

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

## Karin Celestine



Karin Celestine lives in a small house in Monmouth, Wales. In the garden is a shed and in the shed is another world. The world of Celestine and the Hare. It is a place where kindness, mischief and beauty help people smile. Karin is an artist and author who creates needle felted animals of charm and character, including the stars of their story books published by Graffeg.



### Summary:

Have you ever been taken by surprise by an idea? Or a long-forgotten memory that brings a sudden smile to your lips? A moment of wonder, a recognition of beauty, a spark of inspiration; we've all enjoyed the magic that comes with the

unexpected. But where does that magic come from? Who hides it for us to find, and puts it where we least expect it?

*The Joy Bringers*. A book of hidden delights.

### What influences and memories stand out from your childhood?

My influences growing up were the books I read. I loved Pippi Longstocking and the Moomins, Paddington and any story about animals. I remember getting into trouble for staying up late reading *101 Dalmations* under the covers. I had Swedish pictures of John Bauer's trolls on my wall and those worlds of fairytale, folklore, creatures coming to life were my whole life as a child. I was sure I should have a tail and tried to sleep upside down in my bed like Pippi. As a young child, about 7 or so, my mum would go shopping to the market on a Saturday morning. I was very shy and didn't like people talking to me on the stalls, so my mum used to leave me in the library while she did the shopping. I don't think you'd be allowed to leave a 7 year old on their own in the library these days, but it was utter bliss. They let me wander around and read any book I chose, not just the children's section and I developed a love of libraries and reading there which has stuck with me all my life.

### What are your favourite reading genres, and what books are you reading at the moment?

My favourite genres are fairytale fantasy folklore type books. I love reading kids books too

especially before I go to sleep as I can read a chapter and it isn't too heavy and there are some amazing authors around just now. I am currently reading *The Warm Hands of Ghosts* by Katherine Arden (Her *The Bear and the Nightingale* is one of my all time favourite books), *Every Day Nature* by Andy Beer and *The Snow Girl* by Sophie Anderson.

### What experiences of libraries have influenced you during your lifetime?

Libraries have been my saviour so many times in my life. As a young child being left in there to read whatever I wanted while my mum went shopping, as a school kid who didn't always fit in and was very shy, the library gave me a safe space to be and friends both in people and books. When I first had my son, the library was wonderful as we could go there and read and borrow armfuls of books I'd never have been available to buy. I have discovered so many fantastic authors through libraries and they've helped me with internet, advice, reference books, recipes and I used to borrow craft books to learn how to do various crafts to earn a bit of money. That sparked a career!

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