



époque press

pronounced: /epɔ̃k/

definition: /time/era/period

independent publisher of literary fiction

## **about us**

époque press is an independent publisher based in Brighton, with connections to Dublin and New York, established to promote and represent the very best in new literary talent.

Through a combination of our main publishing imprint and our online é-zine we aim to bring inspirational and thought provoking work to a wider audience.

Our main imprint seeks out new voices, authors who are producing high-quality literary fiction and who are looking for a publisher to help them realise their ambitions.

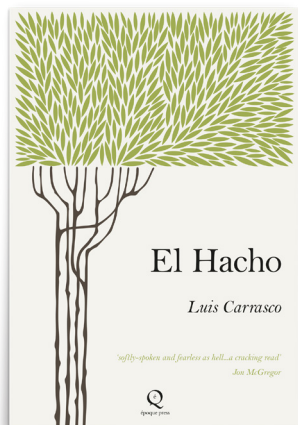
Our é-zine showcases a combination of the written word, and other art forms, bringing together artists working in different mediums to encourage and inspire new perspectives on specific themes.

We really do value the essential role bookshops play in helping to bring new titles to the attention of a wider audience. We would be delighted if you would consider stocking our titles and as we grow our list we will keep you informed of our forthcoming releases.

If you run or host local book groups we would also really appreciate your consideration into selecting, or recommending, one of our titles.

We also welcome the opportunity to discuss Rights to our titles with Agents and other publishers.

