



# *The Rock 'n' Roll of Indie Publishing*

*Fiction Encapsulating Community, Identity, and New  
Takes on Classic Genres.*

## *Catalogue 2024*



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## *The **Rock 'n' Roll** of Indie Publishing*

We're Indie Novella and we were founded by a group of friends with one mission, to make publishing more accessible to everyone.

We love literary fiction, but we don't love the snobbery that gets associated with it. Great literary fiction comprises of stories that capture our imagination and resonate with us. Stories that shed light on modern issues, which use relatable and understandable language, which are about characters who speak for the communities we live in.

That's why we're publishing novels which make literary fiction less elitist and get readers as passionate about books as we are. We're also revolutionising publishing by doing something so few others are. Levelling the playing field. Our writing course is funded by the Arts Council and has been designed in collaboration with leading literary agencies such as Watson Little, David Godwin Associates and Georgina Capel and is completely free.

When it comes to writing and storytelling we believe there are so many voices that go unheard. Therefore we made a vow: We won't sit down. We won't shut up. We will commit to being our authentic selves. Just like our authors.

Stories of identity, community, belonging, and being proud of who we are. Our authors write the stories that represent what they stand for, in a truly authentic voice.

If that's not Rock 'n' Roll, I don't know what is.

## **A LETTER FROM INDIE**

As a non-profit publisher and a social enterprise, we are devoted to publishing emerging, unheard and underrepresented voices.

Our focus on communities, identity, and new takes on class genres, has brought exciting submissions into our inbox, and we were delighted to publish Emma Brand's ***Dial One for Revenge*** earlier this year, which earned a spot in Gay's the Word, and Piccadilly Waterstones, thanks to its spunky lesbian protagonist and thrilling afterlife setting. Sarah Airriess's ***The Worst Journey in the World*** was the subject of a double-page spread in ***The Observer*** and in April, was translated into German, continuing strong sales into the year.

And in November, we were delighted to see our commitment to diverse, grassroots voices come to fruition with the ***Local Voices Project Anthology***, where put into print the brilliant work of writers from Hackney and Haringey.

We held our new season of free writing workshops, playing a pivotal role in levelling the playing field in publishing, and held a diversity and inclusion workshop for ten literary agencies and publishers, facilitating conversations about how to improve workplace cultures and diverse author representation.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are thrilled by the books we have acquired. Sue Amos' ***Teardrop*** is an adventure through 1950s Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, where crime and passion play out against the crumbling empire and local political tensions. Also in the historical fiction genre, Martin Raymond's ***Lotte*** tells the devastating story of a young woman placed in an asylum in Stirling, Scotland, in the 1930s. His compelling fiction is woven with the revelation that this story is based on true scraps of history that he found out about his grandmother, Lotte.

With a crime bent, Katie Michelson's ***Wrecked*** is a visceral new adult novel which brings the difficult, violent lives of teenagers caught up in county lines to the fore. We're thrilled that our forthcoming books embrace our ethos of giving a voice to working-class, diverse protagonists whose stories are not always told.

