

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!

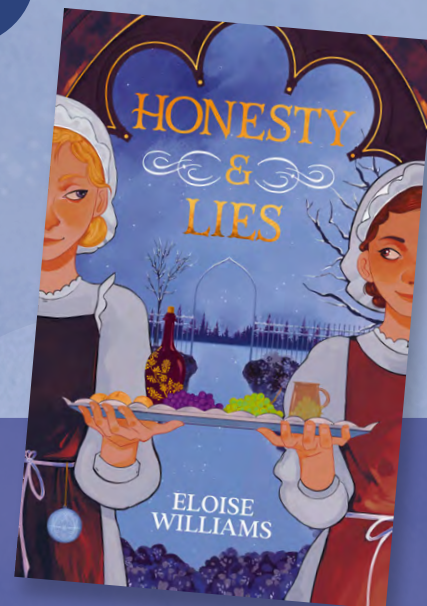
# Get to know

## Eloise Williams



Eloise was 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. *Honesty and Lies* is her fifth book for young people with Firefly Press.



### Summary:

London 1601.

Storyteller Honesty, seeking fame and fortune, befriends Alice, a maid to Queen Elizabeth I. But can Alice be trusted?

A tale of friendship, intrigue, scheming and plots set in the spellbinding world of the Elizabethan court.

### Where do you draw writing inspiration from?

I draw inspiration from so many places. Landscape is something I adore writing about so walking is always a good place for me to start but also, snatches of conversations, films, music, museums, historical buildings, reading, food, people watching, learning anything new. The more you do with your life, the more you open your mind to imagination.

There's a quote from Cheryl Strayed's book 'Wild' which I love - 'Put yourself in the way of beauty.'

I say it to myself but change it slightly to 'Put yourself in the way of stories.' I hope she wouldn't mind!

### In what way have libraries influenced you during your lifetime?

I was extraordinarily lucky that I grew up living opposite a library. When I looked out of my bedroom window, I could see all the books, so I have been close to and inspired by libraries for as long as I can remember.

I loved the feeling of being surrounded by books when I was young. Choosing a stack to take home with me. Just holding them made me feel magical and powerful. Val, the librarian, held the key to all sorts of worlds but not content with this, I made my own library at home too, complete with tickets, and date plaques. My sister was my only customer, and I'm certain returns were often overdue, but I was happy enough....

It's so important to use and celebrate our libraries. They are a cornerstone of our society and our freedom.

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

I think my first response is to celebrate reading in all its forms and don't judge what they are reading. I often hear people saying that a story is only for girls, or only for boys, or too babyish when their children are choosing books. Let children and young people read what they want to read.

Read along with them so you can have discussions about the story. Tell them about stories you love yourself. Leave books lying around if you have the means. Read yourself as an example. Make sure they are members of the library!

It's really easy to connect with authors too. That can be a really good way of getting young people interested in reading.



[fireflypress.co.uk](http://fireflypress.co.uk)



... more Q&As  
on the website [libraries.wales](http://libraries.wales)

