



## Writing Short Courses Newsletter

**Dear Emily,**

The days are getting longer, the daffodils are out and the magnolias have bloomed. Here's the latest from our Writing Short Course alumni and tutors to cheer you on your way.

### Student successes

#### The Novel Studio alumni

Alumna **Anna Mazzola** published her third novel, *The Clockwork Girl*, this month with Orion. Set in Paris in 1750 and based partly on the story of the vanishing children of Paris, *The Sunday Express Magazine* have called it “chilling and compelling...a gothic masterpiece that fans of historical fiction will love.” Anna’s debut novel, *The Unseeing*, is based on the life of a real woman called Sarah Gale who was convicted of aiding a murder in London in 1837. It won an Edgar Allan Poe Award in the US and was nominated for the Historical Writers’ Association’s Debut Crown in the UK. Her second novel, *The Story Keeper*, follows a folklorist’s assistant as she searches out dark fairy tales and stolen girls on the Isle of Skye in 1857.



The *Story Keeper* was nominated for the Highland Book Prize. Her fourth novel will be a ghost story. Speaking of her time on [The Novel Studio](#), Anna said “The Novel Studio lived up to its high reputation. I had some fantastic tutors and their input in my novel was invaluable. By working with them on my synopsis in the early part of the course, I developed a clear structure for my novel together along with the tools for writing it. I then used the structure of the course itself to ensure that I finished my first draft by the end of the summer term... At the end of the course, we hosted an event for literary agents showcasing our work and sent out an anthology subsequently. It was on the back of this that I signed with my wonderful agent.”

Alumna **Seema Clear** has won the [Curtis Brown Breakthrough Novel Writing Scholarship](#) for her novel *The Refugees* which she developed while on the course.

Alumnus **Bren Gosling** was one of the winners of [The Book Edit's inaugural Writers' Prize](#) for underrepresented novelists. Bren's play *Proud*, based on his novel *The Street Sweeper*, has just finished a sell-out run at The King's Head in Islington.

Alumnus **Lawrence Kershook** has just published his debut novel [The Broyqus](#).

## [Apply for The Novel Studio](#)

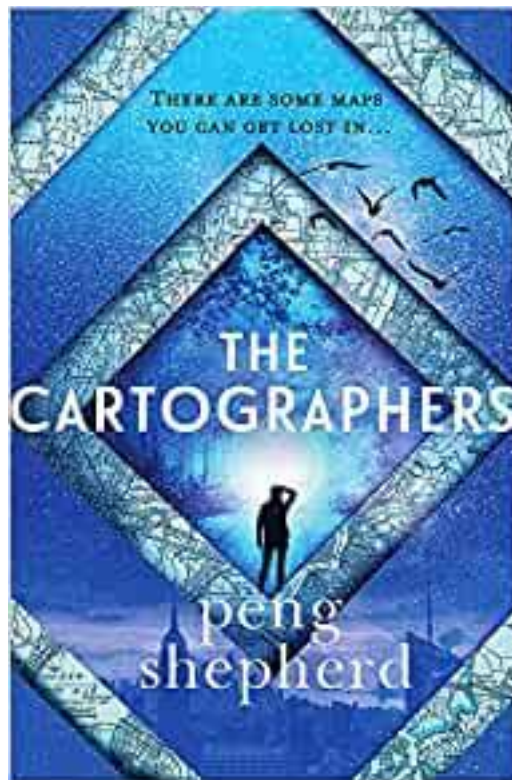
Peter Forbes' Narrative Non Fiction alumni continue to amaze with their success. **Aniefiok Ekpoudom's** first book, *Where We Come From*, will be released by Faber in 2023. **Clare Martin's** book on the Boleyn family, *Heirs of Ambition*, will be published by The History Press in 2023. Bessborough, by **Deirdre Finnerty** will be published by Hachette in April 2022. **Dee Peyok's** book *Away from Beloved Lover* will be published by Granta in January 2023.



Katy Darby's Short Story Writing and Writers' Workshop students continue their ascent. **Ariana Reiche** has published an anthology of her writing and her debut

novel, *At the End of Every Day*, will be published with Atria Books/Simon and Schuster in 2023.

**Peng Shepherd** published her second novel, *The Cartographers*, this month with Orion. The book has been named a Pick of the Month by *Good Morning America*, *Real Simple*, *Bustle*, *The Millions*, and *Goodreads*, a best book of the month by *Amazon*, *Apple*, and *Buzzfeed*, as well as an “Indie Next” Independent Bookstores Pick and a “Book of the Month” Book Club Pick. Peng’s short story, *The Future Library*, was published by Tor Books in 2021



**Catherine Menon's** debut novel, *Fragile Monsters*, (Viking) has been longlisted for the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award 2022. **Alex Morrall's** novella *Adrift – The Storyteller and The Mosaicist* was published this month. **Helen Viegas's** second book *The Arctic Vault* was "Highly Commended" by the Bridport Prize 2021. **Karl King's** debut crime novel, *A Spell Of Murders*, will be published by Grosvenor House Publishing this summer. **Sue Hann** has published a piece in Litro Online. The same piece came second in the WOW Essay competition 2022 Quarter 1. **Robin Vicary** will publish his new book, *An Adoration of Beauty*, with Austin Macauley.