# *The Frontlist*



**Coming 2025/26**

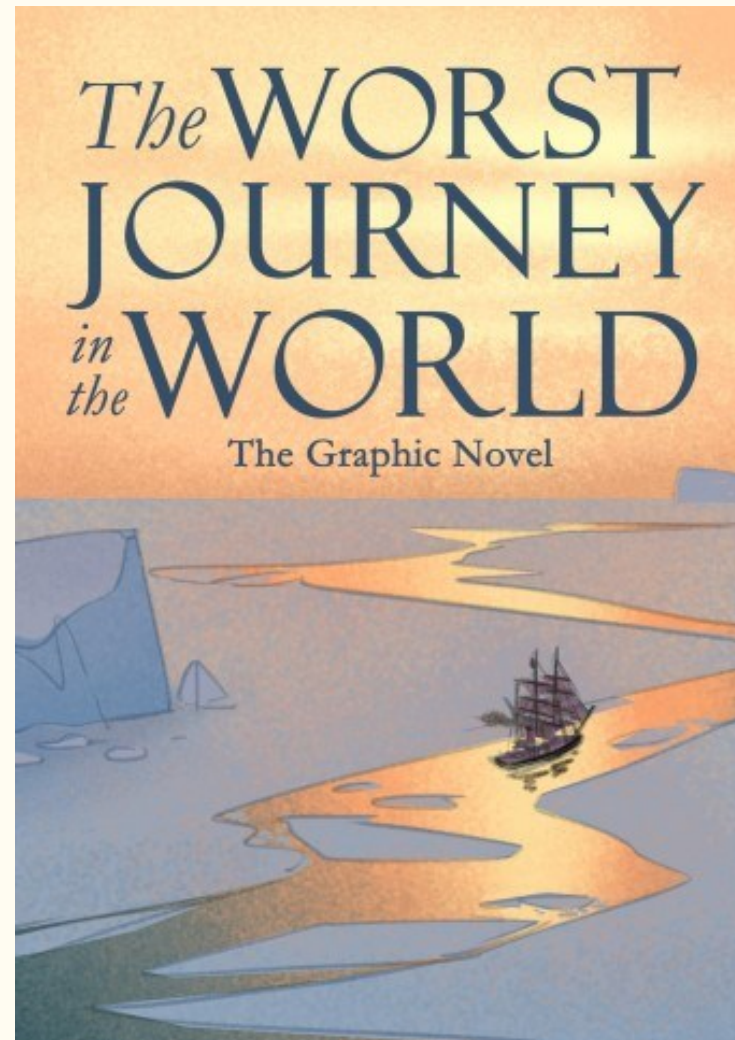
# **The Worst Journey in the World**

## **Volume 2**

**Sarah Airriess**

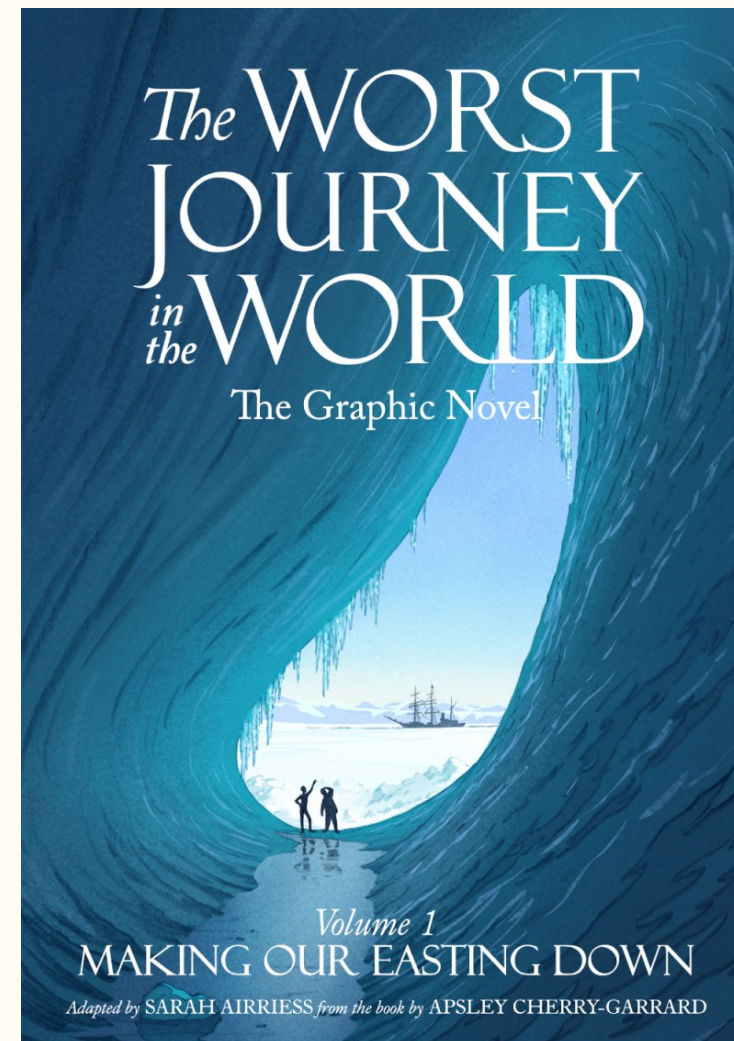
We are delighted to announce that the second instalment of Sarah Airriess's acclaimed graphic novel, *The Worst Journey in the World*, will be with us in 2026. For those who have followed Sarah's own journey, 2023 has been a unimagined success, with her adaption of Apsley Cherry-Garrard's novel becoming the feature of a double-page spread in *The Guardian* and Sarah herself featuring on BBC Radio and *The One Show*, with the book selling out of stock in just 13 days upon its original release in November 2022.

