

WRITING ON

THE WALL

TITLES

2024

WOW WRITING ON THE WALL

Writing on the Wall publish novels, memoirs, heritage and lost voices, debut short stories, poetry and children's books, which showcase a diverse array of voices and genres, providing something for every reader. Our publications span a variety of genres, including comedy, satire, fantasy, memoir, and identity, reflecting the richness and complexity of the human experience.

Each book we publish is a testament to our belief in the power of storytelling and our collection offers a multitude of perspectives and narratives that will captivate and inspire.

WoW is more than just a publisher; we are a community of writers, readers, and storytellers united by our passion for literature and our commitment to making a difference through the written word.

WoW is a charity and non-profit organisation, we are seeking to expand our readership and share the stories we have cultivated from Liverpool's diverse communities. Our aim is to form partnerships with bookshops across Liverpool to share these stories and build our readership. We propose a revenue-sharing arrangement, with 70% of the proceeds going to us and 30% to the bookshop. Our retail prices are listed in our catalogue. Additionally, our bookmarks are available for bookshops to purchase at £0.50 each.

We would love to hear from you if you would be interested in discussing stocking Writing on the Wall's publications in your store.

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Publishing Coordinator

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Fiction

Introducing three incredible Liverpool-based authors: award-winning journalist Brian Reade, Tony Wailey and Rose Thomas. *Sick Mick* is a darkly humorous tale about a man caught in the culture wars crossfire. *Lights Bearing West* is a poignant exploration of Liverpool's unique seafaring and dockside history; *Bess*, the first novel ever to be published by a Liverpool-born black woman, delves deep into the eclectic life of one woman from the 1950s as she journeys through decades of life, loss, race, romance and resilience.

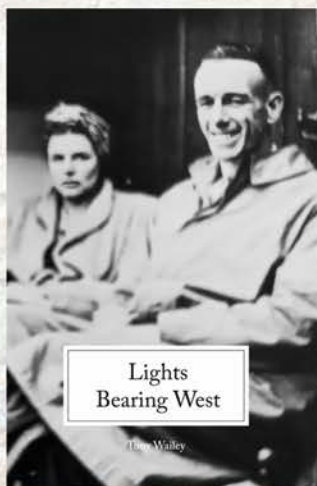


Sick Mick by Brian Reade

£9.99

ISBN: 978-1-916571-10-5

A much-loved member of the Royal Family sinks into a coma after being struck on the head by a stray pergola beam. In Liverpool, as Britain reels and the national media goes into morbid overdrive, comedian Mick O'Shea cracks a series of gags at the Royal's expense. In the face of hyped-up public outrage Mick finds himself on the end of a media lynching and a police manhunt as he becomes Public Enemy Number One.

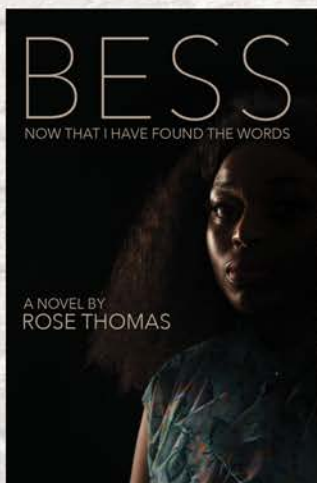


Lights Bearing West by Tony Wailey

£7.99

ISBN: 978-1-916571-04-4

Lights Bearing West is a fictionalised story of three generations of the Wailey family: John 'Bucko Johnny' Wailey, George Alexander Wailey and Jackie Wailey, documenting their lives as seafarers and dockers from Liverpool. It is a novel of memory, place and distance - about going away, having adventures, and coming home - as the characters in this novel follow the Mersey as it roars out to sea.



Bess by Rose Thomas

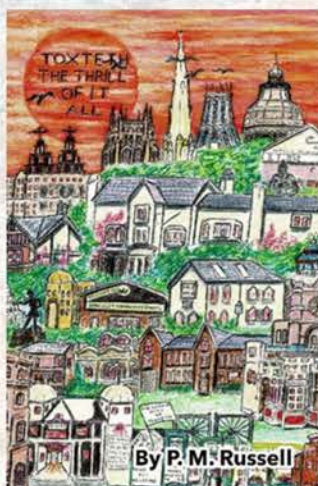
£7.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-33-2

Bess is young, black and part of a new generation growing up in post-war Liverpool facing age-old racism amidst new opportunities for work, personal, social and sexual exploration. From Liverpool 8, looking back on her life in Liverpool from the 1950s through to the 80s, Bess prepares to return to Liverpool from London. This beautiful debut novel, the first published novel by a Liverpool-born black woman, moves and inspires in equal measure.

