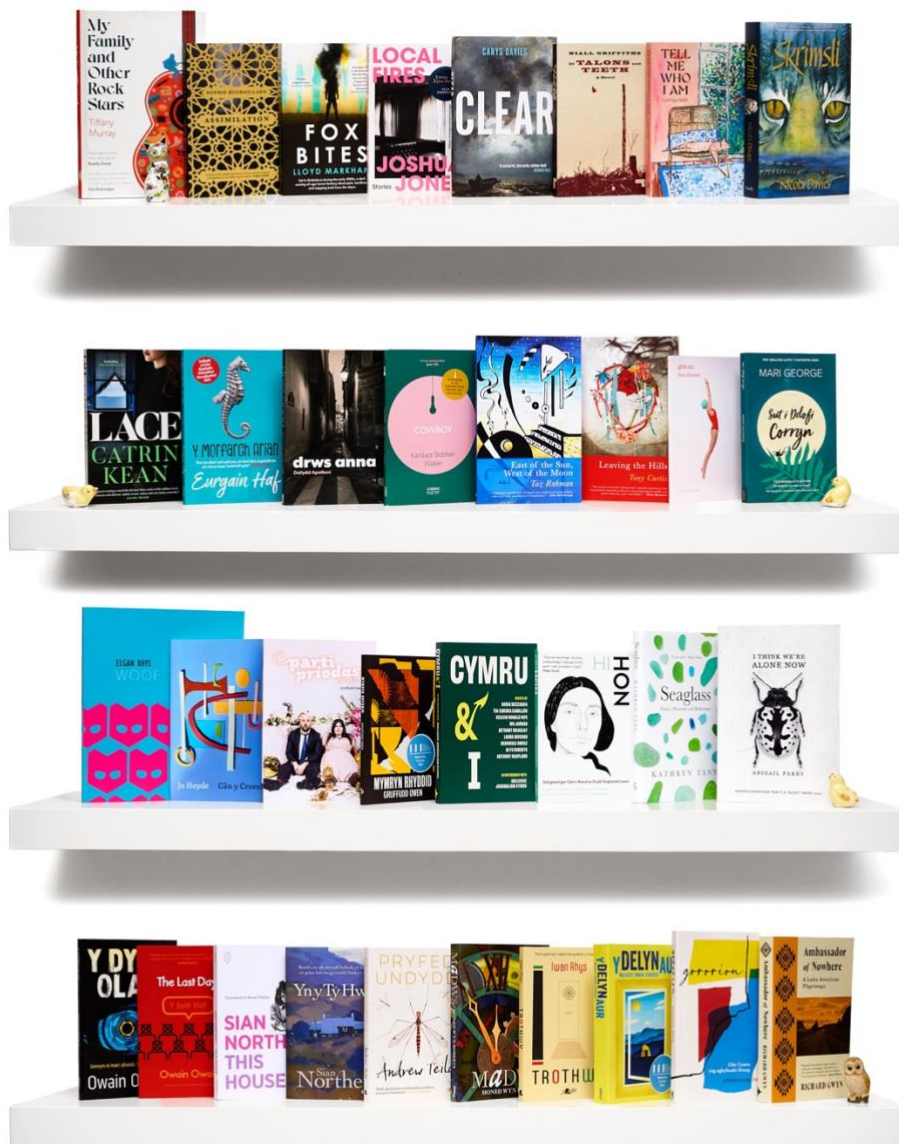


# SILFF LYFRAU 2024 BOOKSHELF




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**Wales Literature Exchange**


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# FICTION

## Local Fires

**Joshua Jones**

“Brilliant. A broken-voiced homage to the towns we do our best to survive. Every single story burns.”

– Ben Pester, author of *Am I in the Right Place?*

**Shortlisted for the 2024 Dylan Thoms Prize**

**Longlisted for the Polari First Book Award**

Chloe enters the local talent show, seeking fame, fortune and a ticket out of town. Meanwhile, her mother, Angie, wakes up hungover on the morning of her fourth wedding day. William ponders his impending autism diagnosis through the lenses of Descartes and Hollywood heartthrob Clive Owen. Jimmy, the hot-headed proprietor of a firework shop, rages at the emergence of a rival store, as his ex-wife considers the existential ramifications of her uncanny resemblance to TV cleaning personality Kim Woodburn.

*Local Fires* sees debut writer Joshua Jones turn his acute focus to his birthplace of Llanelli, south Wales. Sardonic and melancholic, joyful and grieving, these multifaceted stories may be set in a small town, but they have reach far beyond their locality. From the inertia of living in an ex-industrial working-class area, to gender, sexuality, toxic masculinity and neurodivergence, Jones has crafted a collection versatile in theme and observation, as the misadventures of the town’s inhabitants threaten to spill over into an incendiary finale.

In this stunning series of interconnected tales, fires both literal and metaphorical, local and all-encompassing, blaze together to herald the emergence of a singular new Welsh literary voice.

### **About the Author**

Joshua Jones (he/him) is a queer, autistic writer and artist from Llanelli, south Wales. He co-founded *Dyddiau Du*, a NeuroQueer art and literature space in Cardiff. His fiction and poetry have been published by Poetry Wales, Broken Sleep Books, Gutter and others. He is a Literature Wales Emerging Writer for 2023 and is currently working with the British Council to connect Welsh and Vietnamese queer writers. *Local Fires* is his first publication of fiction.

### **Publication Details**

Parthian Books (2023) | 978-1913640590

250pp

**Rights Enquiries**

Richard Davies: rich\_parthian@yahoo.co.uk

**Clear****Carys Davies**

“*Clear* is a love letter to the scorching power of language, a power that Davies has long understood... She is a writer of immense talent and deep humanity, capable of balancing devastating audacity with equally devastating restraint.”

- Clare Clark, *The Guardian*

1843. On a remote Scottish island, Ivar, the sole occupant, leads a life of quiet isolation until the day he finds a man unconscious on the beach below the cliffs. The newcomer is John Ferguson, an impoverished church minister sent to evict Ivar and turn the island into grazing land for sheep. Unaware of the stranger’s intentions, Ivar takes him into his home, and despite the two men having no common language, a fragile bond begins to form between them. Meanwhile on the mainland, John’s wife Mary anxiously awaits news of his mission.

Against the rugged backdrop of this faraway spot beyond Shetland, Carys Davies’s intimate drama unfolds with tension and tenderness: a touching and crystalline study of ordinary people buffeted by history and a powerful exploration of the distances and connections between us. Perfectly structured and surprising at every turn, *Clear* is a marvel of storytelling, an exquisite short novel by a master of the form.

**About the Author**

Carys Davies is the award-winning author of three novels and two short story collections, whose work has been translated into nine languages. Her debut novel *West* (Granta, 2018) won the Wales Book of the Year Fiction award, was Runner-Up for the Society of Author's McKitterick Prize and was shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize. Her short stories have been widely published in magazines and anthologies and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Davies' second collection, *The Redemption of Galen Pike*, won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award 2015. Born in Wales, she now lives in Edinburgh.

**Publication Details**

Granta (2024) | 978 – 1803510408

160pp

**Rights Enquiries**

[Isabella Depiazzi, Rights & Acquisitions Manager: rights@granta.com](mailto:isabella.depiazzi@granta.com)

## Of Talons and Teeth

**Niall Griffiths**

“This unnerving tale spits and writhes off the page. Hypnotic, mythic and visceral — its prose hewn from deep beneath the soil. Griffiths is a 21st century Faulkner.”

- Adelle Stripe

**An historical novel set in Wales before the Industrial Revolution, as human love tries to flower amidst squalor and serfdom.**

Wales, a mining village, pre-industrial revolution, its inhabitants oppressed by both Chapel conformist impulses and the predations of a new kind of capitalism being born.

Sion, a metalworker, strikes up an illicit relationship with Katherine, the wife of the mine owner’s personal dogsbody. And so begins the struggle of non-transactional and non-exploitative human love to be recognised in a place bent on the destruction and negation of that very thing.