## our titles (1)



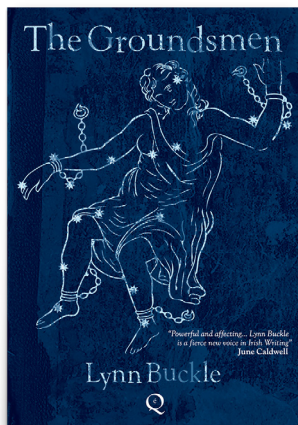
### **El Hacho**

Luis Carrasco

Published February 2018  
ep#001

ISBN 978-1-9998960-0-3

**£7.99**



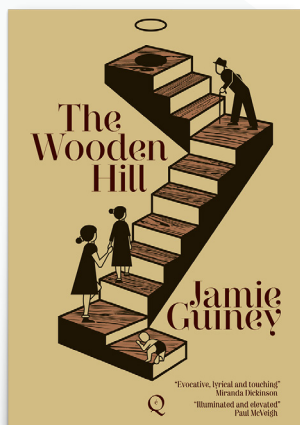
### **The Groundsmen**

Lynn Buckle

Published September 2018  
ep#002

ISBN 978-1-9998960-2-7

**£8.99**



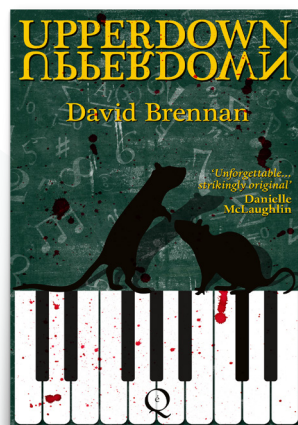
### **The Wooden Hill**

Jamie Guiney

Published November 2018  
ep#003

ISBN 978-1-9998960-4-1

**£7.99**



### **Upperdown**

David Brennan

Published June 2019  
ep#004

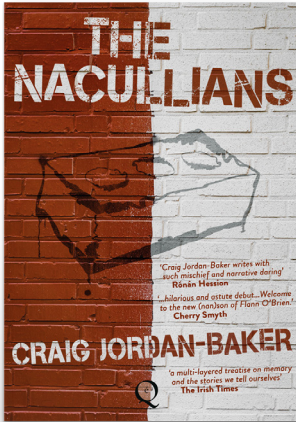
ISBN 978-1-9998960-6-5

**£9.99**

## our titles (2)

★ Republic of  
Consciousness  
Prize

Long-list  
for 2022



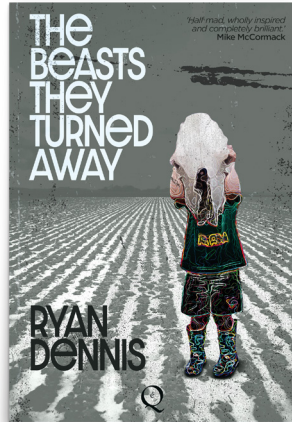
### The Nacullians

Craig Jordan-Baker

Published September 2020  
ep#005

ISBN 978-1-9998960-7-2

£9.99



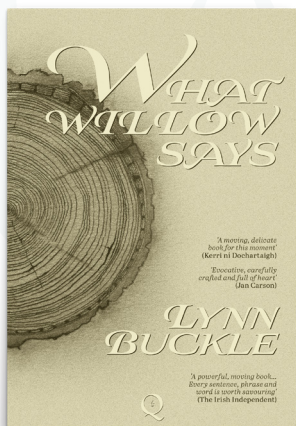
### The Beasts They Turned Away

Ryan Dennis

Published March 2021  
ep#006

ISBN 978-1-9998960-8-9

£9.99



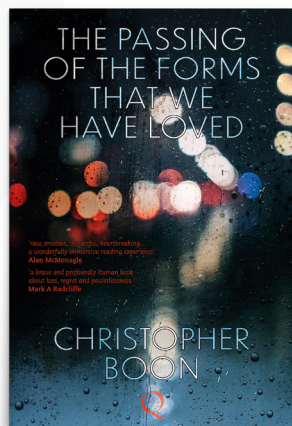
### What Willow Says

Lynn Buckle

Published May 2021  
ep#007

ISBN 978-1-8380592-8-6

£7.99



### The Passing Of The Forms That We Have Loved

Christopher Boon

Published September 2021  
ep#008

ISBN 978-1-8380592-6-2

£9.99

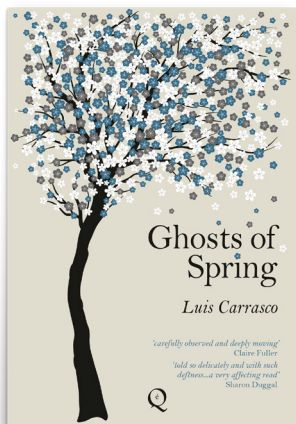


**WINNER**

The Barbellion Prize 2021



## our titles (3)



### **Ghosts of Spring**

Luis Carrasco

Published March 2022

ep#009

ISBN 978-1-8380592-0-0

£8.99



### **Seek The Singing Fish**

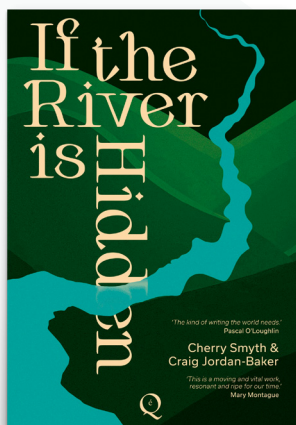
Roma Wells

Published June 2022

ep#010

ISBN 978-1-9998960-9-6

£9.99



### **If The River Is Hidden**

Cherry Smyth &  
Craig Jordan-Baker

Published November 2022

ep#011

ISBN 978-1-7391881-0-8

£9.99



### **Three Gifts**

Mark A Radcliffe

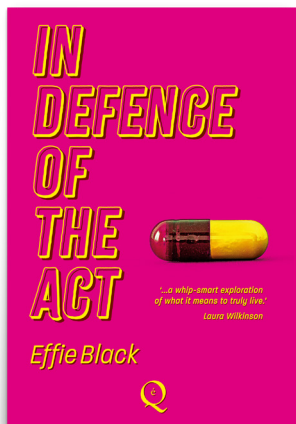
Published March 2023

ep#012

ISBN 978-1-7391881-2-2

£9.99

## our titles (4)



### **In Defence Of The Act**

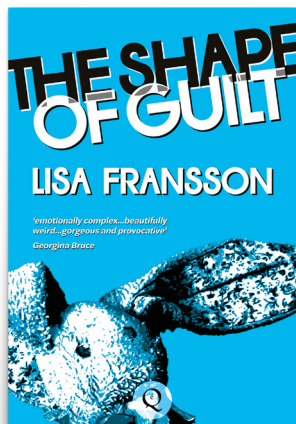
Effie Black

Published July 2023

ep#013

ISBN 978-1-7391881-4-6

**£9.99**



### **The Shape Of Guilt**

Lisa Fransson

Published October 2023

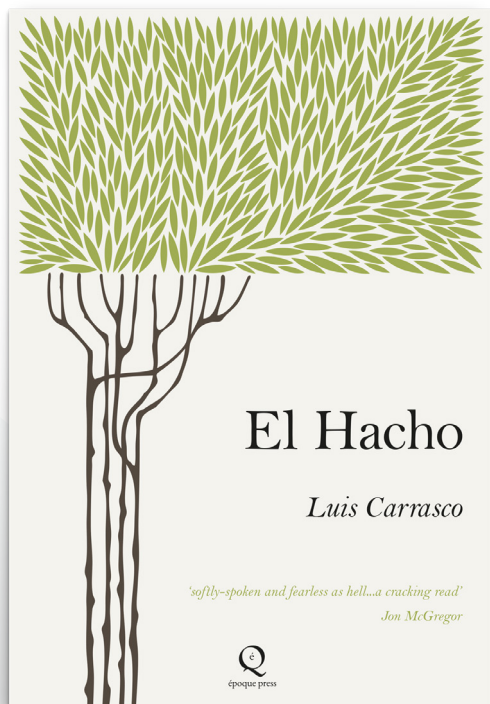
ep#014

ISBN 978-1-7391881-6-0

**£9.99**

## El Hacho

El Hacho is a timeless evocation of inheritance, duty and our relationship to the landscape that defines us. Set in the stark beauty of the Andalucían mountains it tells the story of Curro, an olive farmer determined to honour his family tradition in the face of drought, deluge and the lucrative temptations of a rapidly modernising Spain. Wonderfully crafted, El Hacho is a poignant and compelling story of struggle and hope.