The second of 4 volumes, audiences and followers have been glued to Sarah's website and Paetron page awaiting news of this highly anticipated release and Indie Novella are delighted to be partnering with Sarah and the Scott Polar Research Institute to bring Volumes 2, 3 and 4 into fruition.



**ISBN: 9781738442133 • 2026 • 216x152mm paperback • 276pp**  
**• Graphic Novel, Childrens, Adventure**

**Available to Order Now**



**The Worst Journey in the World—Volume 1**, has taken the world by storm. Literary. With a German language edition landing on shelves in 2023, a US edition arriving in 2024, and publishers fighting it out for Spanish, French and other foreign rights, distribution deals have stretched as far as New Zealand, with the book even making it to Antarctica itself.

For those not yet familiar with the story, in 1922, Apsley Cherry-Garrard, one of survivors of Captain Scott's ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole,

published his memoir of the expedition. *The Worst Journey in the World* humanised the epic tragedy with its sensitive observations of the men involved and evocative descriptions of Antarctic life. A century later, this classic of travel literature has been adapted into a series of graphic novels by Disney veteran Sarah Airriess, who has spent over a decade researching the expedition in order to tell the story completely and faithfully.

Orders can be made through Indie Novella or Gardners.

**ISBN: 9781739959937 • £18.99 • 216x152mm paperback • 280pp**  
**• Graphic Novel, Childrens, Adventure**



# TEARDROP

## Sue Amos

As a girl, Jazz Barthelot knew that a gecko falling on your right side foretold a sudden death. But what place do aunties' tales have in the rapidly modernising island of Ceylon, and how to navigate the shifting sands of home? In 1950s Ceylon, trying to forge her own way while British rule collapses, Jazz begins her new life as a journalist – when a gecko falls on the side of her desk at the newspaper office.

A body is discovered in the state reservoir, and Jazz accompanies seasoned crime reporter Sonny to the Eastern Province. Jazz quickly learns her trade as they travel between spice markets and hopper stalls, interviewing Tamils, expats, and indigenous tribes, following leads that dry up quickly under the hot sun. Pulled between old and new worlds, between languages, and families, Jazz and Sonny must decide if their future remains on the teardrop island, and whether crimes can be left in the past.



**ISBN: 9781738442102**

**September 2024**

**£10.99**

**B format paperback • 324pp**

**Literary Fiction**

**Cover Design by Luke Bird**

**British Book Awards Designer of the Year Shortlisted 2021, 2023, 2024**

After a freelance television career, **Sue Amos** took a career break and began to write in her spare time. Inspired by forgotten, misremembered scraps of history, she wrote two novels under the pen name Sarah Roux.

Her first, *A Painted Samovar* is a homage to her maternal Jewish grandfather while *The Chronicles of Harriet Shelley* gives voice to the first wife of the poet, Percy Shelley.