This shattering novel is a mix of political anger, historical excavation, Celtic mysticism, praise of the human impulse to love and rage at avarice and exploitation. Griffiths plumbs the depths of language in *Of Talons and Teeth*, as he seeks to explore that moment when human beings and the natural beauties around them were turned into mere chattels; when Mammon became the only god worth worshipping.

### **About the Author**

Niall Griffiths was born in Liverpool, studied at Cambridge, and has lived in Wales for over a quarter of a century. An established novelist and professor of creative writing, his work has been translated into twenty languages, adapted for the screen and widely reviewed. His works include *Grits*, *Sheepshagger* and *Stump*. His novel *Broken Ghost* (Jonathan Cape, 2019), which tackles themes of austerity and social breakdown, was selected for our 2019 Bookshelf, and won the Rhys Davies Fiction Award and Wales Book of the Year Award in 2020.

### **Publication Details**

Repeater Books (2023) | 978-1915672131

188pp

### **Rights Enquiries**

rights@watkinspublishing.com

## Assimilation

Sophie Buchaillard

“A hymn to the complicated nature of home and the somehow serendipitous yet inevitable ways we find it. A truly sensuous read and a book for our times.”

- Caryl Lewis, author of *Drift*

Charlotte, young and fiercely independent, leaves the constraints of her Parisian childhood for Wales, running away from a traumatic event. Hoping to find peace and somewhere to rebuild her life, she is confronted with a growing sense of fragmentation and soon unravels.

Her mother, Marianne, well-travelled and with a colourful past, is keeping a terrible secret. She tries her best to conform her family to French middle class expectations when all at home is far from ordinary.

Wilson, a Nigerian man with a ticket to a new life studying at a New York university, falls victim to the French immigration system and finds himself stranded in Paris awaiting a visa that never comes.

*Assimilation* is a story of unravelling family secrets, belonging, betrayal and inherited trauma that will transport readers through layers of time and place, carefully steered by the author's compelling prose. Following her lauded debut *This is Not Who We Are* (Seren, 2022), Sophie Buchaillard returns with another novel set against the backdrop of significant political and humanitarian events, and – by questioning how we view migration today – presents us with an important book for our time.

### About the Author

Sophie Buchaillard is a Franco-British author based in south Wales, who writes contemporary fiction that reflects on the anxieties of our age, using movement and migration to connect history with our reality. Her short stories and essays have appeared in a wide array of literary magazines and newspapers. She also writes about the environment under the handle #plasticfree. Her first novel *This is Not Who We Are* (Seren, 2022), which focused on the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda, was shortlisted for the 2023 Wales Book of the Year.

### Publication Details

Honno (2024) | ISBN 978-1912905966  
230pp

### Rights Enquiries

Lynzie Fitzpatrick, Business Manager: [press@honno.co.uk](mailto:press@honno.co.uk)

## This House | Yn y Tŷ Hwn

**Sian Northey, translated by Susan Walton**

“Astute, understated, compassionate. Sian Northey gently unpicks the threads of love and memory that bind us to place and to each other. A beautiful, glowing gem of a novel, now brought to a wider audience by Susan Walton's wonderful translation.”

—Angharad Price, award-winning Welsh novelist

**Grief, solitude, and the inner call to be freed from her past are the threads that beautifully and tightly intertwine in this novel.**

Anna has lived alone for decades. She is cocooned by, and marooned in, an isolated cottage called Nant yr Aur in the Welsh mountains. The arrival of Siôn, a young man who seems strangely at home in the house, leads to an unpicking of Anna's past. As Anna's relationship with Siôn develops, her perspective on the solidity of her past shifts. Uncertainty, distortion, illusion and subtle betrayal are gradually exposed. Ultimately, a quietly devastating revelation changes the lives of both Siôn and Anna.

Quietly understated, Sian Northey's first novel for adults sensitively explores the fine line between security and confinement, and a house's influence on its occupants. With its strongly realised characters and sense of place, and lyrical, beautifully paced style, this short novel is a little gem.

### About the Author

Sian Northey is an author and literary translator based in north Wales. She is the author of three novels for adults – including *Rhyd y Gro* (Gwasg Gomer, 2016) which was selected for our 2016 Bookshelf – one poetry collection, three short story collections, several scripts, and numerous children's and young adult novels. Amongst Sian's translations into Welsh are the memoir *The Journey is Home* by John Sam Jones, and Alys Conran's award-winning debut novel, *Pigeon*. She recently translated Lee Newbery's *The Last Firefox* (Penguin Random House, 2022) under the title *Y Llwynog Tân Olaf* (Firefly Press, 2022).

### About the Translator

Susan Walton has been commissioned to translate books from Welsh to English for the publishing house Gwasg Carreg Gwalch since 2009. She has had fourteen translated books published, including eight novels for older children and young adults.

### Publication Details

3TimesRebel (2024) | ISBN 978-1739128791

190pp.

### Rights Enquiries

Garmon Gruffudd: [garmon@yloffa.com](mailto:garmon@yloffa.com)

## Lace

**Catrin Kean**

“Kean’s writing is much like the lace Mary crafts in this sublime novel: intricate and delicate, tightly woven, robust and very finely controlled.”

- Rachel Trezise, author of *Easy Meat*

**Sequel to Kean’s prizewinning debut, *Salt*, this novel which will grab the hearts of historical fiction lovers.**

In the early 1900s in Wicklow, Ireland, the lives of six-year-old Mary and her siblings are torn apart when their father dies leaving the family penniless. Mary's mother is forced to travel to Dublin to find work. She places her children in an orphanage for a short stay, which turns into years. Many years later Mary settles in Cardiff with her Welsh/Bajan husband Louis, and is thrilled at the arrival of their first child, Teresa. But the birth of the baby dredges up long hidden memories that Mary must confront before she can bond with her daughter.

Kean deftly recounts Mary’s story – a tale inspired by her own grandmother – with the skill and compassion readers have come to expect from her award-winning debut, *Salt*. Tackling issues of race, poverty and belonging, *Lace* is a beautiful, heart-wrenching look into the impossible decisions a mother has to make to save her children, and the impact of trauma on the next generation.

### **About the Author**

Catrin Kean was awarded a place on the Hay Festival Writers at Work scheme for emerging writers from 2016 - 18. Her short stories have been published in *Riptide Journal*, *Bridge House Anthologies*, *The Ghastling*, and *Syncopation Journal*. Her debut novel *Salt* (Gwasg Gomer, 2020) won the 2021 Rhys Davies Fiction award, the Wales Arts Review People’s Choice Award, and the overall Wales Book of the Year Award. *Lace* is her second novel. She lives in the Garw Valley with her partner and three ridgeback dogs.

### **Publication Details**

Honno (2024) | 978-1912905744

200 pp

### **Rights Enquiries**

Lynzie Fitzpatrick: [press@honno.co.uk](mailto:press@honno.co.uk)

## Tell Me Who I Am

Georgia Ruth

“Beautifully written, meticulously plotted and wholly credible from someone who knows what writing and performing music is all about.. A delight.”

- Mark Radcliffe, author and *BBC Radio 2 and 6 Music DJ*

**What happens to ‘lost’ musicians? This accomplished debut novel from award-winning musician Georgia Ruth is woven together to her fourth album, ‘Cool Head’, by a song: the haunting ‘Tell Me Who I Am’.**

Jude Lewis is about to be rediscovered, in more ways than one.

Life for this self-described ‘former musician’ has been rather disappointing. Achieving success as a young man with his debut album, the intervening years have not been kind. Stage fright and self-loathing render him unable to perform and gradually, he disappears. Occasionally mentioned in the odd music magazine or on Reddit as something of a relic, and contacted only by the most tenacious of fans, he is – in the eyes of the world, at least – lost.

But what happens to ‘lost’ musicians?