Local History, Heritage and Lost Voices

At its heart, Writing on the Wall is a community organisation and we are proud of our community and those we support. Our creative heritage projects capture forgotten and overlooked voices across all corners of Liverpool. *Toxteth: The Thrill of It All* is a love letter to the voices and culture of L8 and the Toxteth community. 'Great War to Race Riots' uncovers a forgotten history, buried by the government, now revealed through undiscovered letters. 'A Radical Practice' tells the story of a pioneering approach to holistic primary care. 'Ten Years on the Parish' sheds light on the hardship and poverty endured by many during the interwar years.



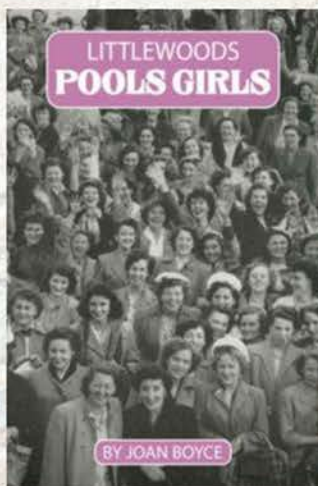
Toxteth: The Thrill of It All by P.M. Russell

£12.99 (colour version), £7.99 (black and white version)

ISBN: 978-1-910580-29-5

This book captures the essence of the cherished Toxteth community, delving into the people, places, and events that shaped it.

Highlighting the transformative impact of the 1981 riots, where shops on Lodge Lane were destroyed and many lost their homes and livelihoods, it asks whether Toxteth would rise like a phoenix from the ashes. This reflection celebrates Toxteth's resilience and spirit.

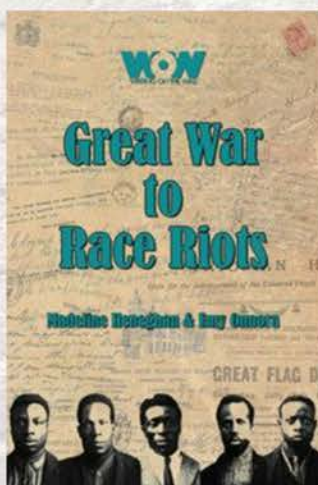


Littlewoods Pools Girls by Joan Boyce

£7.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-42-4

For over seventy years, Littlewoods Pools was a British icon, with millions playing weekly and eagerly awaiting Saturday's football scores. Processing the coupons required a small army of women working behind the scenes. This unique publication captures their real stories, allowing them to share their experiences in their own words for the first time, highlighting their crucial role in the Pools' success.



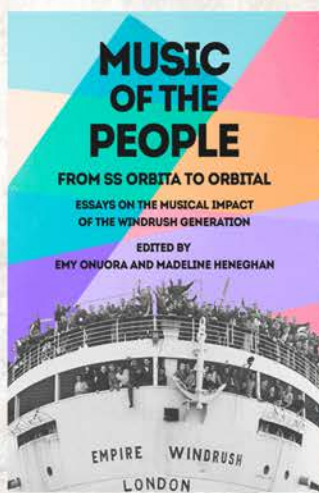
Great War to Race Riots by Madeline Heneghan and Emy Onuora

£5.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-38-7

In 1919, race riots in Liverpool culminated in the racist murder of Bermudian seaman Charles Wooten. A list of the names of some of those caught up in the riots, and a series of letters where they argue their case and plead for support was rediscovered and brought to Writing on the Wall. They form the basis of this book which explores the history and growth of Liverpool's black community.

Local History, Heritage and Lost Voices



Windrush: Music Of the People

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-43-1

An anthology of essays and photographs documenting the Windrush Generation's enduring legacy in British music. These essays were created on WoW's creative heritage project, and have dived deep into the history of the Windrush Generation and the ripple effect it has on the cultural landscape of Britain, and have responded to their findings with this collection of insightful and detailed essays.

