

From: **Myriad Editions** info@myriadeditions.com
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ME



Stories for new ways of seeing

Do you judge books by their covers?

Issue No.13: we're celebrating Anna Morrison – book cover designer extraordinaire – designing for Myriad for 10 years • Anna talks of the balance between homeschooling and working during lockdown, her motivation, and nice coffee • and Kate Charlesworth jumps on to yet more prize lists...





10 years of covers

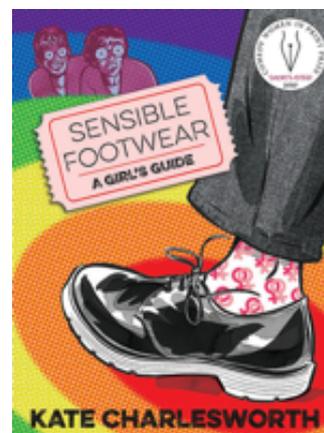
For ten years, designer and illustrator **Anna Morrison** has been creating the most beautiful covers for Myriad books. We couldn't believe it when Anna told us that a decade had gone by, to the month. And so it felt time we celebrated all that creative energy and verve that Anna brings to the Myriad designs. They say don't judge a book by its cover; given the attention we know Anna's covers receive, we think 'they' are utterly wrong. Just look at them all (above and below): over thirty titles – plus some reprints and collections not included here – and each one a stunner in its own right. So thank you, Anna, for always bringing out the most startling designs to answer our briefs. And here's to another ten years.

[VISIT ANNA'S WEBSITE](#)



Sensible Footwear in the spotlight, again!

Big congratulations to **Kate Charlesworth**, author of *Sensible Footwear*, as her tremendous LGBTQI+ graphic memoir receives yet more prize listings. Not only is she in the running for the 'Published Humorous Graphic Novels' **Comedy Women in Print Prize**, but now we find she is shortlisted for the **Bread & Roses Award for Radical Publishing** – an award which seeks to celebrate excellence in the field of radical political non-fiction – and longlisted for the **Polari First Book Prize**, for LGBTQI+ literature. Plus, Kate herself is on the shortlist for 'Wordsmith of the Year' in the **DIVA Awards** – a no-holds-barred celebration of the achievements of gay, bisexual and trans women (and their allies). **Vote for her here**. We have our fingers, toes and legs all crossed.



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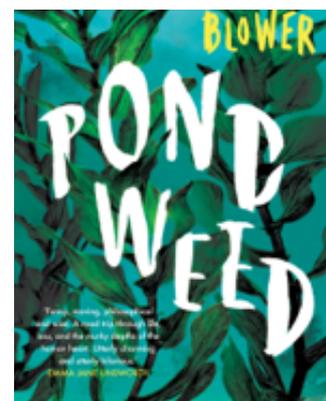
ENDS MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY 05 JULY

The week in reviews

Pondweed
by Lisa Blower



A novel that dares to find the lyrical, the luminous and the hilarious in the kind of people and places that literature often overlooks. Down arterial roads and a variety of stops and diversions, *Pondweed* maps out an unsentimental love story via an unconventional road movie and finds humour and enlightenment in a Britain of caravans and out-of-town aquatics dealers.' —**Stuart Maconie**



'Wonderfully quirky and yet earthy and tangible, this is an engaging and entertaining read.' —**Liz Robins, Love Reading**

'Lisa Blower is the kind of writer who can take you by the heart and lead you through the complex and often heartbreaking lives of ordinary folk.' —**Bookish Chat**

New Daughters of Africa
edited by Margaret Busby

'Featuring forgotten writers of the past as well as major contemporary voices, it is brimming with new writers to discover as well as old favourites. Showcased at events at over 20 festivals around the country in hardback, it also looks stunning in its new livery.'
—**The Bookseller, Editor's Choice**

Belonging
by Umi Sinha

'A wonderfully rich and well thought out piece of historical fiction, that explores themes of love, identify, race and colonialism. I loved the three different perspectives and how the story and family secrets gradually unravelled... A beautifully written, page turner. My rating: 5/5.' —**Elle's Books, The Artful Elle**

Easier Ways to Say I Love You
by Lucy Fry

'An intoxicating, thrilling and compelling read... I felt every emotion alongside the author, the highs, lows, indifference, guilt, shame, pain, love, jealousy – everything! ... As gripping as fiction.' —**Amy, Amy and Books**

London Triptych
by Jonathan Kemp

'...there is lots to admire here. The gorgeously supple sentences, laced with savvy insight, are a treat. And the narrative soars to a rousing conclusion without resorting to easy outcomes for its three protagonists. I definitely intend to seek out more of Kemp's books.'
—**Ambar Sahil Chatterjee**

Brave New Words
edited by Susheila Nasta

'[A] diverse...collection...both in terms of the writers contributing and the topics covered.'