In this accomplished debut, Georgia Ruth explores the role of music and community in building, and rebuilding, a life. The release coincides with Georgia’s latest album, ‘Cool Head’, and both the novel and album are bound together by one song: the haunting ‘Tell Me Who I Am’, which is written by the novel’s main character, Jude.

### About the Author

Georgia Ruth is a musician, presenter and author from Aberystwyth in west Wales. Using folk influences to create a truly unique sound, her debut album *Week of Pines* won the Welsh Music Prize in 2013 and was nominated for two BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Having collaborated over her career with some of the biggest names in Welsh music – including the Manic Street Preachers, Gwenn0, and Euros Childs – her latest album, *Cool Head*, is on the longlist for the 2024 Welsh Music Prize. She presents a weekly music programme on BBC Radio Cymru. *Tell Me Who I Am* is her debut novel.

### Publication Details

Georgia Ruth / Bubblewrap Record | ISBN 978-1399978842  
374pp

### Rights Enquiries

Georgia Ruth: [georgiaruth88@googlemail.com](mailto:georgiaruth88@googlemail.com)

## The Last Day | Y Dydd Olaf

Owain Owain, translated from Welsh by Emyr Wallace Humphreys

"Owain Owain's *The Last Day* transcends the confines of its form and should captivate a fresh generation of readers with this English translation."

– Joshua Rees, *Buzz Magazine*

A science fiction cult classic, *The Last Day* is more than a moving call to arms for speakers of minority languages facing extinction; at its core, it's a tragic human-scale story played out between the few figures who could have stopped the madness before it was too late. It is, moreover, a meditation on themes like free will, artificial intelligence and the socio-historical processes that contribute towards the death of a nation. These themes are as relevant now – if not more so – as they were when the novel was written in 1976.

With science fiction tropes recalling Philip K. Dick, Kurt Vonnegut and, more recently, Olga Ravn's *The Employees*, philosophical reflections in the vein of Dostoyevsky's *Notes From the Underground*, and its postmodern form, *The Last Day* is a testament to the depth and creativity of Welsh literature. Its translation into English is long overdue.

### About the Author

Owain Owain (1929 – 1993) was a writer, physicist and language activist. He founded *Tafod y Ddraig*, the Welsh Language Society newspaper which remains a cornerstone of Welsh-language activism, as well as the ubiquitous 'Dragon's Tongue' logo. A prolific and eclectic writer, his biography *Mical* (1976, Gwasg Gomer) won Literature Wales's Book of the Year award. His novel *Y Dydd Olaf* (*The Last Day*) was the inspiration for musical artist Gweno Saunders' 2014 album of the same name. Since then, it has been translated into Polish and Cornish, and was republished in Welsh in 2021 by Gwasg y Bwthyn.

### About the Translator

Emyr Wallace Humphreys translates from Portuguese and Welsh to English, and from English to Welsh. A graduate of the MA programme in Translation Studies at University College London, he has had literary translations published in journals such as *The White Review*, *The New Welsh Review* and *Joyland Magazine*. He is a two-time nominee for Deep Vellum's Best Literary Translations Anthology. This is his first full length book translation.

### Publication Details

Parthian Books (2024) | ISBN 978-1914595806  
136pp

### Rights Enquiries

Gwasg y Bwythn: [post@gwasgybwthyn.co.uk](mailto:post@gwasgybwthyn.co.uk)

## Sut i Ddofi Corryn | How to Tame a Spider

**Mari George**

“An intelligent and inventive book, which takes us from Port Talbot to Guatemala, from the depths of the jungle to the depths of marriage. Illness and recovery, reality and magic, spiders and music, fears and how to overcome them: all are interwoven in this fresh, easy and pleasurable read.”

- Meg Elis, adjudicator Eisteddfod Prose Medal, 2023

### Overall Winner 2024 Wales Book of the Year

*I feel for those who don't believe in miracles, who dismiss them as mere fantasies. What's the difference, anyway? To me, if the story exists, it's true. And if someone believes something within the confines of a story, then why not believe it within the confines of life?*

This is the story of Muriel and her heroic journey to seek recovery for her husband, Ken. They are a married couple in their forties when Ken finds out he is dying of cancer. But the true beginning of the journey is when the thirteen-year-old Muriel discovers an ancient book, *The Mumbles Book of Spiders...*

Written with a lightness of touch that teases the edges of reality, this short novel will take you on a unique adventure as Muriel seeks out her husband's cure. But first she must face her own greatest worries and fears, and to do so, break free from the ties that keep her safe.

### About the Author

Mari George is a poet, writer and translator living in Bridgend. She has published two volumes of poems, *Y Nos yn Dal yn fy Ngwallt | The Night Still in my Hair* (2004) and *Siarad Sïafins | Smalltalking* (2014). She is a member of the Aberhafren team in the BBC Radio Cymru Talwrn poetry series. She has also edited several collections of poetry and written and adapted several books for children. *Sut i Ddofi Corryn | How to Tame a Spider* (Sebra, 2023) is her debut novel for adults, which won the main Wales Book of the Year award in 2024.

### Publication Details

Sebra 2023 | 978-1835390009

160pp

### Rights Enquiries

Gwennan.Evans@sebra.cymru

## Fox Bites

### Lloyd Markham

“Ideas abound in *Fox Bites*, a bold, ambitious new novel from Cardiff-based Lloyd Markham... a dark and genuinely gripping work of fantasy horror.”

- Joshua Rees, *Buzz Magazine*

When Taban wishes for the world to end something out **there** . . . **hears** him. Soon the young boy is being stalked by a fox whose salivating jaws drag him into strange dreams. Dreams where he is a revolutionary with ancient psychic powers fighting against a tyrannical regime.

He awakes with glowing scars that only he can see and the lingering embers of telekinetic abilities. Honing this flicker of power over years he plots revenge on the bullies who've abused him. In exchange he will become the conduit for the world's end. But what if he changes his mind? Surely we can all come back from the edge? Can we?

Set in Zimbabwe during the early 2000s, amidst a backdrop of political turmoil, *Fox Bites* is a dark coming-of-age horror fantasy about pain, loneliness, and stepping back from the abyss.

### About the Author

Lloyd Markham was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. He spent his childhood in Zimbabwe before moving to and settling in south Wales at the age of thirteen. His first novel *Bad Ideas\Chemicals* (Parthian, 2017) was shortlisted for Wales Book of the Year and won a Betty Trask award. He was awarded a bursary from Literature Wales to develop his second novel *Fox Bites* (Parthian, 2024). He likes making and listening to strange music.

### Publication Details

Parthian Books (2024) | ISBN: 978-1914595172  
300pp.

### Rights Enquiries

Richard Davies: [rich\\_parthian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rich_parthian@yahoo.co.uk)

## Y Morfarch Arian | The Silver Seahorse

**Eurgain Haf**

“The coming-of-age tale of a young girl at a crossroads, who discovers a friend like no other [...] A blend of compassion and fun, with subtle flashes of humour.”

- Annes Glyn, adjudicator Eisteddfod Prose Medal 2024

### **Winner of the Prose Medal at the 2024 National Eisteddfod of Wales**

Odd-thing. Odd-girl. Odd-bod.

Heli Jô's is different. She does unusual, repetitive things, in order to protect her loved ones from the bad things that might happen to them. As she enters her teenage years and the axis of her life is tilted, she finds solace in the company of a new friend – Tangaroa, a young man of Māori origin – and their shared love of the sea.

The unique tenor of this contemporary, allegorical novel will appeal to a broad range of ages and readers. As the fates of Heli and Tangaroa intertwine, *Y Morfarch Arian (The Silver Seahorse)* becomes a celebration of cross-cultural connection, and the enduring power of storytelling to reconnect us to the magic of the natural world.

### **About the Author**

Originally from Benisarwaun in Eryri, Eurgain Haf now lives in Pontypridd with her family. The author of several children's books and numerous short stories, she is the recipient of several literary awards and has twice won the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod of Wales. When she is not writing, she works as a Senior Communication Manager for Save the Children Cymru.

