

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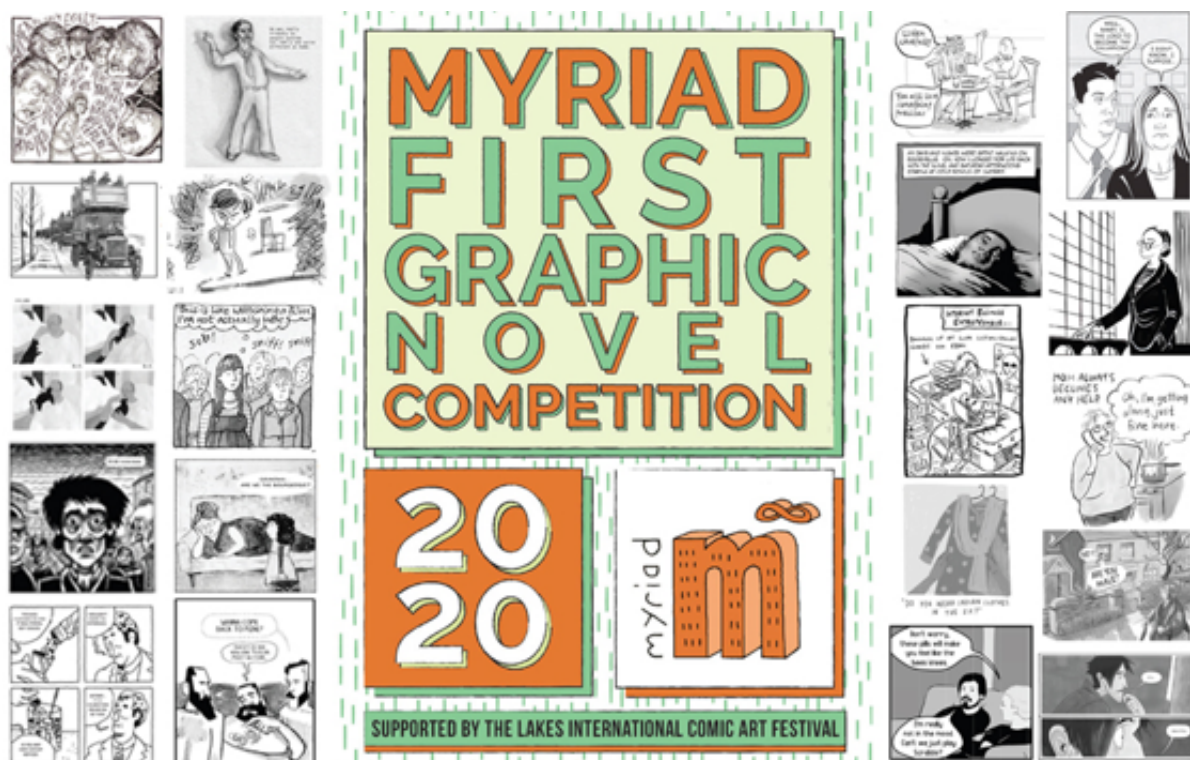


Stories for new ways of seeing

And now for something graphically novel

Issue No.5: Myriad's First Graphic Novel Competition longlist is out •

Carol Isaacs talks postcard writing, new projects and experimental cooking • lockdown comics to keep you smiling • and more...

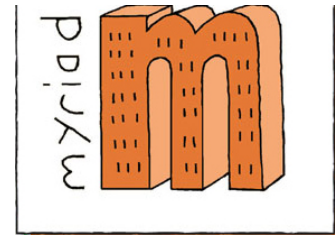


First Graphic Novel Competition longlist

Congratulations to the authors of the 20 longlisted titles in this year's **Myriad First Graphic Novel Competition**. Supported by



the Lakes International Comic Art Festival, the competition was open to UK residents who have not previously published a full-length graphic work, and offers the overall winner(s) the opportunity to have their completed graphic novel published by Myriad.



This year, the judges – Ian Williams, Zoe Adjonyoh, Sacha Craddock, Julie Tait and Myriad's Corinne Pearlman – were tasked with unprecedented lockdown judging. Quite a feat, which included entries being resubmitted digitally for judging from home, plus a four-hour-long Zoom meeting to narrow the favourites down. But, the judges say, they now have '20 promising new works' which they are delighted to celebrate.



The 2020 longlist:

Tim Catherall • Denise Dorrance • Ed Firth • Christine Humphreys • Mathew Jackson • Lesley MacNiven & Heather Charters • Gary McKeever • John Miers • Alex Moore • Aleesha Nandhra • Angelina Olkhovskaya & Anita Bruvere • Veronika Muchitsch • Kim L Pace • Michael Parker & Cecily Salt • Jane Porter • Teresa Robertson • Pete Shearn • Pietro Soldi • Tobias Taitt & Anthony Smith • Myfanwy Tristram

The shortlist will be decided in late May, and the winner revealed at an event online in June. So look out for more news soon!