Marcelle Bernstein's Fact-based Storytelling student **Warda Farah** is halfway through her course and will publish her first book next year. Warda's book is about her experiences working as a speech and language therapist who uses social activism to counter the racism that exists in her profession, her book is entitled *White System Black Therapist – Understanding race, culture and identity in Speech and Language Therapy*, will be published by Routledge in 2023.



Maggie Richards' Copywriting students have had significant success since taking the course. **Emily Hamilton** learnt so much from the copywriting course that she has now she has now found work as a content executive for a London SEO start-up. She says "it feels amazing to finally be pursuing writing as a career after so many years of saying "Writing is my dream, but..." Alumna **Holly James** has jumpstarted into a freelance copywriting career, citing the course as her inspiration. Read more about Holly in the engaging, uplifting blog post she recently wrote for City.

Susan Grossman's [Freelance Writing](#) student **Clarissa Brincat** has been commissioned to write for the *Times of Malta* on Climate Anxiety.

Jenny Stallard's [Writing for Business](#) current student **Raju Thapar** has written a [blog post](#) for *City* about the lessons the ancient art of Sumo has for our business world.

Rosa Rogers' [An Approach to Creative Writing](#) alumnus **C.R Park** has published a [crime story](#) set in the world of stand-up comedy.

## Courses

### Novel Studio applications now open!

Have you always wanted to write a novel? Would you like to find out more about the publishing industry and how to find an agent? [The Novel Studio](#) is now open for applications for 2022/23. 15 selected writers spend a year working closely with their tutors and fellow students culminating in an end of year show to invited industry guests. With an impressive [track record](#), this is the go-to course for anyone looking to develop a novel. If you have any questions, the course director will be on hand to help at our [taster evening](#) next week.

[Apply for The Novel Studio](#)

### Brand new one-day courses

We have two brand new short writing courses launching next term. [Writing for Social Impact](#), taught by Narrative Non-Fiction alumnus **Ciaran Thapar**, will run on 20 and 21 May. Aimed at anyone who wants to learn strategic and creative ways of achieving real-world social impact through their writing, the course will explore how to conduct interviews, execute ethical and impactful storytelling, and provide a call-to-action for readers. We're delighted to be partnering with [The Access Project](#) on a scholarship for one student on the course, initiated by Ciaran, to help widen access for disadvantaged students. Learn more about the [scholarship on our website](#).



[Book Writing for Social Impact](#)

Our new interactive [Introduction to Brand Copywriting for Business](#), held over two consecutive mornings, will explore a full introduction to making your brand a success

- from identifying your audience (including industry tools and creating audience personas) to how to write 'on-brand' for press releases, social media and digital marketing. You'll also learn the basics of how to brief designers to create 'on-brand' visual assets and logos. Run by Anna Tsekouras and Pete Austin from [Anon Agency](#) this promises to be a turbo-charged Brand Copywriting 101!

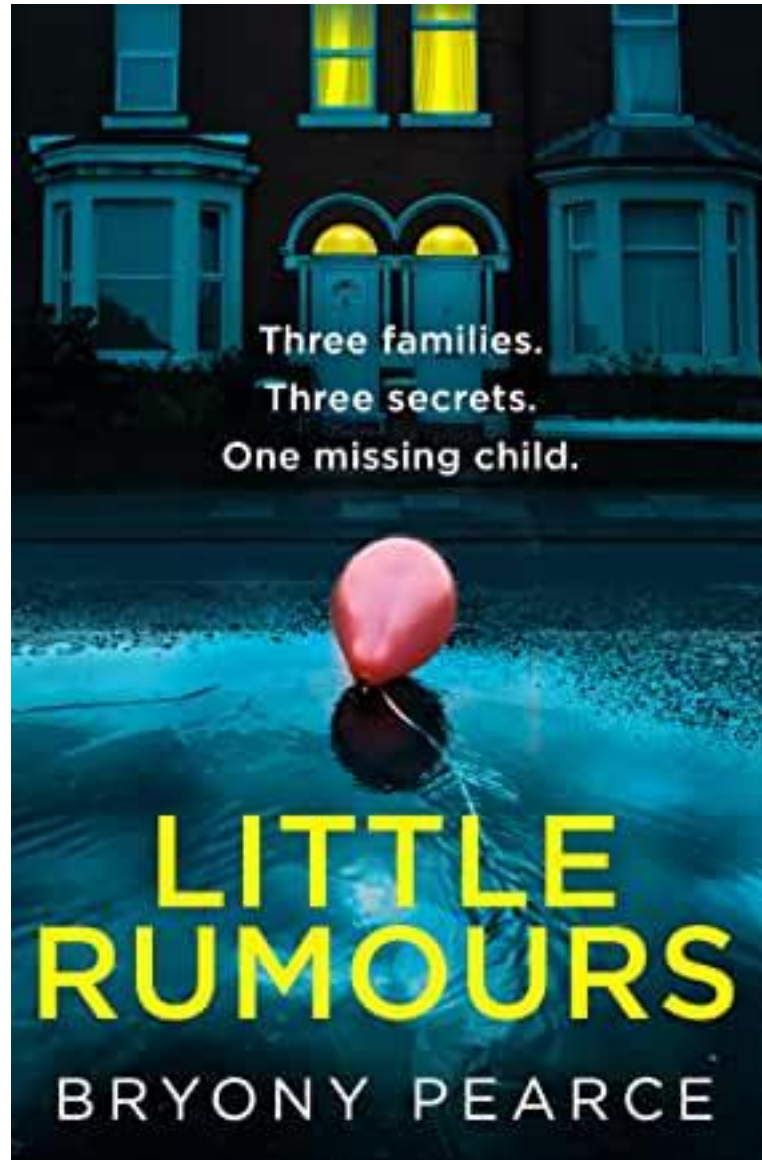
### [Book Introduction to Brand Copywriting for Business](#)