### **Publication Details**

Gwasg y Bwthyn (2024) | 978-1917006040

148pp.

### **Rights**

Gwasg y Bwthyn: [post@gwasgybwthyn.cymru](mailto:post@gwasgybwthyn.cymru)

## Drws Anna | Anna's Door

Dafydd Apolloni

***We all have our own mirrors, the glass that we peer through to try to make sense of the world, and no two mirrors are the same.***

Iestyn Llwyd is a translator who lives and works in a small town in north Wales. When he receives a phone call from a stranger asking him to translate his memoirs into Welsh, he begins to lose himself in the story. As the line blurs between reality and the words on the page, Iestyn is plunged into a hedonistic life in Paris where he is introduced to the luminous, passionate Anna, and Joni Zlatko – a rolling stone of a character who gathers no moss.

Questions abound as Iestyn is drawn ever deeper into Anna, Joni and the mysterious author's world: who is this stranger after all, and why his insistence that Iestyn alone must translate this story?

Dafydd Apolloni's first novel is a philosophical mystery and a unique exploration of identity, pushing at the boundaries of language, memory and friendship.

### **About the Author**

Having spent several years based in Paris, Dafydd Apolloni now lives in Llanrwst, north Wales, where he works as a translator, researcher and language tutor. His first book, *Roma, Hen Wlad fy Nhadau (Roma, Land of my Father)*, published in 2004, captures his experience of life in Rome and Italy as he traced his Italian heritage. Several of his short stories have appeared in literary magazines *Tu Chwith* and *Taliesin*. *Drws Anna / Anna's Door* (Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 2024) is his first novel.

### **Publication Details**

Gwasg Carreg Gwalch (2024) | 978-1845279110  
200pp.

### **Rights Enquiries**

Gwasg Carreg Gwalch: [llyfrau@carreg-gwalch.cymru](mailto:llyfrau@carreg-gwalch.cymru)

## Pryfed Undydd | Mayflies

**Andrew Teilo**

“This collection and the images it conjures will stay in the mind’s eye forever.”

– Dafydd Llywelyn, editor of *Pobol y Cwm*, author and literary podcaster

An obsessional car park security guard. A young man leaving the family home. The profound memories of losing a father. The vacuity of the contemporary macho man.

In this impressive debut, Andrew Teilo’s short stories give voice to characters on the edge, as they navigate emotional and societal changes. The collection is varied in tone, moving deftly from realism to the supernatural and metaphysical, remains rich in language and imagery throughout. Collectively the stories balance their humour and warmth with a throughline appreciation of the fleeting nature of existence, and the temporary quality of even the profoundest experience.

### **About the Author**

Andrew Teilo has been an actor for over thirty years, and is best known for his work on the popular television series *Pobol y Cwm*. He is an avid reader, historian, musician, and artist, and holds an MA from the University of Swansea’s Creative Writing programme. *Pryfed Undydd (Mayflies)* is his first collection.

### **Publication Details**

Y Lolfa (2023) | 978-1800994478

141pp

### **Rights Enquiries**

Garmon Gruffydd: [garmon@yloffa.com](mailto:garmon@yloffa.com)

## Skrimсли

**Nicola Davies**

“From one of the great storytellers of our time, a gripping adventure that will set your heart racing and stir your soul [...] Vivid and original, this is a story for now.”

– Helen Scales, in praise of *The Song that Sings Us*

### **Winner of the 2024 Wales Book of the Year: Children’s and Young People Award**

Who you are if you’ve never seen another face like yours? Where do you belong if you don’t know where your home is? What do you call yourself when others call you ‘freak’? How can you be brave when you are full of fear? Why would you choose purpose over love?

*Skrimсли* is the second fantasy adventure from author Nicola Davies set in a world where animals and humans can sometimes share their thoughts. It traces the early life of Skrimсли, the tiger sea captain who stole readers’ hearts in *The Song that Sings Us*. He and his friends, Owl and Kal, must escape the clutches of the tyrannical circus owner Kobret Majak, and his twin assassin-acrobats, then stop a war and save the ancient forest, where the Tiger, and the Owl are sacred guardians. Skrimсли and his friends are helped by the Palatine, desert princess and her eagle, a chihuahua who thinks she’s a wolf, a horse with heart of gold and the crew of a very unusual ship.

Nicola Davies returns with a story full of excitement and danger, that explores friendship, loyalty, identity and love, in the context of some of humanity’s toughest problems.

### **About the Author**

Based in west Wales, Nicola Davies is an award-winning author, whose many books for children include *The Promise*, *Tiny*, *A First Book of Nature* and *King of the Sky*. *The Song that Sings Us* was longlisted for the 2023 UKLA Book Awards and nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medals for Writing and Illustration. Nicola graduated in Zoology from the University of Cambridge before becoming a presenter for *The Really Wild Show* and the BBC Natural History Unit. Underlying all Nicola’s writing is the belief that a relationship with nature is essential to every human being, and that now, more than ever, we need to renew that relationship.

### **Publication Details**

Firefly (2023) | ISBN 9781913102807

416pp

Age 12+

### **Rights Enquiries**

Sian Jones: [sian.jones@fireflypress.co.uk](mailto:sian.jones@fireflypress.co.uk)

## Madws

### Sioned Wyn Roberts

“An exciting explosion of fact and fantasy...a thrilling journey...what a ride!”

- Lleucu Roberts, winner of 2021 National Eisteddfod Prose Medal

A historical fantasy novel set in 1752 when the Julian calendar replaced the Gregorian calendar. It tells the story of Martha, the apothecary's daughter, who is transported to Annwn – the Celtic otherworld – by Madws, a character who controls time and, as she comes to realise, Martha's own fate. Will she survive the lost eleven days between the calendars?

This multilayered piece of fiction, packed with adventure and humour, also has a visual appeal, featuring illustrations of the icons, plants and recipes that underpin Martha's work as an apothecary. In the hands of this experienced author for young adults, *Madws* is an exciting and deeply satisfying read, with broad crossover appeal.

### About the Author

Sioned Wyn Roberts is a native of Pwllheli but lives in Cardiff. She worked for the BBC and S4C for many years, specialising in children's programmes. She won a Tir na n-Og Award in 2022 for her historical novel for teenage readers, *Gwasg y Nos*. Her second young adult fiction title, *Wyneb yn Wyneb*, was published in 2023.

### Publication Details

Gwasg y Bwthyn (2024) | 978-1913996581  
232pp.

### Rights Enquiries

Gwasg y Bwthyn: [post@gwasgybwthyn.cymru](mailto:post@gwasgybwthyn.cymru)

# CREATIVE NON-FICTION

## Ambassador of Nowhere: A Latin American Pilgrimage

**Richard Gwyn**

“A beautiful book. Richard Gwyn writes with a poet’s senses [...] but in his travels he is a translator, and not only of great poems, but also of whole cultures and worldviews. His vision of Latin America is generous, clear-eyed and wise.”

– Juan Gabriel Vásquez

In *Ambassador of Nowhere*, Richard Gwyn charts his journey across South America in search of poems for his landmark anthology, *The Other Tiger*. Criss-crossing the continent, he is driven through lunar landscapes in Patagonia, walks in the temperate rainforests of southern Chile, and travels to a town on the Rio Magdalena that may or may not exist. From the betrayal of revolution in Nicaragua to the victims of guerrilla war in Colombia and the threat of narco gang violence in Mexico, Gwyn’s lyrical, life-affirming account pays homage to a deeply conflicted and paradoxical continent.

*Ambassador of Nowhere* is also a book about translation, and the multiple representations of reality that the act of translation sets in motion, even as the author struggles to keep his own life on track when confronted by the demons of an earlier existence.