Submitting her 3rd novel to the **Watson Little x Indie Novella Prize**, Sue decided she needed to come out from the shadows to write under her real name, having an inkling this would prove to be auspicious! Born and bred in North London, and now resides in the Chilterns with her husband, son, and dog, *Teardrop* also represents a tribute to Sue's Sri Lankan heritage and her work shedding light on the post-colonial culture of her ancestors. *Teardrop* won the 2023 Watson Little x Indie Novella Prize.



Praise for *Teardrop*: 'A sophisticated, refined work from a highly-skilled writer, shining a light on community dynamics in a post-colonial society and the presence of Burgher, Eurasian communities among Singhalese, Tamils, and Muslims.' *Judges of the Watson Little x Indie Novella Prize*



# LOTTE

## Martin Raymond

How much harm can you cause while meaning well?

In 1933, Lotte has left behind the poverty of her childhood. She has a fine house in the best street and a tentative position in Stirling society for her young family.

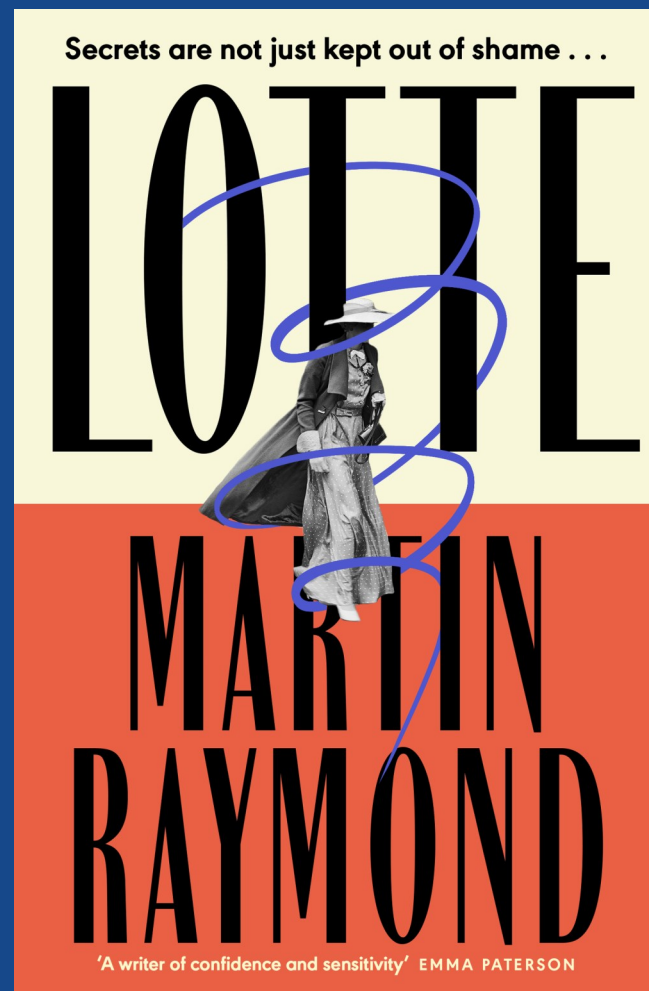
But when her children are asleep, Lotte ceaselessly walks the town's streets and rural paths, winding further away from home each night, driven by guilt and ghosts she cannot forget.

Lotte can't outrun the long shadow of her mind, and her small town cannot explain the erratic wandering woman in their midst, placing her in an asylum, never to be heard from again.

A century later, a chance remark leads her grandson on a path to uncovering Lotte's fate, delving into knots of family secrets, unravelling the stories silenced by small-town propriety. Family myths and notes from the asylum collide in this moving, immersive debut novel, giving a voice to lost lives, a glimpse of solidarity between generations.

Cover Design by Charlotte Daniels

*As Young As This, The Crane Wife, Bad Relations*



**Martin Raymond** is an unrepentant late starter. After working in communications for the NHS, teaching in schools and universities, plus some broadcasting with BBC Radio Scotland, he studied creative writing at Stirling University. His work has been longlisted for the Watson, Little x Indie Novella Prize and shortlisted for the VS Pritchett Short Story Prize. His short stories have appeared in the New Writing Scotland annual collection in 2019, 2020 and 2023. Lotte is his first novel.