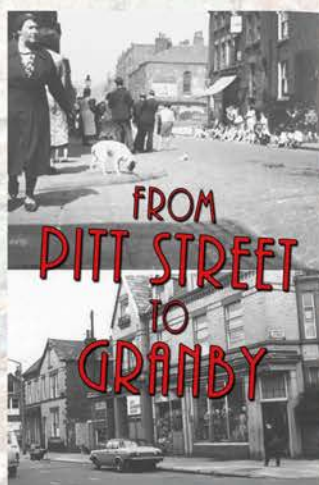


A Radical Practice in Liverpool: The Rise, Fall and Rise of Princes Park Health Centre by Katy Gardner and Susanna Graham-Jones

£9.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-56-1

Princes Park Health Centre in Liverpool 8, pioneered innovations in holistic primary care, women's health, and health promotion; and draws on vivid memories of patients, community actions, and health workers to highlight the centre's impact and legacy. Written by Katy Gardner and Susanna Graham-Jones, both GPs who worked at the practice

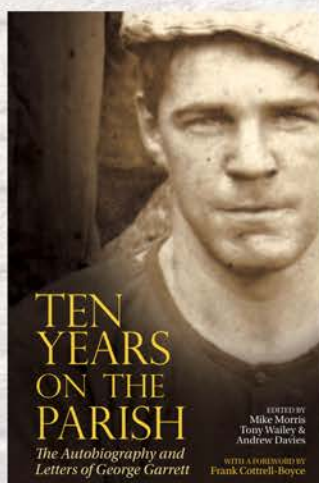


From Pitt Street to Granby

£6.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-28-8

Based on the Granby community this book shows how parts of that community had moved from the southern docks around Pitt Street 'up the hill' to the present day area we know and love in Liverpool 8. Pitt Street was the heart of the original 'sailor town' and epitomised Liverpool's diverse cultural heritage that became well established from the latter part of the nineteenth century.



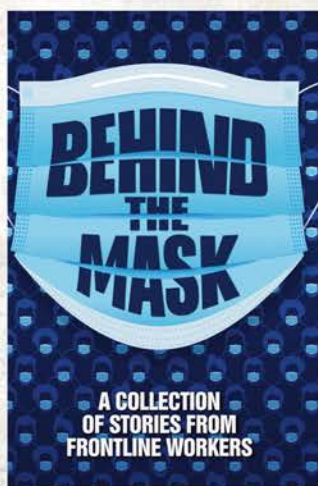
Ten Years on the Parish: The Autobiography and Letters of George Garrett by George Garrett

£12

ISBN: 978-1-78694-075-9

George Garrett's Ten Years On The Parish, published in full for the first time since the late 1930s, illuminates the hardships and poverty endured by many in the years between the wars. Garrett, a merchant seaman, writer, playwright, and radical activist, was central to working-class politics and culture in the 1920s and 30s in Liverpool and beyond.

Lockdown stories



Behind the Mask

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-95-0

An anthology of stories, poetry, and memoirs from carers, warehouse workers, and medical professionals who worked on the frontline during the pandemic. It explores the realities faced by those who risked their lives to keep society running. This powerful collection serves as a personal record and celebration of their dedication and bravery.



Stay

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-93-6

In the height of the pandemic, the most vulnerable members of our community were ordered to stay home and stay safe in isolation. They endured loneliness, heartbreak, and loss, and yet throughout it all they remained filled with hope for better days. The stories in Stay explore the ups and downs of the pandemic through daydreams, memories, reality and fantasy.



It's Not Ok

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-51-6

It's Not Okay is a collection of stories of life, of laughter, of survival, pain, determination, and everything in between. They demand we recognise the real human experience within abuse and not just the stats. It forces us to see the experiences of our sisters, mothers, fathers, daughters, neighbours. The writing is brutally honest and heart-wrenchingly inspirational.



Time to Breathe

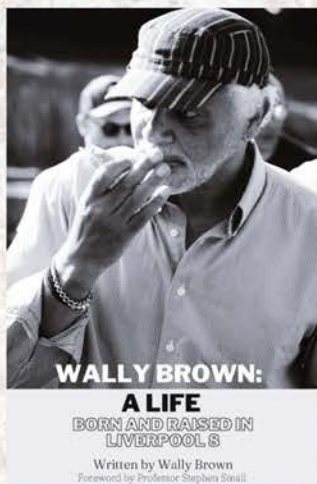
£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-52-3

Created during lockdown, with astonishing writing that vividly portrays the multiplicity and uniqueness of Black Lives Matter. It delves beyond pain to embrace joys, laughter, and new black folktales, while envisioning future aspirations. This book is a profound gift to future generations, resonating with truth and offering insights into hearts, minds, and hopes.