### About Richard Gwyn

Having started out as a poet, Richard Gwyn has published four collections, most recently *Stowaway: A Levantine Adventure* (2018). He is the author of three novels, including *The Colour of a Dog Running Away* (2005) which was translated into many languages and brought him international recognition. He is a translator from Spanish, specialising in poetry and short fiction. For five years, he travelled widely in South America, which resulted in *The Other Tiger* (2016), a major anthology of contemporary Latin American poetry which he selected and translated. His other translations from Spanish include *Impossible Loves* by Darío Jaramillo and *Invisible Dog* by Fabio Morábito. For ten years he was Professor of Creative and Critical Writing at Cardiff University.

### Publication Details

Seren (2024) | 978-1781727775

370pp

### Rights Enquiries

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## My Family and Other Rock Stars

**Tiffany Murray**

“Full of pop gossip that'll leave you starry-eyed, and written with a warmth and precision you'll want to savour for as long as you can . . . I didn't want it to end.”

- Seamas O'Reilly

### ***Sunday Times* and *Daily Mail* Book of the Week**

**A funny, touching, fascinating memoir of a rural Welsh childhood surrounded by rock stars.**

It's the late 1970s and Tiff lives with her mum, Joan, at Rockfield, the iconic recording studios. This place of legend, where some of the most famous rock albums of all time were recorded, is the background to a freewheeling, ever-changing whirlwind of a childhood. Tiff's days are spent running around the farm, making friends with local wildlife and helping out with the endless array of dishes her mum creates to keep the bands fed. She's looking for a dog, she's looking for a father; but the one constant throughout is her and Joan, building an unconventional family in the most unlikely of locations.

*My Family and Other Rock Stars* is Tiff's remarkable, truly unique story of growing up in a rural idyll, of Cordon Bleu cookery and of a childhood where the chances of bumping into Freddie Mercury playing piano, or a group of Hell's Angels turning up to record for Lemmy, or even the hope of David Bowie appearing, were as normal as hopscotch and homework.

### **About the Author**

Tiffany Murray was born in South West Sussex and grew up in Wales. She studied at New York University and the University of East Anglia and, in 2011, was selected as an inaugural Hay Festival International Fellow. Her first novel, *Happy Accidents* (Fourth Estate, 2005), set on a rural farm on the Welsh-English border, has drawn comparison with Stella Gibbons' *Cold Comfort Farm*. In addition to her subsequent novels, *Diamond Star Halo* (Granta) and *Sugar Hall*, her writing has appeared in numerous national publications including *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *Sunday Times Style* and *GQ*. She has received the Roger Deakin Award for nature writing, and has been shortlisted for the Wodehouse Bollinger Prize. *My Family and Other Rock Stars* is her first memoir.

### **Publication Details**

Fleet (2024) | 978-0349727530

400pp

### **Rights Enquiries**

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## Nightshade Mother: A Disentangling

**Gwyneth Lewis**

“This is an extraordinary book: an anatomy of an abusive relationship, harrowing but leavened by love, a deep belief in the power of words and the wisdom earned through decades of reflection. It is, in the end, a story of healing. Inspirational.”

- Tom Bullough

In this extraordinary memoir, Gwyneth Lewis, the inaugural National Poet of Wales, recounts her toxic upbringing at the hands of her controlling, coercive mother. It is a book that Gwyneth has been preparing to write all her life, keeping diaries since childhood. In these journals, she interrogates the emotionally abusive relationship she experienced, in great pain but determined to find a way through.

*Nightshade Mother* is a book that Gwyneth co-writes with her younger self, an unexpected and life-saving dialogue through time. Metaphors of haunting intensity help her confront what happened to her; quotations from art and literature guide and steady her. This is a book about the power of art, language and, ultimately, about homecoming over a lifetime of exile from herself. It is a profoundly moving and beautiful work; questing, forgiving and loving in its approach.

### About the Author

All Gwyneth Lewis ever wanted to be was a writer. Brought up as a Welsh speaker in Cardiff, she studied English and spent time in America. Writing in both Welsh and English, she was Wales's first National Poet and composed the six-foot-high words on the front of the Wales Millennium Centre. Her other non-fiction books are *Sunbathing in the Rain: A Cheerful Book on Depression* (Harper Perennial, 2006) and *Two in a Boat: A Marital Voyage* (Fourth Estate, 2005). She has published nine books of poetry, the latest being *Sparrow Tree* (Bloodaxe Books, 2011).

### Publication Details

Calon Books, University of Wales Press (2024) | 978-1915279903  
240pp

### Rights Enquiries

Ruth Killick Publicity: [publicity@ruthkillick.co.uk](mailto:publicity@ruthkillick.co.uk)

## Trothwy | Threshold

Iwan Rhys

“A gem of a book which, as it darts between Berlin and Caernarfon, documents a period of change in the author’s life with tenderness and insight [...] This stepfather’s witty and original reflections sparkle throughout.”

- Llŷr Gwyn Lewis

### Winner of the 2024 Wales Book of the Year People’s Choice Award

In this warm personal account, author Iwan Rhys documents with rare sensitivity and insight his experience of crossing the threshold into the role of stepfather. As he negotiates a new life as stepfather to two young boys – drawn into a family life divided between Caernarfon and Berlin – he negotiates too the questions that his circumstances demand of him: Who am I on this new hearth? What is my role?

Such weighty reflections are held with the lightest of touches, as well as a poet’s ear for language and an eye for the joyful mundanities of life. This unique portrait of a new family’s life is a delightful, witty read, and captures an experience so rarely celebrated in literature.

### About the author

Iwan Rhys is a poet, author and translator. Originally from Cwm Gwendraeth, and now based in Caernarfon, he is the author of a book of poetry *Eleni Mewn Englynion* (The Year in Verse) and a novel, *Y Bwrdd* (The Board), published in 2008 and 2019 respectively. Having twice won the Chair at the Urdd National Eisteddfod, he is a regular participant in the *Talwrn y Beirdd* poetry competition. He is married to the artist Manon Awst and is stepfather to two children. *Trothwy* (Threshold) is his first work of non-fiction.

### Publication Details

Y Lolfa (2023) | 978-1800995123

160pp

### Rights Enquiries

Garmon Gruffudd: [garmon@yloffa.com](mailto:garmon@yloffa.com)

## Y Delyn Aur | The Golden Harp

### Malachy Owain Edwards

“Identity and a sense of belonging is important to each of us. In *Y Delyn Aur*, the reader is treated to a candid insight into the author’s exploration of the facets of his identity...

I couldn’t possibly recommend this book highly enough.”

– Ant Evans, Nation.Cymru

### Shortlisted for Wales Book of the Year 2024

A unique autobiography by a young author that leads us on a revealing, personal journey.

Malachy Edwards explores his mixed-race, multi-cultural and religious identity while tracing his family history in Wales, Ireland and Barbados. Against the background of recent Welsh and British history – including Brexit and Covid-19 – he writes honestly of his political and personal journey, encompassing as he does so some of life's great experiences, including the birth of his children.

The golden harp: a famous Welsh hymn-tune; the symbol on the front of an Irish passport. Edwards’ story reveals the human connection behind the symbol and, in a gentle yet compelling voice, speaks directly to deep rooted issues of our time.

### About the author

Born in London and brought up in Taff’s Well, Malachy now lives on Anglesey. His work centres on themes of identity, touching upon class, race, nationality, language, and family, and explores the interplay between society and the individual. Following the success of his debut memoir *Y Delyn Aur (The Golden Harp)*, he is currently researching its sequel, *Paradwys Goll (Paradise Lost)*, due to be published in 2025. In addition to writing books, the author is a columnist for *Golwg* magazine.

### Publication Details

Gwasg y Bwthyn (2023) | 978-1913996680

250pp

### Rights Enquiries

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## Seaglass: Essays, Moments and Reflections

**Kathryn Tann**

“These essays investigate the permeable boundaries between humans and their environment: skin, shore, water-surface. *Seaglass* is an invitation to live more fully, think deeply. A true gem.”