In his own words:

“The dead are without rights. Lotte is a story about stories – and why we choose to tell and not to tell stories of our lives. I held on to the fundamental truths that I’d uncovered in my research: that war reaches beyond the neat dates on memorials, that power corrodes, ends legitimize means, and good intentions often have devastating consequences. I began to understand—but never to know. I got closer to the past, but the dead remained just out of reach. Just as it should be.”

ISBN: 9781738442119 • September 2024 • £10.99

B format paperback • 286pp • Literary Fiction



# WRECKED

## Katie Mitchelson

A nation is failing its young. Teenagers falling through the cracks.

Minnie's foster carer is more interested in the paycheque than safeguarding those in her care. Jake is desperate to escape his violent stepfather and save enough money to get his mother and young sister to leave with him.

Under a radical new care scheme, the government implants a chip in the brains of vulnerable youths, claiming it will give them a fresh start. The chips turns thought patterns into words, supposedly to help them recover from trauma.

But is the truth best kept hidden? And at what cost is it extracted?

The revolutionary technology of the Spectrotext vibrates against a life of nightclubs, drugs, abuse, and authorities. When a friend dies in mysterious circumstances, Minnie and Jake race to search deeper for the truth, before their lives spin out of control.



Cover Design by Samantha Sanderson-Marshall

Uncommon Labels, Tell Us What We Are, London Independent Story Prize

Katie Mitchelson has worked as a youth worker in Hartlepool, in the North-east, which inspired the town of Waterfell in Wrecked. Her work with young people inspired a lot of her writing during her creative writing PhD, compelling her to write about teenagers who do not realise that they are victims, who do not realise that they are being groomed for criminality, and the wider problems of country lines.

*The World of Spectrotext:*

*The Spectrotext implant is a small, flexible plastic card, approx. 4mm x 6mm.*

*It is placed under the skin behind your ear by a registered physician and lasts for 6 months.*

*Once the implant is in place, you will be given access to the Spectrotext app and online forum, where you can engage with other participants.*