Memoirs

Writing on the Wall are excited to introduce two notable works that explore the lives of Wally Brown and Angela Holden. These memoirs offer an honest look into the challenges and triumphs they have experienced. They share their individual stories and also connect readers with broader themes of the human experience and humanity's resilience.



Wally Brown: A Life by Wally Brown

£12.00

ISBN: 978-1-910580-99-8

Wally Brown: A Life captures in vivid detail a snapshot of life in 1960's Liverpool 8, the realities of working in industry, his influence and tireless commitment to his local community, and his leadership of Liverpool Community College from its creation in 1992 until 2008. Originally written for his children and grandchildren, it's a vital personal and local history for future generations.



Angels in the Mist by Angela Holden

£7.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-25-7

This memoir of Angela's childhood in the 1950s and 60s in the north end of Liverpool was prompted by flashbacks after a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder due to abuse she suffered in her childhood. Fighting to shake off the anti-depressants she had been taking for thirty-five years Angela picked up a pen after a counselor advised her to use writing as a therapy.

Children's Books



Mama Got a Box by Jennifer Khalil

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-79-0

Mama Got a Box tells the story of three siblings, a BIG brown box and the power of imagination. What could we do with the big, brown box? A castle fit for a princess? A spaceship to hunt down space monsters? This story has one box and three HUGE imaginations. With so many brilliant ideas, how will they decide?

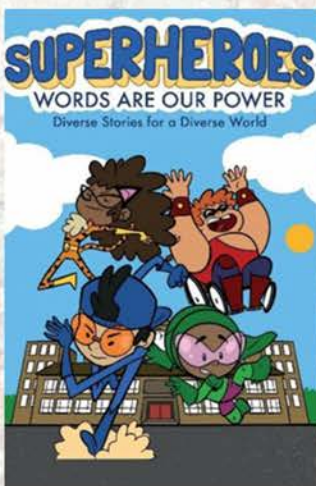


The Fable of the Rain by Ana Caroline Colombo

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-78-3

The Fable of the Rain is two stories in one! When it rains on the day of Naya's big birthday picnic, Naya is upset she might have to cancel her party. But not to worry, Naya's dad tells her a story about a boy called Ben who wished for the rain to go away. Have you ever wondered what would happen if it never rained? What will Naya do about her birthday picnic?



Superheroes: Diverse Stories for a Diverse World

£6.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-57-8

Calling all superheroes! This book is packed with thrilling new stories featuring diverse characters who can calm seas, teleport, bring music to life, and more. They look and talk like everyone else—using wheelchairs, wearing glasses, and being neurodiverse. It's a celebration of inclusivity and empowerment, inspiring readers to see themselves as superheroes too!



Humanise

£2.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-70-7

Writing on the Wall teamed up with One September Art and the Humanise Community Club to present a vibrant collection of stories, poems, and illustrations. Created by children (aged 3-7) and adults, this book celebrates what it means to be human—growing knowledge, gardens, manifestos, dreams, chipmunks, and Hobbit holes. It's a delightful blend for everyone to enjoy and cherish.

Anthologies



Pulp Idol - Firsts 2024

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-916571-12-9

Pulp Idol, organised by Liverpool's Writing on the Wall, is a novel writing contest that has launched many new authors to success. Finalists like Philippa Holloway (*The Half-Life of Snails*) and Ashleigh Nugent (*LOCKS*), PJ Smith (*Algorithm Party*), and Clare Coombes (*Definitions, We Are of Dust*) began their careers here.

Earlier publications are available.



From the Ashes

£5.99

ISBN: 978-1-916571-02-0

From the Ashes is an intricate tapestry of human experience told through stories, poetry, and scripts from WoW's acclaimed Write to Work course. Within these pages, the complexities of trauma, revolution, monsters and heroes are explored, often through lived experience, but also spanning realms of myth, legend and fantasy, to forge a new narrative rising from the ashes of the past.



Beyond the Storm

£5.99

ISBN: 978-1-916571-00-6

This captivating anthology of stories, poetry and scripts that stir up a storm. The characters within these pieces fight for their survival, for justice, and to overcome their traumatic pasts, but throughout it all shine rays of hope. This collection reminds us that even during the darkest storm, a new sunrise will soon come over the horizon.