'El Hacho is a tiny diamond of a novel, told in a voice at once softly-spoken and fearless as hell. Luis Carrasco's writing is new to me, but he reads here as if he's been doing this for years; his control and restraint are masterly, and the end result makes for a cracking read.'

**Jon McGregor**

'I can agree that 'brilliant' is completely justified! This novella beautifully evokes the hard lives of its rural Andalusian farming family'

**Stephanie Jane (Literary Flits)**

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**Luis Carrasco** is an exciting new writer with connections to both Britain and Spain. He was inspired to write *El Hacho* after falling in love with the people and natural beauty of the Sierra de Grazelama whilst living in Andalucía. He is currently working on his second novel.



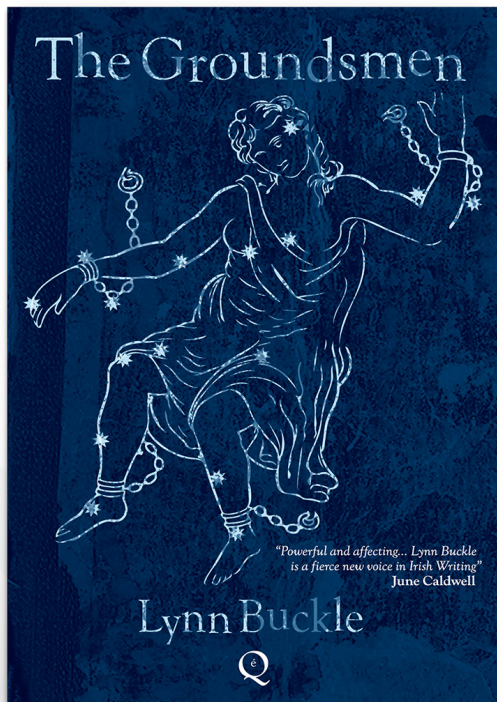
## The Groundsmen

The Groundsmen delves into the fractured lives of a family blemished by a darkly disturbing past. The secrets kept hidden over multiple generations taint them all and as events spiral out of control in a cycle of violence, none of them will escape.

The narrative is told from the perspective of five individual family members:

Louis, Toby, Cally, Andi and Cassie.

Over them all looms the dark presence of the Groundsman's hut.



'A dark compelling tale of under-the-covers failed decency and warped family relationships. This is a provocative and obsessive set of strange narrative voices that will leave the reader spinning, hurting and feeling utterly scalded. Lynn Buckle is a fierce and fearless new voice in Irish writing.'

**June Caldwell**

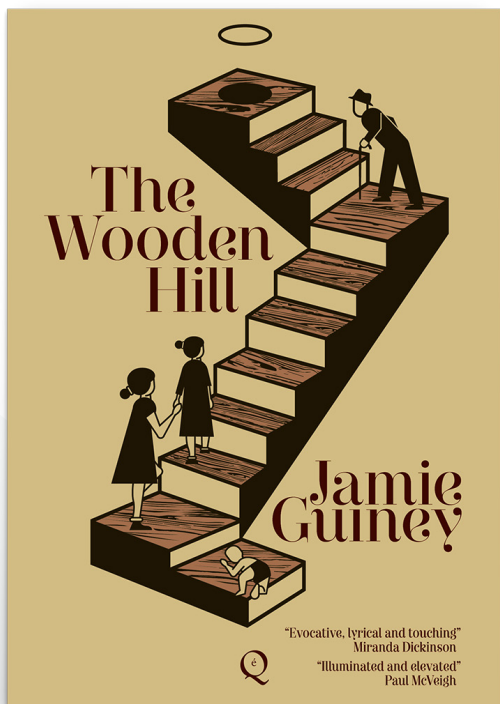
'It's a work of extraordinary power, but also deeply troubling: it makes you question the moral duty of fiction itself'

**Tom Carlisle (The Independent Literary Fiction blog)**



**Lynn Buckle** was born in the UK and after much travel has spent the last thirty years in Ireland. She is a successful Kildare based artist, tutor and writer. She spent years stealing feelings and painting them onto canvas, but her stories needed words and she changed to writing verse.

## The Wooden Hill



This collection of short stories, by Jamie Guiney, explores what it is to be human at every stage of life, from the imminence of a new birth in 'We Knew You Before You Were Born', through to adolescence and the camaraderie of youthful friendships as portrayed in 'Sam Watson & The Penny World Cup'.

Ultimately, all of our lives stride towards old age and the certainty of death, as poignantly evoked in the title story, 'The Wooden Hill'.

'Evocative, lyrical and touching, The Wooden Hill is a stunning collection. Under Jamie Guiney's pen the smallest detail becomes cinematic; characters breathe; landscapes live. Intensely personal, unflinchingly human, these are stories to savour, lingering long after the end. I adored this compilation.'