**ISBN: 9781738442126**

**September 2024**

**£9.99**

**B format paperback • 268pp**

**Young Adult, Sci-Fi**



# THE LOBSTER POT

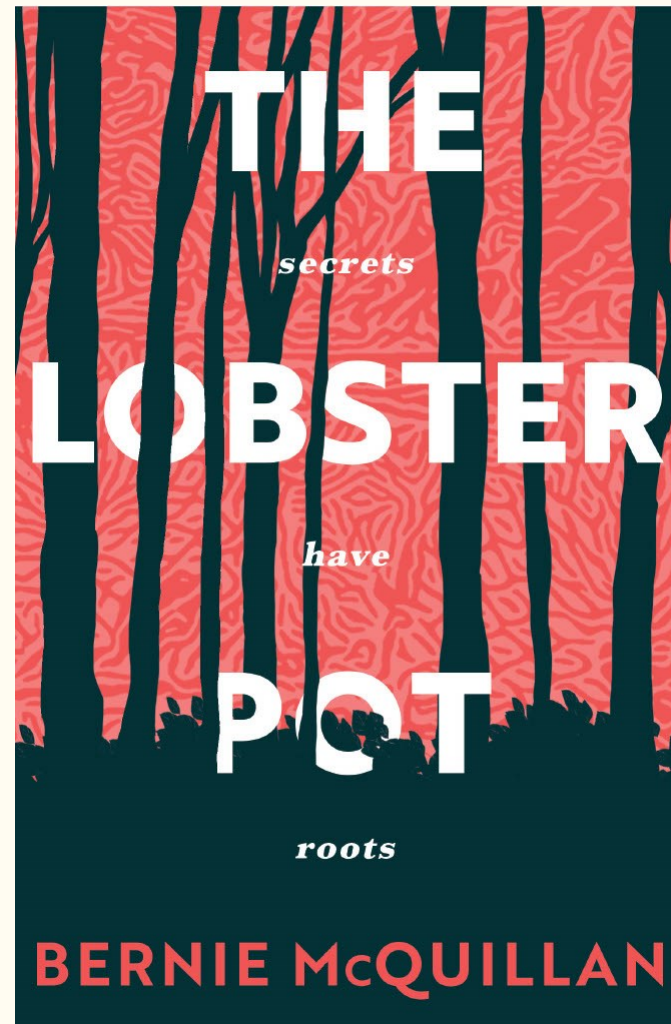
**Bernie McQuillan**

Ireland, Rathmore Forest, 1988.

Kitty lay on the forest floor for a long time, her body adapting to the rocks beneath the grass. She was in no hurry to go home. Tommy wouldn't be looking for her. He would go straight to bed, counting down the nights until he could escape Rathmore and her, his rotten roots. He never asked her about her own life and ambitions, never assumed she wanted anything more than to snare a local man and have his babies.

*She dreamt the hut he had built for his old trysts was still there, among the roots and the boat engines and the decaying yew trees. She saw the shovels in their usual place, leaning against the wall. She knew there would be no need for consecrated ground.*

Three decades later, Kitty returns to her childhood home to find her village as twisted as she found it. She needs to find her brother, without getting entangled. But how do you remember what you've tried to forget?



**ISBN: 9781738442133**

**December 2024**

**£10.99**

**B format paperback • 324pp**

**Literary Fiction**

**Bernie McQuillan** is a Northern Irish writer, originally from County Tyrone, based in Belfast with her husband and four children. Her work has been published in a range of journals including Spontaneity, The Incubator, The Honest Ulsterman, Women's Way (Ireland) and The Birmingham Arts Journal (US).



Photo Credit  
Neil Hainsworth

*The Lobster Pot* was inspired by a visit to Glenveagh Castle in Dongelara, where an owner disappeared from his boat in the 1930s, and had never been found. The novel was shortlisted for the Watson Little x Indie Novella Prize 2023, longlisted for the Caledonian Novel Award 2023 and highly commended in the Irish Writer Centre's Novel Awards 2023.

Follow Bernie @BernieMcQuillan.

Cover Design by Victoria Heath Silk

The Bread The Devil Knead, Chlorine, Placing a Call (Deborah Levy)



# CLASS OF '99

## Tori Beat

Paul Johnson lives a quiet life. Teaching English in a Sheffield Comprehensive, looking after his daughter, cooking for his wife, the surface of his life is the height of stability.

But Paul can't walk to his car without chanting to himself, trying to drown out the voice pulsing through his mind: You can't keep them safe. You can't keep them safe.

He has learned how to calm his panicked students – but not himself.

One grey morning, the calm veneer of his life is fractured when he discovers that his favourite student Laura has died. Now, his compulsive thoughts threaten to explode everything. Facing accusations that he was too close to Laura, Paul must find a way to voice his darkest fears, unlearning the stoic masculinity passed down to him, or lose the family he loves.



**ISBN: 9781738442157**

**December 2024**

**£10.99**

**B format paperback • 258pp**

**Fiction**

**Tori Beat** is an advocate for working class writers and working class stories. Tori a former lawyer turned writer from Derbyshire, where she lives with her husband and two young children. Tori rediscovered her love of writing after leaving her career in law to study an Arts & Humanities degree, which led her to submit her first novel, *Class of '99*, to the Watson Little x Indie Novella Prize in 2023. Through her writing, Tori explores the taboo surrounding mental health, inspired by her own experience of obsessive-compulsive disorder, as well as issues of social and gender inequality and the impact and complexity of human relationships.