Six for Gold

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-89-9

Six for Gold is an anthology steeped in yearning, sorrow, loss and grief. But throughout it all, the stories continue to find joy, celebrate new discoveries, and hope for the future. This anthology of stories, poems, and script shows us that broken things are beautiful. We invite the reader to see the light in the dark – a glint of gold that draws you in for a closer look.

Anthologies

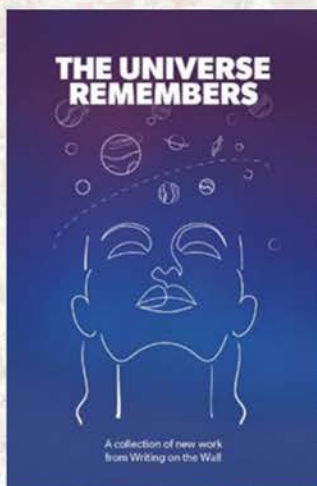


Strings of Fate

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-91-2

Featuring stories, poetry, and script revealing a tangled web of heartbreak, inner battles, self-growth, and adventure. The experiences these new writers bring to their work, woven like strings through these stories, invite you to think about the consequences of our thoughts, decisions, and actions ... then asks you to take your fate into your own hands.

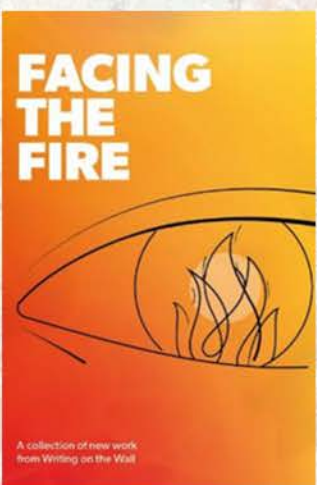


The Universe Remembers

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-87-5

This is a collection that plays with fantasy, love, memory, grief, and a sprinkling of revenge. The characters in these short stories and poems are haunted by ghosts, abuse, regrets and what they have lost, yet these stories hold those moments together to celebrate, to mourn and to remind us that there are galaxies inside of each of us and there is joy in remembering together.



Facing the Fire

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-83-7

Facing the Fire invites us to cast aside our fears and face the fires raging inside our minds – be it of family dysfunction, past trauma, conflict, or memories. This collection of short stories, poems, and essays faces the fire head on through brave and inspiring reflections on the past and hopes for the future.



Different Voices Shared Lives

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-85-1

This unique collection of writing by members of black, Asian, and other racial minority communities across the Liverpool City Region offers fresh insights into the area's rich culture and heritage. It illuminates neglected histories and amplifies powerful new voices, celebrating diverse perspectives and narratives that contribute to a more inclusive understanding of the region.

Anthologies

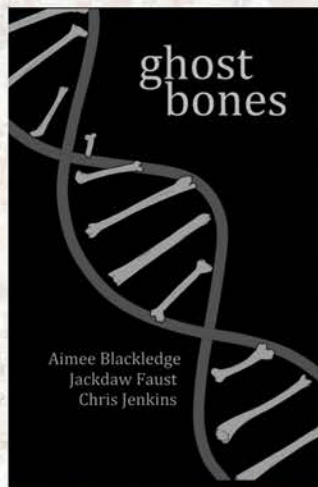


Surface/Below

£2.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-55-4

Surface/Below is masterful, surprising, and funny, capturing the essence of a post-pandemic world with inventive and frank, emotional writing. It reflects a profound artistic response to shared trauma, offering hope through talent rising to meet the challenges of our times, without losing sight of the reader's interests.



Ghost Bones

£2.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-72-1

Navigating memory, meaning and possession, this debut book resurrects personal and cultural ghosts. Divided into three sections, poets Aimee Blackledge, Jackdaw Faust and Chris Jenkins explore the things that haunt the bones: gender constructs, heritage and liminal identity.



Turning the Tide

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-62-2

Write to Work, delivered by Writing on the Wall, is a course that develops professional writing skills with the aim of supporting people with their next steps into education, employment or training. During the summer of 2020, Write to Work became something more – it became a lifeline in lockdown for the writers and staff on this project.



The Spaces Between

£2.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-49-3

The Spaces Between is a powerful anthology which presents poetry, short fiction and essays on topics that range from grief to epic fantasy, memoir to the results of systemic racism. These writer's characters are undeniably human, from tributes to lost family, satire exploring the way leaders make decisions, to facing the literal dragon versus shining a light on the human made horrors round in our reality.