- Helen Mort

On a windswept stretch of the Durham coastline, there's treasure to be found: jewels of shining sea glass, swept in by the tide after years at sea. Gathered together in a jar on the windowsill, each seaworn pebble is a moment in time, a glinting archive of unknowable lives.

*Seaglass* is a collection of such moments; essays blending creative non-fiction with nature writing and memoir, and portraying with powerful observation and moving honesty the journey of a young woman navigating modern adulthood. The stories draw a map of Kathryn's life, from Manchester to the South Wales coastline and out to the Thousand Islands in Canada's Saint Lawrence River. Traversing wilderness, natural history, travel and water – rivers, lakes, coastlines and leisure centres – *Seaglass* explores shared experiences, anxieties, confidence and contentment.

### **About the Author**

Kathryn Tann is a writer, editor and creative producer from the coast of South Wales, currently living in North Yorkshire. She studied English Literature at Durham University and Creative Writing at Manchester, and has published numerous stories, essays and articles, as well as audio pieces. *Seaglass* is her debut essay collection.

### **Publication Details**

Calon Books, University of Wales Press (2024) | 978-1915279620  
176pp

### **Rights Enquiries**

Ros Edwards, Edwards Fuglewicz Agency: [Ros@efla.co.uk](mailto:Ros@efla.co.uk)

## Hi/Hon | She/Her

Edited by Catrin Beard and Eryllt Lewis

**“We insist on reclaiming the streets and reimagining the world because it does, after all, belong to all of us.” - Mabli Siriol**

What does it mean to be a woman in twenty-first-century Wales? *Hi/Hon (She/Her)* is a timely and powerful collection of stories and essays responding to this central question, bringing together works by ten authors based in Wales all of whom identify as women.

Wide-ranging in form and feel, and rooted in personal experience, the collection offers a diverse snapshot of contemporary female experience. Prize-winning authors – including 2023 Yoto Carnegie Medal winner Manon Steffan Ros – appear alongside newer writers, fulfilling one of the book’s and the publisher’s central aims, to platform new voices.

With an introduction from its editors – aunt and niece Catrin Beard ac Eryllt Lewis – the book also features twelve works by the feminist artist Seren Morgan Jones, who also designed the cover.

The featured authors are: Megan Davies, Megan Hunter, Mabli Siriol Jones, Non Mererid Jones, Nia Morais, Grug Muse, Siân Northey, Rebecca Thomas, Miriam Sautin, Manon Steffan Ros.

### About the Editors

Eryllt Angharad Lewis is a freelance artist, translator and editor. She has a passion for writing, speech and drawing, and for bringing them into dialogue to communicate tensions around identity, language and minority culture in the context of homogenisation and capitalism. She co-edits *Cyhoeddiadau’r Stamp*, a Welsh-language independent press, and *mwnwgl*, a journal of experimental artistic writing.

Catrin Beard is an editor, translator, critic and broadcaster. A familiar figure in the Welsh media, examples of her work as an editor include *Tir a Môr (Y Lofa, 2015)* – a beautiful cookbook memoir from the Welsh chef, Bryn Williams – and *Cerddi Caerdydd (Cardiff Poems) (Gwasg Gomer, 2004)*. She was on the judging panel for the Daniel Owen Memorial Prize at the 2024 National Eisteddfod of Wales.

### Publication Details

Honno (2024) | 978-1912905942

190pp

### Rights Enquiries

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## Gororion: Llên Cymru yng nghyfandir Ewrop

### Horizons: Welsh literature on the European Continent

#### Angharad Price

“Angharad Price’s central message is that little pieces of Wales are to be found throughout Europe. [...] This volume is a reminder of the essential need to nurture these connections and to create new ones for the future.”

– Llion Wigley, O’r Pedwar Gwynt

A collection of eight literary journeys, following various trails between Wales and Europe, guided by one of Wales’ finest literary and critical voices.

In *Gororion (Horizons)* we travel in the company of exciting novelist from Venice to Ynys Gwales, and from rural France to Paradise Island. We adventure on the Orient Express alongside the poet T. H. Parry-Williams, and meditate on Wales and the Welsh language in a vineyard on the outskirts of Rome. We discover an unusual link between Montgomeryshire and Frankfurt am Main. And who was the passionate Dutchman who fell in love with one of Eryri’s small communities at the beginning of the twentieth century?

Wide-ranging in its approach, this deeply researched volume remains thoroughly accessible and lifts the veil on the rich, longstanding literary relationship between Wales and Europe.

#### About the Author

Angharad Price was brought up in Bethel near Caernarfon in north Wales. She studied Modern Languages at Jesus College, Oxford, before going on to complete a PhD in Celtic Studies. She has worked as a lecturer at the universities of Vienna, Swansea and Cardiff before going to Bangor University where she is now Professor in Welsh and Creative Writing.

She has written a number of academic volumes, volumes of essays and three novels. *O! Tyn y Gorchudd* (Gomer, 2002) won the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod in 2002 and the Wales Book of the Year Award in 2003, and has been translated to six languages. Her academic volume *Ffarwél i Freiburg* won the University of Wales Ellis Griffith award in 2013, and her essay collection *Ymbapuroli* (Gwasg Carreg Gwalch, 2020) was shortlisted for the 2021 Wales Book of the Year award.

Angharad is an experienced translator into Welsh from German, French, Italian and Spanish. In 2014 she was awarded the Glyndwr Medal for her contribution to the arts in Wales.

#### Publication Details

Llygad Gwalch, Gwasg Carreg Gwalch (2023) | 978-1845245634  
234pp

#### Rights Enquiries

Gwasg Carreg Gwalch: llyfrau@carreg-gwalch.cymru

## Cymru & I

### In partnership with Inclusive Journalism Cymru

“...an inclusive, honest, and eloquent contribution to a wider conversation taking place socially in Wales.”

– Buzz Magazine

In *Cymru & I* nine new writers look at what Wales means to them as people from backgrounds previously largely underrepresented. 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 identity, integration, 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 and space in Wales: immigrants – current and first or second generation – neurodivergent, LGBTQ+ and working class people. Their compelling essays demand attention.

*Cymru & I* comprises nine very human stories about Wales and the many different kinds of Welshness it encompasses. The contributors are: Gosia Buzzanca, Tia-zakura Camilleri, Kelechi Ronald Ikpe, Mo Jannah, Bethany Mcaulay, Laura Mochan, Debowale Omole, Alys Roberts and Anthony Shapland.

### About Inclusive Journalism Cymru

Inclusive Journalism Cymru is a network which connects, supports and campaigns for those who've been marginalised or excluded by the journalism industry in Wales. Together they aim to build a fairer, safer and more representative sector that confronts prejudice and discrimination by telling stories which reflect diverse perspectives, rebuild trust and help reclaim journalism for everyone. Seren's partnership with Inclusive Journalism Cymru resulted in *Cymru and I*, which features essays by nine Inclusive Journalism Cymru members: Gosia Buzzanca, Tia-zakura Camilleri, Kelechi Ronald Ikpe, Mo Jannah, Bethany Mcaulay, Laura Mochan, Debowale Omole, Alys Roberts and Anthony Shapland.

### Publication Details

Seren (2023) | 978-1781727300

200pp

### Rights Enquiries

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<https://www.serenbooks.com/permissions-request/>.

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# POETRY AND DRAMA

## Cowboy

Kandace Siobhan Walker

“This debut is hilarious, moving and dazzlingly new ... *Cowboy* marks the entry of a significant and exciting new voice into British poetry.”

- Rebecca Tamás, *The Guardian*

**Winner 2024 Wales Book of the Year for Poetry**  
**Shortlisted for The Forward Prize for Best First Collection**

The poems in *Cowboy* are knowing, millennial, internet-sick, funny, with deep currents – of embodied and disembodied spiritualities; familial mythologies; grief and longing; navigating diagnoses; early and enduring disappointment; the wildness underneath the smooth glass-and-chrome surfaces of contemporary life.