*Class of '99* is described as one of the quiet, working class stories which often get overlooked. Paul, a secondary school teacher in Sheffield in the late '90s, faces his own crises with mental illness at a time when men's mental health was hardly spoken about. *Tori Beat* shines a light on both mental health and class stigma in this poignant debut novel.





# RELATIONSHIP ON THE GREEN

## Damien Mosley

‘Living together is difficult,’ says Dan, when ambushed into discussing his highly current relationship woes on a podcast by aspiring influencer, Daisy. He is standing in a church hall, a guitar hanging around his shoulders and about to step on stage to make his first ever public performance, all in the hope that his girlfriend, Polly, will reconsider ending their relationship.

When he was a boy listening to punk-rock, Dan’s father would storm into his room, asking him how many Brown rock musicians there were. As a teenager, when Dan decided he wanted to become an editor, as opposed to an engineer, his father practically disowned him. At age 40, Dan has found himself in a job where no one respects him, in love the woman who he can’t seem to stop pissing off, and struggling to find his place in posh, ‘woke’ Stoke Newington. Until he meets Daisy and a motley crew of Hackney musicians, who ask him a question he has long avoided: who does he want to be?

Relationship on the Green is a light-hearted comedy about love, community, identity and trying to save your relationship by singing love songs in public.



**Damien Mosley** is a British-Sri Lankan writer and founder of the independent publisher and social enterprise, Indie Novella. A former aid worker, Damien set up Indie Novella as a space for writers who don’t get to tell their stories to come together as a community and have their stories heard. In July 2023 Damien was named by **The Bookseller** as a **Rising Star** in its 2023 list of annual list of the book industry’s up and comers.

*Joined Up* was Damien's first novel and was published by Indie Novella in autumn 2021. He lives in Haringey, London and runs the Hackney Writing Circle out of Newington Green Meeting House.



**ISBN: 9781738442140**

**January 2025**

**£10.99**

**B format paperback • 236pp**

**Fiction**



# The Backlist

# Dial One For Revenge

Emma Brand

Just before she was about to come out to her friends and experience all those amazing firsts: first pride, first kiss, fifteen-year-old Cassie finds herself murdered. And awake. She wakes up to find that the afterlife is a bureaucratic office where the dead provide vengeance services to the living. But, traveling down to earth to extract revenge becomes even more complicated when she meets a girl named Perrie, a psychic who is very much alive...

*Dial One For Revenge* has been 2023's surprise success, becoming a hit among teen and Young Adult readers and featuring prominently both in leading independent bookshops and Waterstones stores across the UK.



A proud member of the LGBTQIA+ Community, **Emma Brand** is passionate about diversity and representation in her writing, and exploring the complexity of relationship and friendship dynamics.

**ISBN: 9781739959968 • RRP: £9.99**

**Released: July 2023 • B format paperback**  
**Young Adult, Adventure**

# Full Wire

J. R. McMenemie

On Saturday, May 20th, 2186, Jani Joutsen has her immersive implant forcibly removed, and her friend Pierre has his broken, in a seemingly motiveless bar fight.

With no connection to *The Wire*, the pair are contacted by a mysterious fugitive criminal offering assistance. The situation quickly deteriorates, and the three are caught in a race for survival against the police and the black market. Fleeing to find a broken scientist who may be able to restore some order to their lives, the increasingly dangerous situation leads Pierre to question his loyalty to his friends, his secretive love for Jani, and whether any of it is actually happening at all...



**John Robert McMenemie** was born in Cheshire, before relocating to London to pursue a career in music. His writing has appeared in *Sovereign*, *The Cabinet of Heed*, and *Storgy* magazines, and been long listed for the Leicester Writes and Sandstone Press short fiction competitions.