Anthologies



Moving Foreword

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-47-9

Moving foreword presents poetry, scripts, short stories and essays on childhood, motherhood, loneliness, identity, borders and what it means to cross them. These self-reflective and investigative writings draw us in and examine what it means to move forward when the world is standing still.



Reflections

£3.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-40-0

In this anthology, writers explore personal truths to craft their stories with courage and creativity, motivating and inspiring one another. Through the creative process, their pieces evolve from original truths into the heartfelt stories and expressions they wish to share, showcasing diverse forms and narratives.

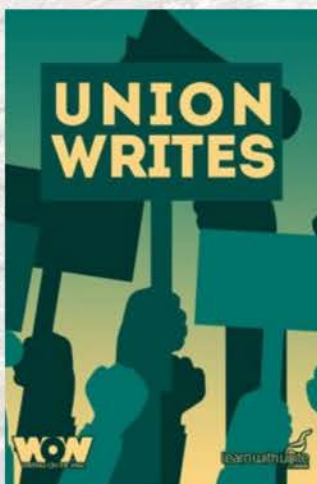


Writers Unite

£2.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-30-1

Writers Unite! showcases talented new writers from our innovative twelve week Write for Work programme in partnership with Unite the Union. Writers Unite! is not only an anthology of captivating stories, poems, reviews and observations, it is one of ignited passion. The coming together of people can be extremely powerful, whether that be to defend our rights or share our stories.



Union Writes

£2.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-39-4

Union Writes showcasing eleven talented new Liverpool based writers. Union Writes is a captivating collection of diverse stories, poems, reviews, and observations. Each piece in this anthology, from the humorous to the poignant, highlights the quality of writing produced by the participants and diversity of skills on the course.

Anthologies

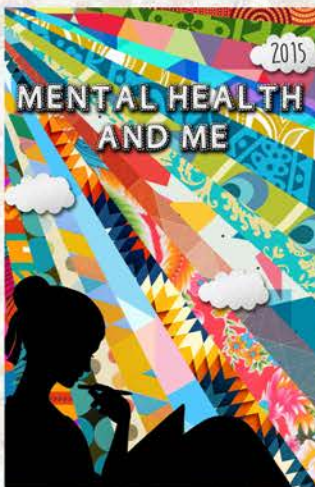


Mental Health and Me: Faces, Places, and Spaces

£2.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-13-4

The people we meet and relationships we keep, the places we visit or inhabit, and the spaces we go perhaps for some downtime or even the mental spaces we hold within, will mean something different to everyone.

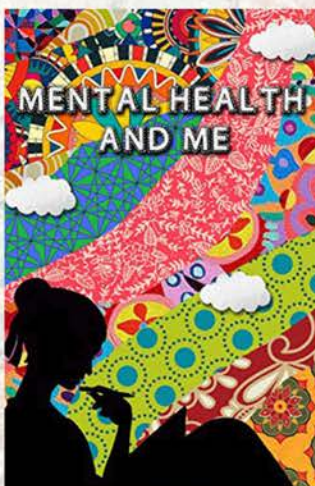


Mental Health and Me 2015

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-09-7

Writing on the Wall in partnership with Liverpool Mental Health Consortium held a creative writing competition to challenge the stigma around mental distress and to promote social inclusion by giving entrants the opportunity to explore this topic using traditional and/or alternative forms of writing.



Mental Health and Me 2014

£4.99

ISBN: 978-1-910580-01-1

Writing on the Wall in partnership with Liverpool Mental Health Consortium held a creative writing competition to challenge the stigma around mental distress and to promote social inclusion by giving entrants the opportunity to explore this topic using traditional and/or alternative forms of writing.



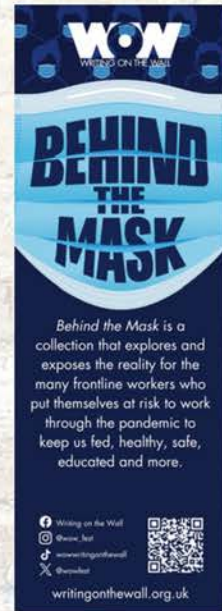
The Roles We Play

£5.99

ISBN: 978-1-916571-08-2

[The Roles We Play] Release date: September 2024


Bookmarks One for £1.00, eight for £5.00



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 Writing on the Wall

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