The echo of a question permeates the collection – *where does a person grow up?* – moving restlessly between rural Wales, London and the American South; between the esoteric spaces of the internet; between the artlessness of childhood and adolescence transfigured inexplicably into a disquieting adulthood, with its attendant weirdness of rent-paying, cohabiting, the churn of mindless work and alienation.

The generous abundance of *Cowboy*'s references – memes, early noughties television shows, pop songs, cities and their suburbs, video games – bring anxiety and pressure, joy and glory to this singularly impressive debut.

### About the Author

Kandace Siobhan Walker is a writer and artist of Canadian, Jamaican, Gullah-Geechee and Welsh heritage. She is an editor at *bath magg*. In 2021, she was an Eric Gregory Award recipient and the winner of the White Review Poet's Prize, and a poetry pamphlet, *Kaleido*, was published by Bad Betty Press in 2022. *Cowboy* is her first book. She lives in London.

### Publication Details

Cheerio Publishing (2023) | 978-1800818149

### 64ppRights Enquiries

César Castañeda Gámez, C&W: cesar.castandeagamez@cwagency.co.uk

## Leaving the Hills

**Tony Curtis**

“This wide-ranging collection sees Curtis writing at the height of his powers and confirms his position as one of Wales’s leading poets.”

– Neil Leadbeater, Write Out Loud

*Leaving the Hills* is a collection full of stories from everywhere by a great Welsh poet at the height of his powers.

In his first poetry collection since *From the Fortunate Isles: New & Selected Poems* (Seren, 2016) Tony Curtis brings together poems that range from California to Carmarthen, Medieval Ireland to present-day Wales; there are lyrical poems and longer dramatic monologues. His subjects range from Roger Bannister to Muhammed Ali, from Billie Holiday to Claude Debussy. There is a moving sequence written for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, in response to the photographs of Chuck Rapport.

Here is a standout collection which explores and defines the times we live in. As we read, we see that the title becomes a metaphor for that moment when we are forced to choose what to take and what to leave behind. Curtis chooses moments of brilliance, of epiphany, of knowledge and of vividness. In *Leaving the Hills*, there is everything he would wish to save from the fire.

### About the Author

Poet, critic, essayist, expert on Welsh Art, Tony Curtis was born in Carmarthen in West Wales in 1946. He studied at Swansea University and Goddard College, Vermont. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, including his latest: *From the Fortunate Isles: New and Selected Poems* (Seren, 2016). He has also written volumes of critical work on poets and artists and edited popular anthologies of poetry. He is Emeritus Professor of Poetry at the University of South Wales, where he established and was Director of the MPhil in Writing for many years. He has been elected to the Royal Society of Literature and has toured widely reading his poetry to international audiences.

### Publication Details

Seren (2024) | 978-1781727423

90pp

### Rights Enquiries

Please complete the enquiry form on Seren’s website

<https://www.serenbooks.com/permissions-request/>.

## East of the Sun, West of the Moon

**Taz Rahman**

“A linguistic tour-de-force. Its liquid, jazz-inspired phrasing delights with sonic leaps and swerves of imagination... The overall effect is the creation of a rich, distinctive poetic universe, at times evoking brutality but throughout teeming with vitality and heart.”

- John McCullough

### Longlisted for the 2024 Laurel Prize

*East of the Sun, West of the Moon* is named after the 1935 jazz standard, and like any great jazz tune this collection is full of improvisation and linguistic innovation, and demands the quality of careful listening.

Many of the poems are written as if from the perspective of a flaneur – registering, reflecting and riffing to wanderings on the streets of Cardiff, Wales’ capital. The natural and the urban environment, immigrant identity and racism, intimacy, spirituality and language: all are captured in the collection’s structure, rhyme and rhythm. Like the heron that swoops over the city’s famous ‘Animal Wall’, these poems look down over the city’s beauty, but also focus in on micro perspectives, animating Cardiff and setting it to life.

If a sense of grief is subtly threaded throughout, one of the gifts of Taz Rahman’s debut collection is a sense of what can, through the power of poetry, be created from trauma.

### About the Author

Taz Rahman is a Cardiff based poet, writer and literary content creator, and founder the youtube channel ‘Just Another Poet’. Prior to this collection, his work has appeared in numerous publications, including Poetry Wales, South Bank Poetry, The Lonely Crowd, Culture Matters, and various anthologies. He is Chairperson of Poetry Wales’s Readers Committee, and co-editor of the climate emergency themed literary journal, *Modron*. In 2021, he judged the Poetry Wales Pamphlet Competition, and was awarded a place on the Literature Wales writer development programme Representing Wales. Shortlisted for the 2022 Aesthetica Creative Writing Award, he was a Hay Festival Writer at Work in 2023.

### Publication Details

Seren (2024) | 978-1781727348

72pp

### Rights Enquiries

Please complete the enquiry form on Seren’s website

<https://www.serenbooks.com/permissions-request/>.

## I Think We're Alone Now

**Abigail Parry**

“Abigail Parry follows her flamboyant debut in *Jinx* with yet more pyrotechnics as she sets out to investigate the nature of intimacy. Each poem is a freshly conceived and high-spirited assault, outwitting the reader’s expectations in pursuit of uncomfortable home truths.”

– Christopher Reid, *Sunday Independent*

**Shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize 2023**

**Shortlisted for English-language Poetry Award, Wales Book of the Year 2024**

**A bold and far-ranging second collection from a fresh, original new voice in poetry.**

*I Think We're Alone Now* was supposed to be a book about intimacy: what it might look like in solitude, in partnership, and in terms of collective responsibility. Instead, the poems are preoccupied with pop music, etymology, surveillance equipment and cervical examination, church architecture and beetles. Just about anything, in fact, except what intimacy is or looks like.

So this is a book that runs on failure, and also a book about failures: of language to do what we want, of connection to be meaningful or mutual, and of the analytic approach to say anything useful about what we are to one another. Here are abrupt estrangements and errors of translation, frustrations and ellipses, failed investigations. And beetles.

### About the Author

Abigail Parry spent several years as a toymaker before completing a PhD on wordplay. Her poems have been set to music, translated into Spanish, Serbian and Japanese, and performed or exhibited in Europe, the Caribbean and the US. Her first collection, *Jinx* (Bloodaxe Books, 2018) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the Seamus Heaney Prize for Best First Collection, and named a Book of the Year in *The New Statesman* (Marina Warner), *The Telegraph* (Tristram Fane Saunders) and the *Morning Star* (Kate Wakeling). Her second collection, *I Think We're Alone Now*, published by Bloodaxe Books in 2023, was shortlisted for both the T.S. Eliot Prize 2023 and for the English-language Poetry Award (Wales Book of the Year 2024).

### Publication Details

Bloodaxe Books (2023) | 978-1780376813

80pp

### Rights Enquiries

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## girls etc

### Rhian Elizabeth

*girls etc* sings with heartbreak, dating rituals, love, loss and a Garden of Eden rewrite. This collection is a good friend — sometimes painfully honest, but mostly makes you feel “apple crumble warm”.

— Hanan Issa, National Poet of Wales

‘three days after she broke my nose / we pinned up bunting’.

Set against the darkness of abuse in a queer relationship, this vibrant collection also shines a new light on experiences of love, motherhood and self-realisation.

The language of Rhian Elizabeth’s poetry feels instinctual: the poems pulse and ripple with energy, their rhythms are perfectly pitched. Elizabeth writes of personal experience with an intensity and sharpness that challenges you to look closely. *girls etc* showcases a defiance, alongside the beauty and vulnerability here, which resonates long after the last page is turned. Rhian Elizabeth brings a breath of fresh air to contemporary poetry.