**Miranda Dickinson**

'Jamie Guiney's stories feel like classics read by the fireside on dark, winter nights. Tales of ordinary people and their everyday lives are illuminated and elevated by Guiney's keen eye and gentle empathy.'

**Paul McVeigh**

**Jamie Guiney** is a graduate of the Faber & Faber Writing Academy and has twice been a judge for short story competition 'The New Rose Prize.' His work has been backed by the Northern Ireland Arts Council through several Individual Artist Awards and he has also been chosen by Lagan Online as one of their New Original Writers. Jamie was recently shortlisted for Saboteur Award 2019 for this collection of short stories.

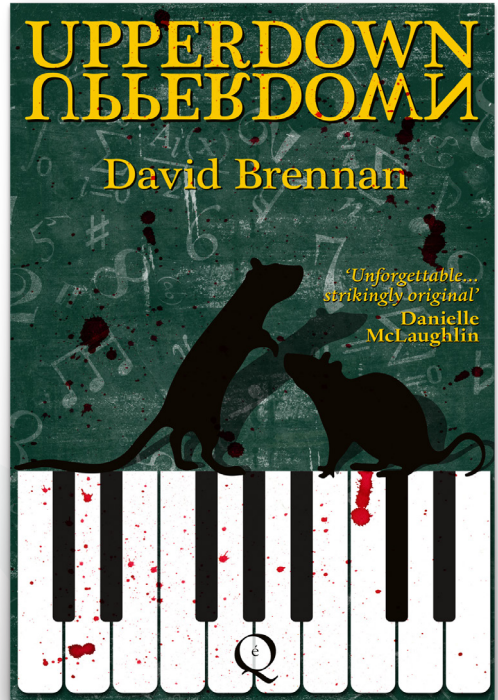




## Upperdown

Things in the town of Upperdown are not as they seem. The Professor struggles with his devotion to proving the Riemann Hypothesis and he walks the streets seeking a solution whilst battling his own deeper preoccupations

The appearance of a stranger in town, the Piano Man, leads to the resolution of the rat infestation but when the town's children start to go missing it is clear something darker has been set in motion.



'Unforgettable. Brennan's strikingly original voice blends myth and magic with wry observation as he evokes the liminal world of Upperdown. A dazzlingly good novel. Visceral and daring, it hums with its own dark, unsettling magic. A mesmerising read. Brennan's prose is fierce, haunting and compelling.'

**Danielle McLaughlin**

'The narrative is hauntingly delectable and unlike anything I have read... Brennan is an exceptional writer that leaves you beautifully bewildered and yearning for more'

**Emma Jane MacKay**

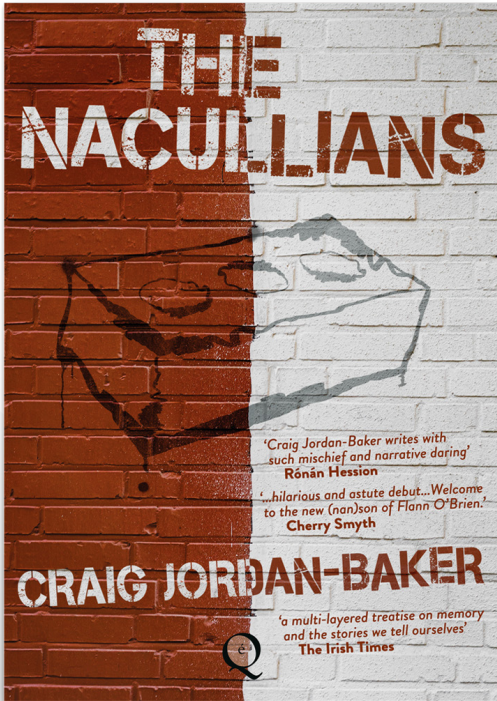


**David Brennan** currently resides between Ireland and Asia. He has been nominated for the Hennessy New Irish Writer Award 2019. He was one of the winners of the Irish Novel Fair 2018. In 2016 he won the Frank O'Connor Mentorship Bursary Award and has been shortlisted for the Bristol Short Story award (2017), the Fish Memoire award (2018) and the Doolin Short Story award (2016). He was longlisted for the Colm Tobin Award (2017).

## The Nacullians

Welcome to the world of The Nacullians, three generations of one family, living in a brick house in a line of other brick houses.

Craig Jordan-Baker's dark comedy charts the tensions and traumas of one family and their relationship with the city they inhabit.



'Craig Jordan-Baker writes with such mischief and narrative daring, like Eric Morecambe, gripping us by the collar and telling us all the right stories but not necessarily in the right order.'

**Rónán Hession (author of Leonard and Hungry Paul)**

'In this hilarious and astute debut, Craig Jordan-Baker dances between the work-hardened lives of a family on an English housing estate and the stuff of how families gets told. The Nacullians, he tells us, are 'narrow, hard things' but what width and softness he brings to them.'