BROWSE MYRIAD GRAPHIC TITLES

Lockdown comics to keep you smiling



'CCTV: the Outtakes' © **The Surreal McCoy**
'Life in the Hard Shoulder' © **Nicola Streeten**



'Telephone Consults' © Ian Williams

'Doorstep Chats' © Henny Beaumont

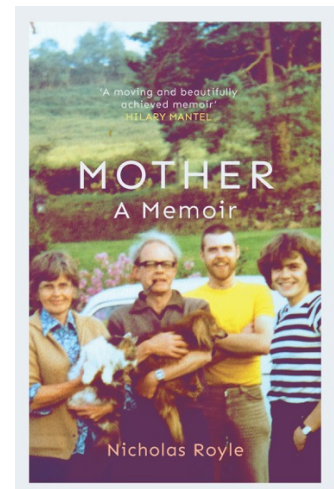
The week in reviews

Mother: A Memoir

by Nicholas Royle

'*Mother: A Memoir* is a tribute to all in life that is witty, modest and caring... In our present time of anxiety...this graceful memoir seems particularly pertinent.' —Martin Chilton, *i* newspaper

'An intimate and meaningful look at one woman, yet throws open thoughts to so, so much more.' —Liz Robinson, *Love Reading*



The Wolf of Baghdad

by Carol Isaacs

'Baghdad leaps from the page in new cartoon memoir.' —Lyn Julius, *Jewish Renaissance Magazine*

She-Clown

by Hannah Vincent

'Writing about women takes a lot of courage and sensitivity. In this case, Vincent delves deeper into the feminine psyche, and incorporates them into her characters. With a greater understanding of their emotions and behaviour, these characters become sublime and multi-faceted. She's a talented writer whose strength lies in turning ordinary stories into something extraordinary. Ultimately, *She-Clown and Other Stories* is a page-turner, and with every page, it will invigorate your soul. Now, that certainly establishes her as one of the

freshest voices in contemporary fiction.' —Yang Ming, *Ink Pantry*

'I enjoyed these short stories so much ... in every story she lures you into a whole new world, full of surprises and complex characters ... one of the best short story collections I've read.' Lisa, Femi Books

'...a solid piece of fiction! Hannah Vincent has written an ethereal and extremely insightful collection ... Beautifully structured, ingenious storytelling, immensely powerful and a sating read. It is the perfect book to pick up during quarantine with its fierceness and lighthearted vibe. This gets my most enthusiastic recommendation. 4.5/5.' —Sarah, The Bibliosara

'If you're struggling to concentrate on reading at the moment, now is the PERFECT time to discover, or return to short stories. And this fierce, feminist collection is an absolute winner.' —Sophie, Sophie Jo Books

The Heartsick Diaspora

by Elaine Chiew

'A strong overall collection ... Lyrical, emotive and I felt deeply absorbed in each setting despite how short they were.' — Liv, The Feminist Nook

To The Volcano

by Elleke Boehmer

'Each story, delivered with a minimal grace and a compassionate eye for all points of view, offers a new angle. Powerful, touching and razor-sharp, they provide multiple entry points to view the complex morality change places on us as individuals and the societies we inhabit. Whichever way you turn these stories, the light of experience is clear to see and the emotion rings true.' —Paul Woodgate, *TSS Publishing*

What We Talk About When We Talk About Rape

by Sohaila Abdulali

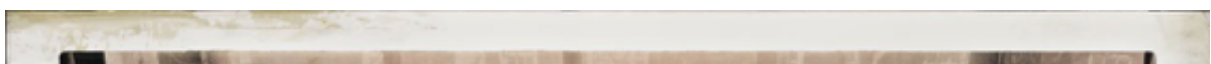
'One of the most powerful books I've read in a really long time.' —B's Book World Tour

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CONTACT EMMA DOWSON FOR REVIEW COPIES

My bookish life... Carol Isaacs

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 Carol Isaacs, aka The Surreal McCoy, talks lockdown with us. Carol is the author of *The Wolf of Baghdad*, a wordless graphic memoir of a lost homeland by an author homesick for a home she has never visited. An excerpt of the book was longlisted for the 2018 Myriad First Graphic Novel Competition.

Have you formed a new routine?

Actually, it's pretty much the same as before when I've been working at home, except now it's with added C-19 anxiety! Weirdly that seems to spur me on even more. Go figure.

How have your days changed?

I was supposed to be on a concert tour right now (my day job is musician) but that's all been cancelled. So my world has shrunk right down to this tiny flat. Luckily, being a cartoonist means being used to isolation. When I'm not on the road I'm to be found drawing at my desk anyway.

What are you looking forward to?

Reconnecting with loved ones, travelling further than my local park, a masala dosa at our favourite Indian restaurant. (Tried to recreate at home, don't ask...)

Are you writing and managing to stay creative?

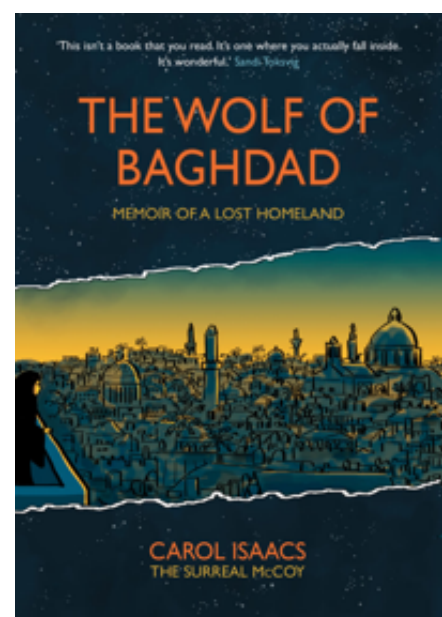


Illustration by The Surreal McCoy

Are you writing, and managing to stay creative?

Trying. Using this unexpected downtime to start drawing a new book.

What are your small daily comforts?

Redbush tea and a nice Merlot, not necessarily at the same time.

How are you keeping in touch with others?

I found some old postcards and have been sending them out to people. There's no harm in a bit of old school communication. It feels like we're living in another age anyway.



BUY THE WOLF OF BAGHDAD

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...

Nicholas Royle, author of *Mother: A Memoir*, out this month, is also professor at the University of Sussex. In this recent article they feature his 'moving and beautifully achieved memoir, endorsed by bestselling author Hilary Mantel'. [READ HERE](#)

Hannah Vincent, author of *She-Clown and Other Stories*, talks with New York's Deborah Kalb about current projects and the skills and techniques of different forms of writing.

[READ HERE](#)



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