'I've learned so much from this book already.' –**The Reader Resistance**

Sensible Footwear

by **Kate Charlesworth**

'A mammoth undertaking of a graphic novel that serves both as a queer history manual, and a memoir of the author's life as a lesbian in the UK from the 50s until now. While it's an intensely personal and intimate work, ***Sensible Footwear*** also chronicles LGBTQ+ history extensively and wants to spark curiosity about its forgotten figures. You'll want to take notes! It's clear a mountain of work went into this book and it deserves its place on your bookshelf!' –**Jane Elliott, Last Lovers Arc**

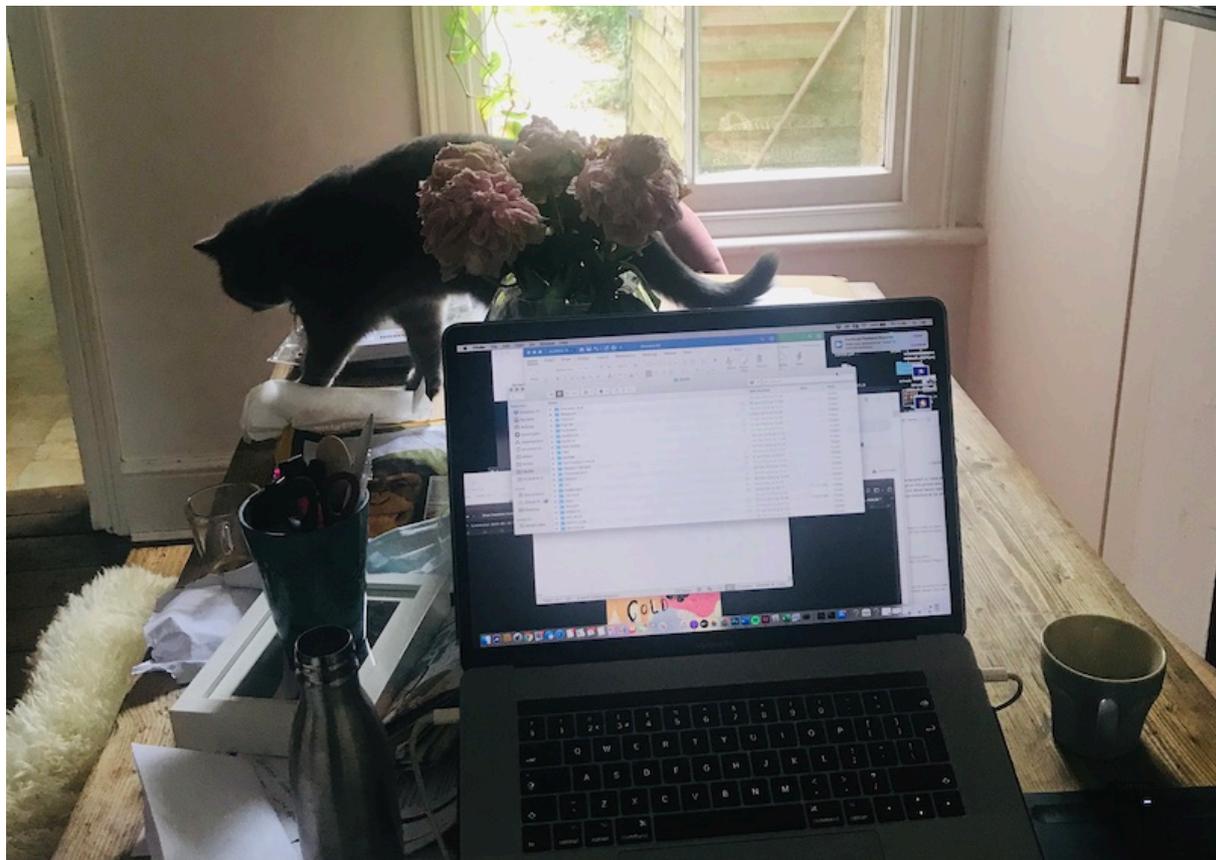
'I read this graphic novel for Pride Month and i am obsessed with the art style...really informative.' –**Star Planet Books**