**Cherry Smyth (Royal Literary Fellow 2014-16 and author of Famished)**

**Craig Jordan-Baker** is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at The University of Brighton. He has published fiction in New Writing, Text, Firefly Magazine, Potluck and in the époque press ezine.

His drama has been widely performed in the UK, including his adaptation of Beowulf and he has had dramatic work commissioned from The National Archives, The Booth Museum of Natural History and the Theatre Royal Brighton.



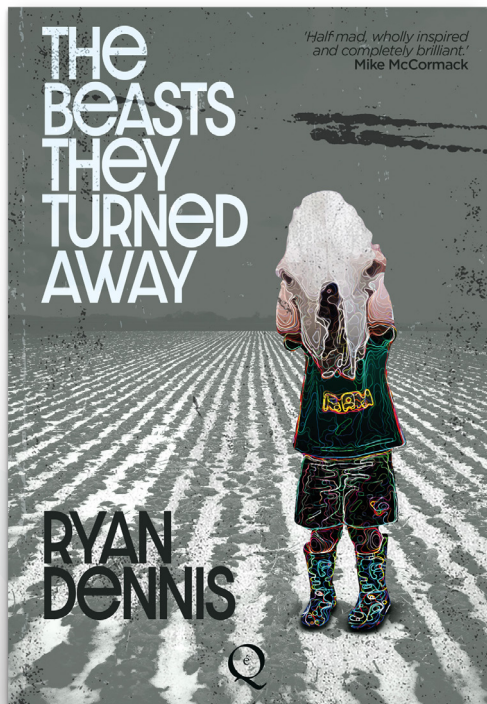



## The Beasts They Turned Away

Íosac Mulgannon is a man called to stand. Losing a grip on his mental and physical health, he is burdened with looking after a mute child whom the local villagers view as cursed.

The aging farmer stubbornly refuses to succumb in the face of adversity and will do anything, at any cost, to keep hold of his farm and the child.

This dark and lyrical debut novel confronts a claustrophobic rural community caught up in the uncertainties of a rapidly changing world.



 **Republic of  
Consciousness  
Prize** *Long-list  
for 2022*

'A novel like no other. Mythic and intimate, original yet recognisable, the barbed wire prose of Ryan Dennis draws down storm clouds and grey crows over a world at the end of its tether. Half mad, wholly inspired and completely brilliant.'

**Mike McCormack (author of Solar Bones and winner of The Goldsmiths Prize)**



**Ryan** is a former Fulbright Scholar in Creative Writing and has taught creative writing at several universities. He has been published in various literary journals, particularly in the US, including The Cimarron Review, The Threepenny Review and Fusion.

In addition to completing a PhD in creative writing at the National University of Ireland, Galway, he is a syndicated columnist for agricultural journals around the world.

## What Willow Says

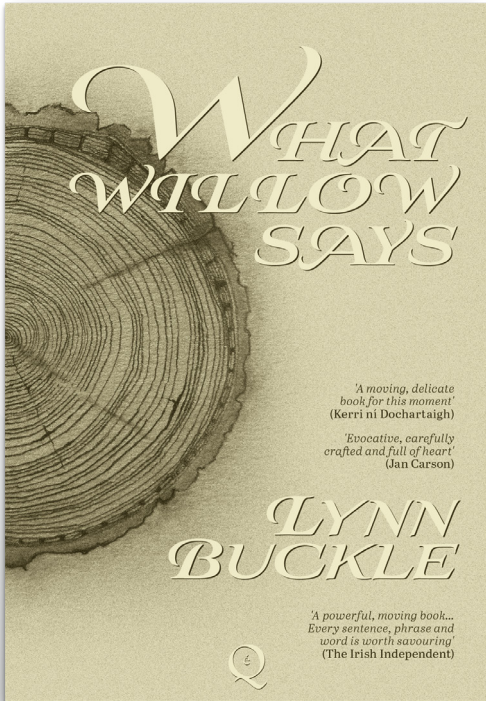
Sharing stories of myths, legends and ancient bogs, a deaf child and her grandmother experiment with the lyrical beauty of sign language.

Learning to communicate through their shared love of trees, they find solace in the shapes and susurrations of leaves in the wind.

A poignant tale of family bonding and the quiet acceptance of change.



**WINNER**  
**The Barbellion**  
**Prize 2021**



'This is a beautiful, lyrical love story between a grandmother and granddaughter – between the human and the other than human – between the known and the unknown. Birds and echoes, loss and language – trees and bog, myth and memory – family and folklore, existence and elegy; this quiet story is as exquisitely sculpted as bog oak, and will – like the storms it tells of – leave traces deep inside of you. A moving, delicate book for this moment.'

