

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!

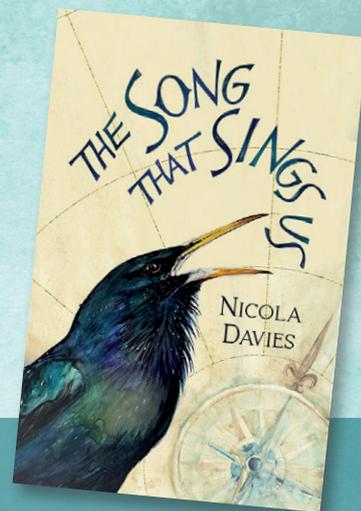
Get to know

Nicola Davies



Nicola Davies is an award-winning author, whose many books for children include *The Promise*, *Tiny*, *A First Book of Nature* and *King of the Sky*. Nicola graduated in Zoology from King's College, University of Cambridge, and studied geese, bats and whales before becoming a presenter for *The Really Wild Show* and the BBC Natural History Unit.

She has been writing for children for more than 20 years. Underlying all Nicola's writing is the belief that a relationship with nature is essential to every human being, and that now, more than ever, we need to renew that relationship. Nicola lives in West Wales.



Summary:

When animals talk, it's time humans listened: Harlon has been raised to protect her younger siblings, twins Ash and Xeno, and their outlawed power of communicating with animals. But when the sinister Automators attack their mountain home they must flee for their lives. Xeno is kidnapped and Harlon and Ash are separated. In a thrilling and dangerous adventure they must all journey alone through the ice fields, forests and oceans of Rumyc to try to rescue each other and fulfil a mysterious promise about a lost island made to their mother. A stunning environmental epic with cover and chapter illustrations by award-winning illustrator, Jackie Morris. Published by Firefly Press 14th October, 2021.

Tell us a little about *The Song that Sings Us* ...

... I invented another world. A world where some humans have always had the gift of eavesdropping on animal thoughts. They don't always understand what they hear, they don't always behave well when they do. Yet from that gift of listening, a society is born where respect for nature is woven in to the warp and weft of human culture ... Standing in that other world allowed me to shine a light back on our real world and the engage my readers' minds and hearts in a new way.

What books inspired you as a young reader?

I read *Lord of the Rings* cover to cover over and over again. But I also ADORED Gerald Durrell's books about his animal collecting travels in West Africa and South America. Wonderful, atmospheric descriptions of places, people and animals, and marvellously funny. I was already a devoted fan by the time *My Family And Other Animals* came into my hands. I loved the *Anne of Green Gables* books... for the place, that clean Canadian air that I came to adore for real when I went there as a student.

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

Go to a library and experiment. Try things. It's free. It doesn't matter if you don't like it. Try things out until you find something you do like. Read however you like. Start in the middle if you want, don't read to the end. Do what you like. That's the point. But stick with it because I PROMISE you, you WILL find something you really enjoy and that will lead you to something else you enjoy. Explore, play. You are furnishing your mind when you read, with things that you can take wherever you go, things that will shape your heart, change your life, open the world like a flower.



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