There are plenty of other options for anyone keen on one-day writing courses: our ever-popular Introduction to [Copywriting](#) with [Maggie Richards](#) is available monthly; while our [Writing the Memoir](#) course will be taught by the brilliant Marcelle Bernstein next term. Our [Writing for the Web and Digital Media](#) continues to be run by the expert broadcast journalist [Holly Powell-Jones](#).

## Tutor news

- **Martin Ouvry** has been asked to write an article on how creative writing courses benefit writers, for the 2023 edition of the Writers & Artists' Yearbook.
- **Jenny Stallard** is running a group coaching course for anyone who is freelance or self-employed. Beginning on March 28th - [The Self Employed Spring Clean](#) focuses on sorting, organising, decluttering and polishing your business for Spring.
- [Writing for Children](#) tutor **Bryony Pearce** has a new novel, [Little Rumours](#), out on 31<sup>st</sup> March as a paperback, ebook or on audible: A story about three mothers and a daughter who goes missing. Does one of them know why? Secrets and lies come to light with devastating consequences in this dark and twisty psychological thriller, perfect for fans of *Big Little Lies* and Adele Parks. One of Bryony's YA novels, [Raising Hell](#), has been shortlisted for the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards 2022.





- Freelance Writing and Travel Writing tutor **Susan Grossman** has been approved as a Business Mentor by the West of England CA Creative Growth Sector Programme.
- **Rosa Rogers** passed her viva last month and will become a Doctor later this year. Her PhD is The Contemporary Novel, Practice as Research (University of Kent), and as part of this she has completed a novel, *Composition*, on which she is currently working with an agent.

## Events

Our [virtual Taster Evening](#) will take place this week 31 March. Come along to try our taster sessions in copywriting and short stories, or chat to one of the team about your writing course queries. [Novel Studio](#) Course Director Emily Pedder and Novel Studio tutor Rebekah Lattin-Rawstrone will also be there to answer anything you might like to know about applying for our year-long Novel Studio programme. [Register here](#).

### [Book Taster Evening](#)

[City Writes](#), is the showcase for City's short courses creative writing. This term's event will take place on **30 March at 7pm** and our guest alumnus will be Michael Mann whose debut middle grade novel, *[Ghostcloud](#)*, set in the smoky underworld beneath Battersea Power Station, is causing quite a stir. Michael will be joined by our competition winners at our spring event, on Zoom. [Register for the event, on March 30th at 7pm here](#).

This term's winners of City Writes winners (in alphabetical order) are:

**James Baxter, Emma Bielecki, Stephanie Donowho, Sini Downing, Alison Halsey and Adam Zunker.** Congratulations to them all. Find out more about our winners in [this blog post](#). To join us on the night and hear Michael and our winners read from their work, [sign up here now!](#)

### [Register for City Writes Spring 2022](#)

## Opportunities

- Novel Studio alumna [Harriet Tyce](#) continues to fund our **[Novel Studio Scholarship](#)** for a talented student from a low-income household. Harriet initiated this scholarship three years ago and we remain incredibly honoured by, and grateful for, her ongoing generosity and belief in the course.
- In a rare opportunity to bypass the slush pile, all applicants to the Novel Studio will automatically be entered into our annual [Literary Agent Competition](#) run in conjunction with [Christine Green Author's Agency](#). Christine has supported this initiative for several years and we are delighted to be able to continue to partner with her on this important initiative.

- The author and tutor Ciaran Thapar has initiated a scholarship for one young student from a disadvantaged background to participate on his brand new Writing for Social Impact course. [Find out more here.](#)
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That's all for now. Keep on writing and keep your stories coming into us. We love to hear what you've been up to. And huge congratulations to all our alumni and tutors.

Warmest wishes,

Emily Pedder

**Writing Short Courses Co-ordinator**



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