**Kerri ní Dochartaigh (author of Thin Places)**

'A powerful, moving book... Every sentence, phrase and word is worth savouring'  
**(The Irish Independent)**

**Lynn Buckle** was born in the UK and after much travel has spent the last thirty years in Ireland. She is a successful Kildare based artist, tutor and writer. She spent years stealing feelings and painting them onto canvas, but her stories needed words and she changed to writing verse.

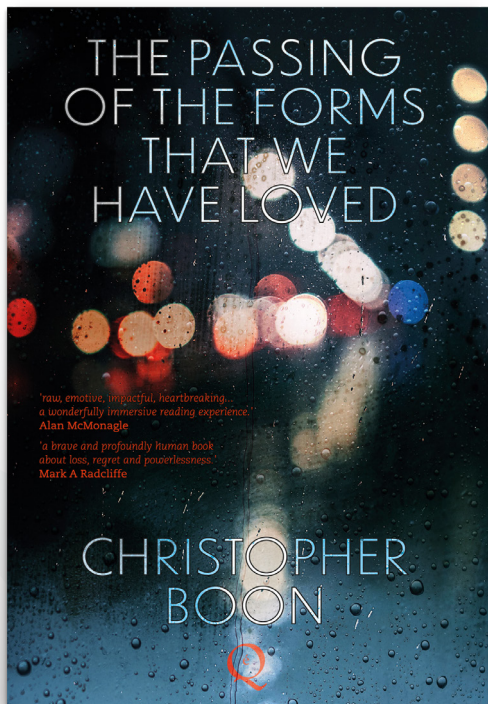
**UNESCO** City of Literature Virtual Writer in Residence, National Centre for Writing 2021.



## The Passing Of The Forms That We Have Loved

A young man, dealing with his father's terminal cancer, retreats into introspection on relationships both old and new as a past mired with failure comes back to haunt him, consuming his present and threatening to derail his future.

Exploring themes of loss and repentance, the passing of the forms that we have loved questions whether formative acts of indecisiveness can have far reaching repercussions in later years.



'There are many registers to Christopher Boon's prose - among them fragility, intensity, lyricism, reflection, observation, elegy. It is always compelling. This is raw, emotive, impactful, heartbreaking stuff. All in all, a wonderfully immersive reading experience. Buy it. Read it. Read it again.'

**Alan McMonagle (author of Ithaca and Laura Cassidy's Walk of Fame)**

'Boon offers a courageous and moving portrait of the numbness and psychic disintegration that accompanies overwhelming grief. This is a brave and profoundly human book about loss, regret and powerlessness.'

**Mark A Radcliffe (author of Gabriel's Angel and Stranger Than Kindness)**



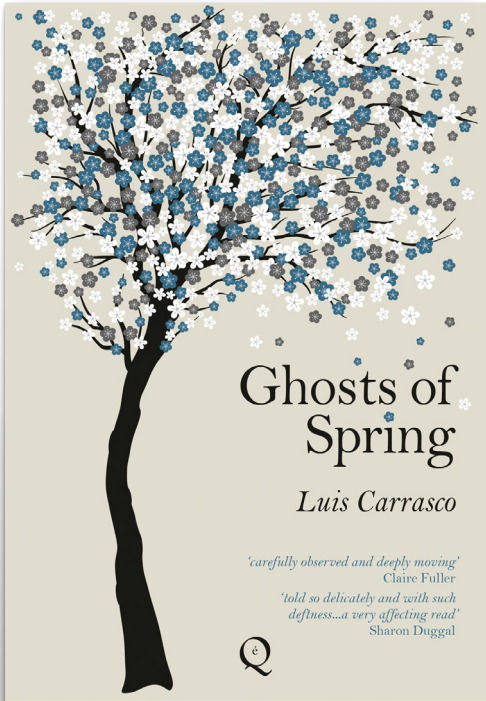
**Christopher Boon** spent his formative years in a small village in rural Hertfordshire. He studied English at Manchester University and, upon graduating, worked for three years as an English teacher in Ogaki City, Japan. He now works as a teacher in southern France.

He started working on the novel after his father died of oesophageal cancer in 2008 and whilst writing it his mother also succumbed to cancer. These experiences helped shape the novel.

## Ghosts Of Spring

A young girl, anonymous and ignored, sits through a cold, hard, west-country winter, begging for change and searching for a warm place to sleep.

Ghosts of Spring explores one girl's desire to transcend the limits of her environment and forge a new life against all the odds.



'In this carefully observed and deeply moving story about urban homelessness, Carrasco shows the daily challenge and terror of living on the streets.'

**Claire Fuller (author of Unsettled Ground & winner of the Costa Novel Award 2021)**

'This harsh tale of an unnamed young woman living on the very edge of society is told so delicately and with such deftness it results in a very affecting read with a main character who lingers long after the story ends. Luis Carrasco is a wonderful writer.'

**Sharon Duggal (author of Should We Fall Behind)**

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**Luis Carrasco** Luis Carrasco lives and works in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

'Ghosts of Spring, Luis' second novel was published in March 2022.





