

Each month we will focus on an inspiring author based in or writing about Wales! You'll have an introduction to their latest book, what inspires them to write, and any advice they have for young writers!

# Get to know

## Rob Gittins



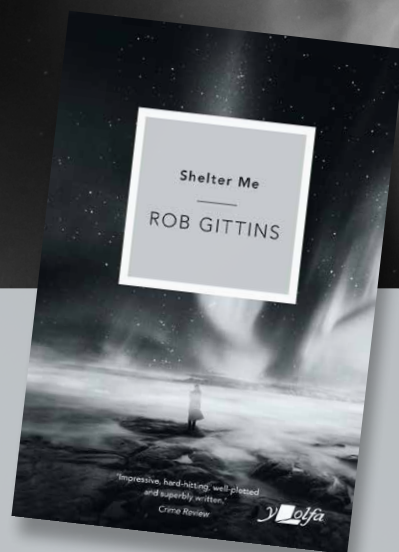
Rob Gittins is an award-winning screenwriter, originally from Manchester, and now living in Wales. He has written for British TV drama for more than 20 years, including *EastEnders*, *The Bill*, *Vera* and *Casualty*. He received an Outstanding Achievement Award in 2015, in recognition of his work as longest serving writer with TV drama *Eastenders*. He has published six novels, and written plays for radio including *Losing Paradise*, winning the Gold Drama Medal at the New York International Radio Festival.

### Summary:

*Shelter Me* completes the trilogy begun by tense thrillers *Gimme Shelter* and *Secret Shelter*, revealing the dramatic conclusion to the gripping story of Ros Gilet, her family having been suddenly propelled into witness protection after violent events when she was a child.

A key figure is uncovered from the original murder case that sent Ros into witness protection – a man long presumed dead. Will Ros be driven to contemplate a final, deadly revenge?

*Shelter Me* by Rob Gittins will be available from 3 July 2020



### What inspired you to write this book?

It's victims I'm interested in, as in victims of crime, rather than those who commit crimes or those who catch them. It's one of the main reasons why, when I wanted to write cop novels, I created cops who don't actually catch criminals or even investigate crimes. They're protectors rather than persecutors. This novel is much more about the impact of crime on the victims than crime itself.

### Tell us a little about the story you've created.

*Shelter Me*, like the two earlier novels in this trilogy, *Gimme Shelter* and *Secret Shelter* is set in the hidden world of witness protection. Over three thousand people a year are taken into this twilight world in which everything they've previously taken for granted – who they are, their life history, their friends and family – is suddenly taken away from them. Sometimes at a moment's notice they're plunged from a world that's safe and familiar to a totally alien world instead. The *Shelter* series focuses as much on the psychological implications of that as the crime that provoked it.

### What do you hope readers will take away from this story?

An enjoyment of the narrative, a fascination with a new and hidden world and, above all, an internal debate. What would I do if faced with this sudden fracture in everything I've known in my life up to now? How would I cope?

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