

BRISTOL WRITING

BRISTOL HAS A STRONG LITERARY TRADITION AND CONTINUES TO BE HOME TO A WIDE RANGE OF AUTHORS, POETS, PLAYWRIGHTS, PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSELLERS.



Top left: Thomas Chatterton (Bristol Libraries).

Top right: Robert Southey (Bristol Libraries).

Bottom: Ann Yearsley (Bristol Libraries).

Among those associated with the city are:

Thomas Chatterton (1752-1770): The boy-poet and faker of antiquarian documents who came to a tragic early end.

Ann Yearsley (1753-1806): The so-called Milk Maid Poet who was a protégé of Hannah More.

Harriet Lee (1757-1851): Clifton author who wrote one of the earliest historical Gothic romances.

Joseph Cottle (1770-1853): Influential Bristol bookseller and printer.

Robert Southey (1774-1843): Poet laureate who co-founded the Romantic Movement.

Jane Porter (1776-1850) and Anna Maria Porter (1780-1832): Prolific popular novelists of their day who lived in Portland Square, St Paul's.

Frances Trollope (1779-1863): Mother of Anthony Trollope and an author in her own right.

Caroline Oliphant (1806-1831): Poet nicknamed the Girl Chatterton.

Emma Marshall (1830-1899): Author of over 200 books.

James William Arrowsmith (1839-1913): Printer and publisher.

John Addington Symonds (1840-1893): Poet, translator and literary critic.

Allen Lane (1902-1970): Bristol-born and educated founder of Penguin Books.

Mary Renault (1905-1983): Novelist educated at Clifton High School.

Joyce Storey (1917-2001): Member of Bristol Broadside writers' workshop who wrote three volumes of autobiography.

Iris Murdoch (1919-1999): Novelist educated at Badminton School.

Angela Carter (1940-1992): Novelist who graduated from the University of Bristol.

Helen Dunmore: Orange Prize-winning novelist.

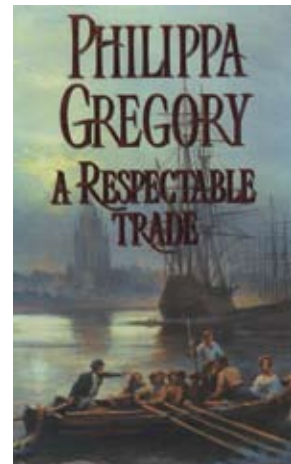
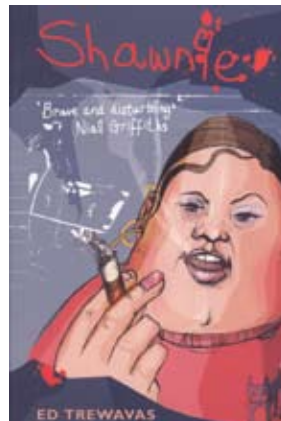
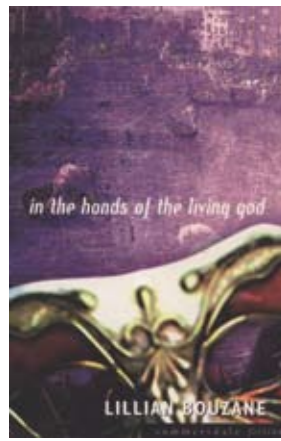
Julie Burchill: Journalist and novelist born in Bristol.

Jules Hardy: Winner of the WHSmith Fresh Talent Award 2002.



Above: Helen Dunmore portrait from The Siege project.

Right: In the Hands of the Living God, Selfish People, Shawnie and A Respectable Trade.



Among novels that have been set in Bristol are:

E H Young *The Misses Mallett* (1922). This is the first of seven novels based in Upper Radstowe, a thinly disguised version of Clifton where the author once lived. The other books in the series are *William* (1925), *Miss Mole* (1930), *Jenny Wren* (1932), *The Curate's Wife* (1934), *Celia* (1937) and *Chatterton Square* (1947).

Marguerite Steen *The Sun Is My Undoing* (1941). This epic historical novel about the slave trade was a best-seller in Britain and the US.

Philippa Gregory *A Respectable Trade* (1995). Featuring scenes in the Bristol docks and among the elegant houses of eighteenth-century Clifton, this historical novel is the story of Frances Scott, married to a trader in sugar and slaves, who meets and falls in love with an African nobleman.

Lucy English *Selfish People* (1998). Against the backdrop of inner-city Bristol, Leah, mother of three and in an unhappy marriage, falls in love with child-abuse survivor Bailey.

Lillian Bouzane *In the Hands of the Living God* (1999). Partly set in fifteenth century Bristol, this book uses fictional letters and diaries to tell the story of the explorer Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) and his wife Mathye. As part of her research, the author sailed as a crew member from Penzance to Bristol on the *Matthew*.

Eugene Byrne *Things Unborn* (2001). Partly set in Bristol, this fantasy takes place in a parallel universe in 2008. Its hero is Scipio Africanus.

Jeannie Johnson *A Penny for Tomorrow* (2003). A saga telling the story of three women adjusting to post-war life in 1950s Bristol, this was written by a former winner of BBC Radio Bristol's New Writers Initiative.

Daniel Mayhew *Life and How to Live it* (2004). This debut novel is about struggling musicians in Bristol. Asked in an interview 'Why Bristol?', Mayhew replied: 'Bristol's got an underdog, out of the way feel to it. And of course it's produced some of the best music of the last twenty years. It felt right to put... an underachieving band there'.

Robert Lewis *The Last Llanelli Train* (2005). Featuring an alcoholic private detective specialising in the seedier side of his trade, this noir crime-fiction novel is set amid the squalor and splendour of Bristol.

Ed Trewavas *Shawnie* (2006). This hard-hitting novel of incest, drugs and violence set in the Knowle West housing estate is written in local dialect.

Caroline Carver *Gone Without Trace* (2007). Milot Dumani, an organised crime boss from Albania, is trailed through the streets of Bristol in a thriller about the human trafficking of young Eastern European girls who end up as sex slaves in the UK.

What books set in Bristol have you read and would like to recommend to others? Please submit your suggestions via the Great Reading Adventure website at www.bristolreads.com or write to BCDP (see Acknowledgements for address).