**ISBN: 9781739959913 • RRP: £9.99**

**January 2022 • B format paperback • Sci-Fi**



# COMMUNITY-BASED STORIES

## Pressure Drop

A play by Anna Bennet and Immediate Theatre

*Pressure Drop* was produced through the patronage of **Idris Elba** to tackle serious social issues impacting young people. Mya and Daniel's father has recently left, their mother is always working. Following a violent outburst, Daniel is placed in the school exclusion room where he meets Michael, a regular to exclusion. An unlikely friendship is formed based on a common love of Anime, but Michael's desire to protect his new friend leads to very serious consequences. Mya has always been a star student, but when her boyfriend shares a naked picture of her online, her life is shattered. She turns to her friend Jayden for support, but he is quick to blame her for the situation whilst struggling to hold his own mental health together. The complexity of all four characters' experiences reveals the interwoven challenges of growing up in adversity.

The play text includes workshop resources and is aimed at schools and libraires. The script was developed in collaboration with young people from Hackney.



ISBN: 9781739959982 • RRP: £8.99

Released: September 2023 • B format paperback

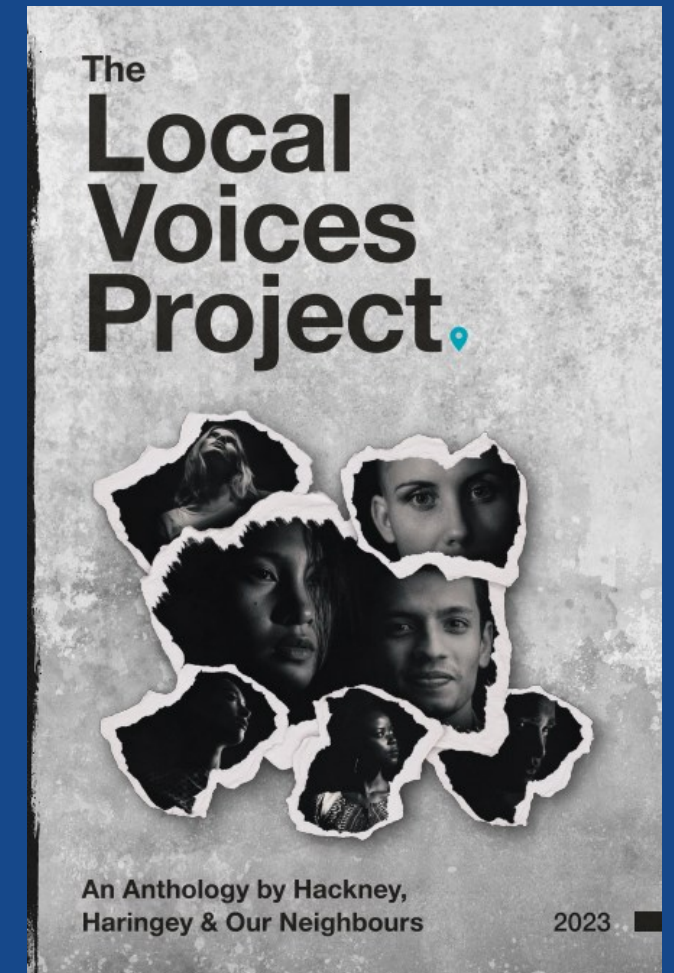
Theatre, Schools, Tackling Serious Social Issues

## The Local Voices Project

Hackney, Haringey and Our Neighbours

A unique anthology by a collection of Hackney and Haringey based writers about how London has been instrumental in championing their identity, and what home means to them. As part of Indie Novella's project to promote writing at a grassroots levels, we put on free workshops for local voices, and this is the fruit of that project.

Thirty-four writers bring together themes of individual and place, of home as a space between the economic, political, and emotional. Our contributors were moved to write to share how their community has affected their lives and creativity and tell the stories that often go unheard. Stories about forming diaspora communities, growing up in a multi-cultural society, coming together during COVID, caring for relatives, rent hikes, gentrification, being Black and British, and finding a place where we feel accepted.



ISBN: 9781739959999 • RRP: £9.99

November 2023 • B format paperback • Anthology

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