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My bookish life... Anna Morrison

Now more than ever it feels important to talk to each other, to meet new people, to learn new things. And so we're asking our writerly and bookish friends to talk to us, sharing a little insight into their daily lives...





This week cover designer Anna Morrison joins us to talk lockdown highs and lows. Anna has been designing covers for Myriad books for a whopping ten years. She also works as an art director and sometime illustrator.

How have your days changed?

I've always worked from home in some form or another, although I had just started working at a lovely local workspace, just before lockdown. The main thing that changed is having my two children at home with me, which has been quite challenging – working and trying to homeschool them at the same time. It has been lovely to spend more time with them, though.



Have you formed a new routine?

I've been getting up super early to squeeze in a few hours of work before everyone else gets up. It's a bit all over the shop some days... we try to do Maths and English in the morning, a run or a bike ride after lunch, then I have to work in the afternoon. I have felt a huge amount of guilt during this time trying to manage everything. Some days I feel like I'm failing at being a good mum; other days I'm being rubbish at my job. Hard to find the balance.

What are you looking forward to?

It sounds awful but I am looking forward to my children going back to school and us getting back to some form of routine. They miss their friends a lot, as do I. I'm also looking forward to going back to my studio and not being in my house every day.

Are you managing to stay creative?

Some days it has been tough trying to motivate myself, but other days the ideas just come. But I felt like that even before lockdown happened!

Do you have any advice for anyone feeling creatively squashed right now, and what's helping you to focus?

I think being kind to yourself: we are going through unusual times. I do find getting up early helps me to focus, or just taking a break from my computer screen and getting outside.

What are your small daily comforts?

Nice coffee in the morning. I've been enjoying cooking during lockdown, as I have more time, so good food too. I've kept up with my gym classes, too, as my trainer has been doing them online during this time. I never want to do them, but always feel good after.

How are you keeping in touch with others?

It's been bizarre – I feel like I'm more in touch with my friends and family at the moment. We did start off with lots of Zooms, but now just more chatting on the phone, which I much prefer, and I've had a lot of lovely socially distanced meet up with my friends.

BUY THE BOOKS DESIGNED BY ANNA

CONTACT EMMA DOWSON FOR REVIEW COPIES

If you work with books, in any way – editor, blogger, bookshop worker, reviewer – and would like to feature in our new 'My bookish life' series, we'd love to hear from you.

EMAIL US NOW

Before you go...

The ***Bad Form Review*** Young Writers' Prize closes in just a few days. Launched to support unpublished Black, Asian, Arabic, and other non-white authors, aged under 25 and based in the UK, entries must be submitted by Mon 6 July 2020. **ENTER HERE**

+ dates for your diary

THE AUTHOR-EDITOR RELATIONSHIP

Elizabeth Haynes, author of *The Murder of Harriet Monckton* and *Into the Darkest Corner*, will be in conversation with Myriad Publisher **Candida Lacey** at the Jericho Writers' online Summer Festival of Writing, discussing the author-editor relationship.

Date: 06 July

Time: 7pm

Location: Jericho Writers' webinar

THE LAUNCH OF PONDWEED

Join us for the launch of **Lisa Blower's** new novel, ***Pondweed***. In a special online event between Myriad Editions and New Writing South, Lisa will be in conversation with novelist **Sharon Duggal**. Please send questions in advance to **hello@newwritingsouth.com**.

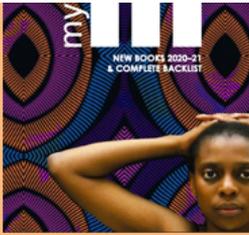
Date: 08 July

Time: 7pm

Location: Facebook Live event, hosted by New Writing South



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