## Seek The Singing Fish

Growing up in the lagoon town of Batticaloa, a young girl, with an unquenchable curiosity and love of the natural world, is entangled in the trauma and turmoil of the Sri Lankan civil war.

Uprooted from everything she holds dear, tragedy and betrayal set in motion an unforgettable odyssey. Torn from east to west, struggling with what it means to belong, she desperately seeks a way home to the land of the singing fish.



'A striking debut novel that charts a childhood ravaged by war and redeemed by the chimerical magic of the natural world. Written in a scintillating, hallucinatory register, this book is studded with fascinating insights into the animal kingdom that give a fresh moral perspective to exceptional violence.'

**Minoli Salgado**

'Seek the Singing Fish is a tour de force! Written with such fluency and energy, the words leap off the page. Thoroughly original.'

**Reeta Chakrabarti**



**Roma Wells** is a Sri Lankan and Irish writer with a family heritage entwined with wild animals and sectarian conflict.

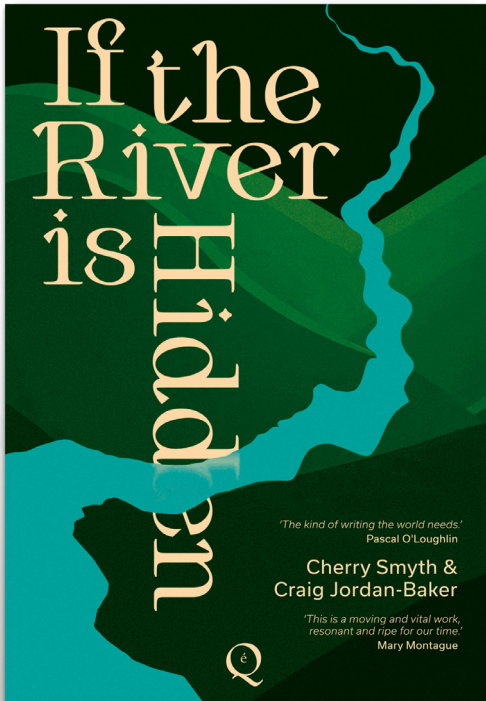
Roma studied International Relations at Cambridge University and has worked in journalism, foreign affairs and international development.

Seek The Singing Fish is Roma's debut novel.

## If The River Is Hidden

If the River is Hidden charts the journey of two writers from the source to the mouth of the Bann, Northern Ireland's longest river.

Through a dialogue of prose and poetry the history, landscape and divisions that have come to define the North are explored and challenged. With backgrounds from each side of the sectarian divide, theirs is a journey of uncovering a sense of place and of searching for meaning.



'Two pilgrims travel the length of the River Bann in Ulster. Beauty, horror, loss, banality - Smyth and Jordan-Baker's fluid, intermingled writings trace their honourable journey through a personal/political landscape with heart-breaking honesty and integrity. The kind of writing the world needs.'

**Pascal O'Loughlin (author of *The Goddess Lens* and *The Conspirators*).**

'Gliding from poetry to prose, in language that flexes between plainspoken and gorgeous, laconic and charged, the braided voices of Cherry and Craig switch and mingle, banter and dissolve, as they follow the River Bann.'

**Mary Montague (author of *Tribe* and contributor to *The Guardian's Country Diary*).**

Cherry is an Irish writer, living in London. Her first two poetry collections, *When the Lights Go Up*, 2001 and *One Wanted Thing*, 2006 were published by Lagan Press.

Her third collection, *Test, Orange*, 2012, and fourth, *Famished*, 2019 were published by Pindrop Press.

You can read about Craig on [The Nacullians](#) page.



## Three Gifts

If you could save the life of a loved one by trading in years of your own life, how many years would you give? How many lives could you save? Would you know when to stop?

Francis Broad has done just that and has negotiated the day of his death, now he must come to terms with the decisions he has made.

Three Gifts explores one man's attempt to live a good life, his sense of responsibility, gratitude and what it means to love.



'A heart-breaking and thought-provoking exploration of what we might give up for love.'

**Beth Miller (author of Starstruck and The Missing Letters of Mrs Bright).**



Mark A. Radcliffe is the author of two novels, *Gabriel's Angel* (2010) and *Stranger Than Kindness* (2013), both published by Bluemoose and a collection of short stories, *Superpowers* (2020) published by Valley Press.

He is currently the Subject Lead for Creative Writing at West Dean College of Art and Conservation.

Mark lives in Hove with his wife Kate and swims in the sea a lot.

