

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

Biddy Wells



Biddy Wells lives in west Wales and is passionate about her writing. She walks daily and loves nature, especially the Pembrokeshire coast and hills. She has two grown up children and adores her relatively new role of grandmother. She loves to travel, particularly overland around Europe but always loves to come home to Wales. Her first memoir, *A Van of One's Own*, was a best-seller and continues to strike a chord with readers.



Summary:

When Biddy Wells's elderly mother is suddenly struck down with a mysterious illness, Biddy moves her into the spare bedroom, little knowing how long the period of convalescence will last.

Through the months that follow, the two women have to re-inhabit the close domestic proximity that they'd abandoned decades before and learn how to co-exist within a tangled web of emotional need, resentment and dependence.

Eventually, Biddy manages to find a supported flat that's ideal for her mother. She settles quickly and, abandoning her morbidly stoic outlook on life, falls passionately in love with another resident. Biddy can only watch from the sideline as her mother embarks on an unlikely romance.

Told with humour, wry insight, and refreshing honesty, *Scrabble in the Afternoon* examines the complicated, frustrating and ultimately rewarding story of how a daughter can come to terms with caring wholeheartedly for a mother. It also shows how a mother and daughter relationship can change and develop as life continues to offer fresh challenges and joys.

Tell us a little about *Scrabble in the Afternoon* ...

Scrabble in the Afternoon is a memoir and once I started to reflect on things, I found myself looking back to my roots, and found it fascinating to look at the history of my maternal line. It felt like detective work at times. I wanted to understand why things had unfolded as they had ...

What do you hope readers will take away from the memoir?

At a time when many middle-aged people are called upon to care for elderly parents, I hope that readers will be able to relate to my story and will find common ground. I also hope that, when relationships are challenging, they will see that it is possible to move through difficulties and find new ways to look at old patterns. I hope readers will laugh a bit, and feel moved.

In what way have libraries influenced you during your lifetime?

I loved taking my children to the Library in Cardiff. There were storytellers there, and they brought to life the books that I subsequently loved reading. I read many, many library books to my children.

What message do you have to inspire young writers?

Write about your life, or from your imagination. Just start anywhere and see where the magic takes you. You might be surprised.

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