

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

Rachel Trezise



Rachel Trezise's debut novel *In and Out of the Goldfish Bowl* won a place on the Orange Futures List in 2002 and is now part of the Library of Wales series. In 2006 her short story collection *Fresh Apples* won the Dylan Thomas Prize. Her second collection *Cosmic Latte* won the Edge Hill Prize Readers' Award in 2013 while her travel memoir *Dial M for Merthyr* won the Max Boyce Award. Her first play *Tonypandemonium* was produced by the National Theatre of Wales and won the Theatre Critics for Wales Award for best production. *We're Still Here* was also produced by the National Theatre of Wales in 2017 while *Cotton Fingers* toured Wales, Ireland and Scotland receiving a Summerhall Lustrum Award at the Edinburgh Festival. She lives in the Rhondda.

PARTHIAN

parthianbooks.com



Welsh Libraries
Get more from your library



Summary:

The south Wales Valleys, 23rd June, 2016. It's another long day chopping beef carcasses up at the slaughterhouse for former reality TV star and Iron Man contender, Caleb Jenkins, whose untroubled world unravelled when his old man's carpet business went bust last year, another casualty of the global financial crisis. While he's busy trying to manage the well-being of his conspiracy-theorist brother, the mortgage keeping a roof over his bankrupt parents' heads, his own excruciating grief, internal rage and impossible credit score, politicians of all persuasions are promising the scared and voiceless people around him real change. Desperate for acknowledgement and a transformation he can't quite bring about by his own means, Caleb is on the edge.

Easy Meat is a glimpse of a young man and a country on the verge of a momentous decision.

Tell us a little about the story you've created & what do you hope readers will take away from the story ...

Easy Meat is a day in the life of 27-year-old Caleb Jenkins, a former Iron Man and reality TV star who now works in a local slaughterhouse. He's been through the mill recently but he's still hopeful he can get back to physical fitness and compete again. I hope readers will come away with an understanding of how easily life can change for the worse but also a sense of hope for the future; the wheel of fortune turns both ways.

What books inspired you as a young reader?

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou, and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, both of which I studied for A Level, and which inspired me to want to write myself.

Do you have suggestions of how to encourage children and young people to read more for pleasure?

Introduce them to Roald Dahl for starters. Whereas TV and film is written to entertain a mainstream audience, authors are allowed to be much more idiosyncratic. If young people understand this I think they'll gravitate quite quickly towards books. Find out what the child or young person is most interested in and then find the author who matches it. I think there's a favourite author out there for everyone and it's just a matter of finding the right fit.

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