### About the Author

Rhian Elizabeth is a writer and trainee counsellor. She was born in 1988 in the Rhondda Valley, south Wales, and now lives in Cardiff. Her debut novel, *Six Pounds Eight Ounces*, was published in 2014 by Seren Books and is currently being adapted for TV, and her poetry collection, *the last polar bear on earth*, was published in 2018 by Parthian Books. Her prose and poetry have been listed in various competitions and prizes and appeared in many magazines and anthologies, as well as being featured on Radio 4’s PM programme. She was named by *the welsh agenda* as one of Wales’ Rising Stars - one of 30 people working to make Wales better over the next 30 years. She is a Hay Festival Writer at Work and Writer in Residence at the Coracle International Literary Festival in Tranås, Sweden.

### Publication Details

Broken Sleep Books (2024) | 978-1915760623

60pp

### Rights Enquiries

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## Mymryn Rhyddid | A Scrap of Freedom

### Gruffudd Owen

“Without a doubt, the main appeal in Mymryn Rhyddid is the variety of subjects Gruffudd Owen writes about, not to mention the variation in tone, from amusing to serious and everything in between.”

- Ant Evans. Nation.cymru

### Winner 2024 Wales Book of the Year Poetry Award Chaired Bard of 2018 National Eisteddfod of Wales

In Gruffudd Owen’s award-winning second collection we revisit, a few significant years down the line, the playful, thoughtful voice first introduced in his debut, *Hel Llus yn y Glaw (Gathering Bilberries in the Rain)*. The world has changed in that time, and whilst political and personal upheavals form much of the backdrop to this volume, the poet’s characteristic interplay of humour, sincerity and cynicism remain, although this time with an arguably sharper edge.

Capturing the experience of so many Welsh speakers who have moved away from their square mile, Owen’s linguistic angst permeates this wide-ranging collection, which also satirises the (dis)comforts of middle-class Cardiff life, and reflects on the realities of parenting a child on the autistic spectrum. The result is a warm and deeply honest collection about change, love, captivity and a scrap of freedom.

### About the Author

Gruffudd Owen hails from Pwllheli in Gwynedd but now lives in Cardiff. Having studied Welsh at Aberystwyth University, he worked for ten years as a script editor for the television series *Pobol y Cwm*, and now works as a freelance writer and editor. In 2009 he won the Drama Medal at the Urdd Eisteddfod, and in 2018 won the Chair at the National Eisteddfod, both, as it happens, in Cardiff Bay. His second poetry collection, *Mymryn Rhyddid (A Scrap of Freedom)* won the 2024 Wales Book of the Year Poetry Award, having been shortlisted for the same prize in 2016 for his debut, *Hel Llus yn y Glaw (Gathering Bilberries in the Rain)*.

### Publication Details

Cyhoeddiadau Barddas (2023) | 978-1911584759  
88pp.

### Rights Enquiries

Bethany Celyn, Cyhoeddiadu Barddas: bethany@barddas.cymru

## Cân y Croesi | Crossing Song

### Jo Heyde

“Jo Heyde is as fluent in *vers libre* as she is in her *cynganedd*. In this debut collection, she moves between a direct, personal lyricism to a concrete playfulness, imbued throughout with her unique take on the everyday.”

– Cyhoeddiadau'r Stamp

‘It’s not the bridge that counts’, says Jo Heyde in this resonant debut collection, ‘but the crossing song.’

*Cân y Croesi (Crossing Song)* chronicles journeys back and forth from the south of England to west Wales, gathering small pieces of her new language along the way, her world gaining colour with each crossing.

Jo is a poet who has found her creative home in Wales, and poetic expression in the Welsh language. Having only in the last decade learned the language, Jo has embedded herself both in the Welsh poetic tradition and contemporary scene. This collection consciously draws on the experiences of that formative creative time, the poems themselves forming bridges between her old and emerging cultural identities.

### About the Author

Originally from London, Jo Heyde turned to writing poetry after learning Welsh. Her work has appeared in *Ffosfforws 2-5*, *Barddas* magazine, and *Modron* magazine, and her first pamphlet, *Cân y Croesi (Cyhoeddiadau'r Stamp)* was published in 2024. She coordinates BBC Radio Cymru’s Poet of the Month programme, and is a member of Carmarthen Poetry School where she learned the craft of *cynganedd* poetry and the Y Derwyddon team on BBC Radio Cymru’s *Talwrn* series. She was nominated for Welsh Learner of the Year in the 2021 National Eisteddfod of Wales.

### Publication Details

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24pp.

### Rights Enquiries

Cyhoeddiadau'r Stamp: [cyhoeddiadau.ystamp@gmail.com](mailto:cyhoeddiadau.ystamp@gmail.com)

## Parti Priodas | A Wedding Party

**Gruffudd Owen**

“A comedy play that is actually funny, provocative, contemporary, and painfully relevant in its themes, that both entertains and agitates.”

– *Barn* magazine

Hymns, tensions, and dancing on tables. You're officially invited to Dafydd and Samantha's wedding...

Following its smash-hit launch at the 2023 National Eisteddfod of Wales, and a hugely successful national tour, this rich comedy drama is available in print thanks to a collaboration between Sebra and the National Theatre of Wales.

A theatrical two-hander, *Parti Priodas (Wedding Party)* is the story of Lowri and Idris, two disgruntled guests at a marquee wedding in rural Pen Llŷn. Lowri's determined to survive her brother's wedding day but as he prepares to start an exciting new chapter, is her own future and the family farm on the verge of ruin? Idris misses his old best friend and comes back to Llŷn for the big day. But will past secrets resurface to ruin everyone's day?

In the hands of the award-winning poet and playwright Gruffudd Owen, *Parti Priodas* stands out as a seriously funny play about belonging, loneliness and making a fool of yourself on the dancefloor.

### **About the Author**

Gruffudd Owen hails from Pwllheli in Gwynedd but now lives in Cardiff. Having studied Welsh at Aberystwyth University, he worked for ten years as a script editor for the television series *Pobol y Cwm*, and now works as a freelance writer and editor. In 2009 he won the Drama Medal at the Urdd Eisteddfod, and in 2018 won the Chair at the National Eisteddfod, both, as it happens, in Cardiff Bay. His second poetry collection, *Mymryn Rhyddid (A Scrap of Freedom)* won the 2024 Wales Book of the Year Poetry Award, having been shortlisted for the same prize in 2016 for his debut, *Hel Llus yn y Glaw (Gathering Bilberries in the Rain)*.

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### **Rights Enquiries**

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## Woof

### Elgan Rhys

“*Woof* is a triumph.”

– Kate Wyver, *The Guardian*

Published exactly five years after its debut at Cardiff’s Sherman Theatre, this visceral piece of theatre introduced the exceptional talent of Elgan Rhys to enthralled audiences.

*Woof* depicts the life of two gay men on the cusp of their thirties as they fall in love and – as they navigate relationships that differ from the straight norm – slowly realise that they want different things. Elgan Rhys’ no holds barred portrayal captures the mounting tension between Daf and Jesse in a play that walks the line between humour, tenderness and violence.

Featuring photographs from the original production and a new foreword by the playwright, *Woof* is the third publication in Cyhoeddiadau’r Stamp’s *Sgriptiau Stampus* series, celebrating contemporary Welsh writing for the stage.

### About the Author

After a decade in Cardiff, Elgan Rhys now lives in Caernarfon. He mainly writes and co-creates theatre projects (*Dy Enw Marw / Your Name is Dead*, 2024; *Branwen: Renaissance*, 2023; *Llyfr Glas Nebo* (The Blue Book of Nebo), 2020) and literature *Y Pump* (The Five, 2021), and is now Head of Engagement with the Frân Wen theatre company.

His debut play *Woof* was described by The Guardian as “a triumph” the Sherman Theatre, and noted by both BBC Radio Wales’ Review Show and Wales Arts Review as a theatre highlight of 2019.

Recurring elements in his work are community co-creation, an interest in multilingualism, the amplification of young people’s voices and telling stories of contemporary queer life. Elgan has been BAFTA Cymru-nominated for his TV work, and is one of Stonewall Cymru’s Role Models.

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### Rights Enquiries

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