



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

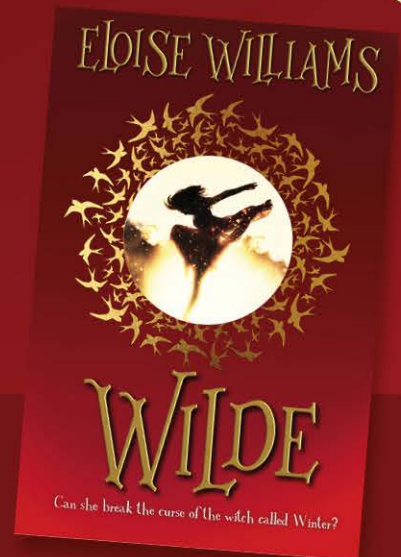
Eloise Williams



Eloise is the inaugural Children's Laureate Wales 2019-2021, an initiative run by Literature Wales.

Having originally trained in Theatre at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, she went on to work as a performer, theatre maker and creative practitioner for over a decade before studying for a Masters in Creative and Media Writing at Swansea University in 2011. She has since published three books for young people with Firefly Press, *Elen's Island*, *Gaslight* and *Seaglass*. Eloise's fourth book – *Wilde* – will be published in May 2020.

Find out more at www.eloisewilliams.com.
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Summary:

Can she break the curse of the witch called Winter?

Being different can be dangerous. *Wilde* is afraid strange things happen around her. Are the birds following her? Moving to live with her aunt seems to make it worse. *Wilde* is desperate to fit in at her new school. But in a fierce heatwave, in rehearsals for a school play telling the local legend of a witch called Winter, 'The Witch' starts leaving pupils frightening curse letters. Can *Wilde* find out who's doing it before everyone blames her? Or will she always be the outsider?

What inspired you to write *Wilde*?

I've loved stories about witches since I was very young. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Snow Queen*, *The Wizard of Oz*. I was fascinated by the way they could cast spells and make magical things happen. They also frightened me, and I've always loved a scary story. As I grew older, I still loved those stories, but it also struck me how strange the representation is of witches in stories to the reality of the 'witches' of history. How easy it is to label someone as a witch for being different or an outsider. I wondered what happens if you are the one who is seen as strange? What if you are different and you don't want to be?

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

Wilde has had problems with every school she's been to. She's hiding something and so, rather than being discovered, she causes trouble and gets kicked out. Strange things happen around her wherever she goes but when she goes to Witch Point things become uncontrollable. She is desperate to fit in at her new school but when they start rehearsals for a school play telling the local legend of a witch called Winter, 'The Witch' starts leaving pupils frightening curse letters. This is the very last thing *Wilde* wanted to happen. She wants to be 'Normal'.



... more Q&As on the website libraries.wales