


Event

Handle with Care: Roopa Farooki & Fiona Mason

Friday 26 May 

National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall 

2pm 

£10 / £9 conc 

[Book Tickets](#)

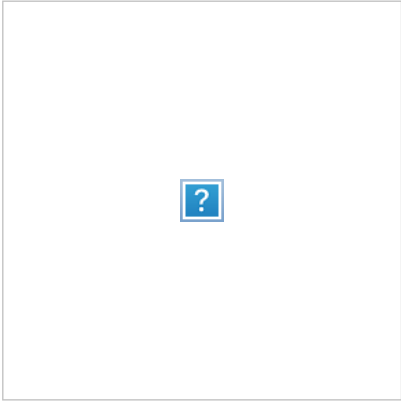


How can books help to address difficult conversations around life, death and grief? Dr Roopa Farooki and Fiona Mason draw on their personal and professional medical experiences to demonstrate how storytelling through fiction and memoir can reframe delicate discussions and help others to find a voice. They will also explore the act of creative writing as a powerful tool for one's own wellbeing.

Roopa Farooki is a writer and junior doctor for the NHS. *Everything is True* is the story of Roopa's first 40 days of the Covid-19 crisis from the frontlines of A&E and the acute medical wards, as she battles for her patients' and colleagues' survival and grieves over the loss of her sister to cancer just a few weeks before. It was selected as a 'Book of 2022' by the *Guardian* and *New Statesman*.

In *36 Hours*, Fiona Mason delicately details the last hours of her husband's life with inoperable cancer. This unflinching book is also an invitation to find better ways to talk about death and dying.

City of Literature is a [Norfolk & Norwich Festival](#) and National Centre for Writing presentation, programmed by the National Centre for Writing.



Roopa Farooki is a writer and junior doctor for the NHS. She is the author of six literary novels that have been translated into over a dozen languages, and a series of middle-grade children's books for Oxford University Press. Her writing has been awarded the John C. Laurence Prize and an Arts Council Award, and listed three times for the Women's Prize. She is also a lecturer on the Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Oxford, and the Ambassador for family for Relate, the counselling charity. In 2020 she was awarded the Junior Doctor Leadership Prize from her NHS Trust, for her work during the Covid pandemic.

'This is such a tough good read about a time of grief, tragedy, loss and catastrophic UK government mismanagement – not over yet, she makes clear – that after you've read it, after you've withstood its clear-eyed anger, you emerge focused on what must change and knowing how lucky you are to have read it.' — Ali Smith for the *New Statesman*



Originally from the Midlands, **Fiona Mason** now lives between the salt marshes of the east of England, and the Ariege Pyrenees in southwest France where she's renovating a house with her partner. She holds MAs in Philosophy (Essex) and Creative and Life Writing (Goldsmiths), and combines her work as a writer with roles as a coach, mentor and creative writing tutor. She's at her happiest when lost in words or exploring a wild landscape.

'It's courageous, tender, exasperated, angry, lyrical and occasionally even funny, but never voyeuristic. The simplicity of the prose and the honesty of observation are compelling.' — Blake Morrison

[Book Tickets](#)

SHARE THIS   Add to calendar 