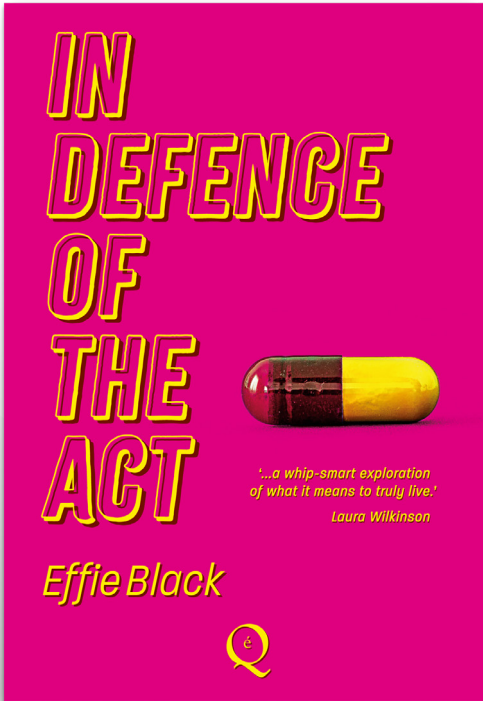


## In Defence Of The Act

Are we more like a coffee bean, a carrot or an egg? What happens to us when we are boiled in the trials and tribulations of life?

Jessica is coming to terms with her own relationships, and reflecting on what it means to be queer, when a single event throws everything she once believed into doubt.

Can she still defend the act?



'In death obsessed scientist Jess, Effie Black has created one of the freshest, most engaging characters I've encountered in years. In Defence of the Act is a whip-smart exploration of what it means to truly live. Fresh, thought-provoking and, at times, surprisingly funny.'

**Laura Wilkinson (author of Skin Deep)**

**Effie Black** is a London-based writer with a background in science. She enjoys writing from a queer perspective and she likes bringing a spot of science into her fiction too.

Effie's short stories have appeared in Litro and the époque press é-zine.

In Defence Of The Act is Effie's debut novel.

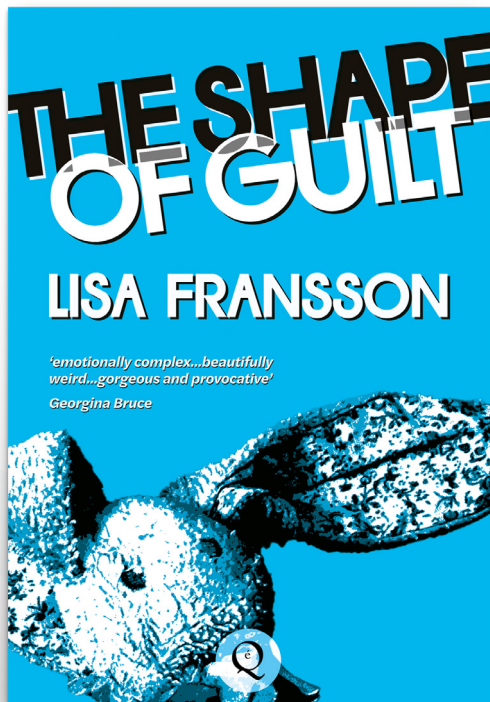


## The Shape Of Guilt

Robert Bunny, a toy bunny rabbit, observes the steady decline of a family he so desperately wants to be a part of.

His is the only voice of reason as he connects the crumbling mind of Deborah to her son Alex, whilst she tries to save him from the very worst of himself.

The Shape of Guilt charts a pattern of secrecy and trauma, one which culminates in a brutal and drastic action. Will Robert Bunny be able to save the ones he loves?



'Lisa Fransson writes with compelling sensitivity and black humour about the complicated hauntings of family life. Her debut novel is emotionally complex, disturbing, and beautifully weird. This is literature at its most gorgeous and provocative best.'

**Georgina Bruce (author of This House of Wounds)**



**Lisa Fransson** is a bilingual writer living on the south coast of England with her husband and three teenagers. In her native Swedish, Lisa is an award-winning children's author, while in her adopted English she's a writer of novels and short fiction. She's represented by Intersaga Literary Agency.

The Shape of Guilt is Lisa's debut novel.

## our é-zine

Our é-zine is an online platform which showcases a combination of the written word, and other art forms, bringing together artists working in different mediums to encourage and inspire new perspectives on specific themes. Visit [www.époquepress.com/ezine](http://www.époquepress.com/ezine) to see our latest edition.



If you know any writers, visual artists, musician's or spoken word poets please do kindly make them aware of us, and if you yourself are an artist, please don't hesitate to submit to our é-zine. More details about the é-zine, upcoming editions and submissions are available on our website.

## trade information & contact details

All of our titles are distributed via Gardners, however we do also have a number of direct supply arrangements with bookshops. If you happen to use a different distributor and would like to stock our titles, please do let us know which distributor you use and we will look into how we can also work with them.

For any Rights enquiries relating to our titles please do not hesitate to contact us as per the details below.

**Contact:** Sean Campbell

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**Phone:** +44 (0) 7826 859083



[www.époquepress.com](http://www.époquepress.com)



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## époque people

Melanie McGinn



reviewer & proofreader

Sean Campbell



founder & editor

Louise Yates



reviewer & proofreader

Shân Wilkinson



copy editor & proofreader

Adam Bentley



art & print director

“Thank you for taking  
the time to read this.

We hope you will  
consider our titles now  
and in the future.”



époque press