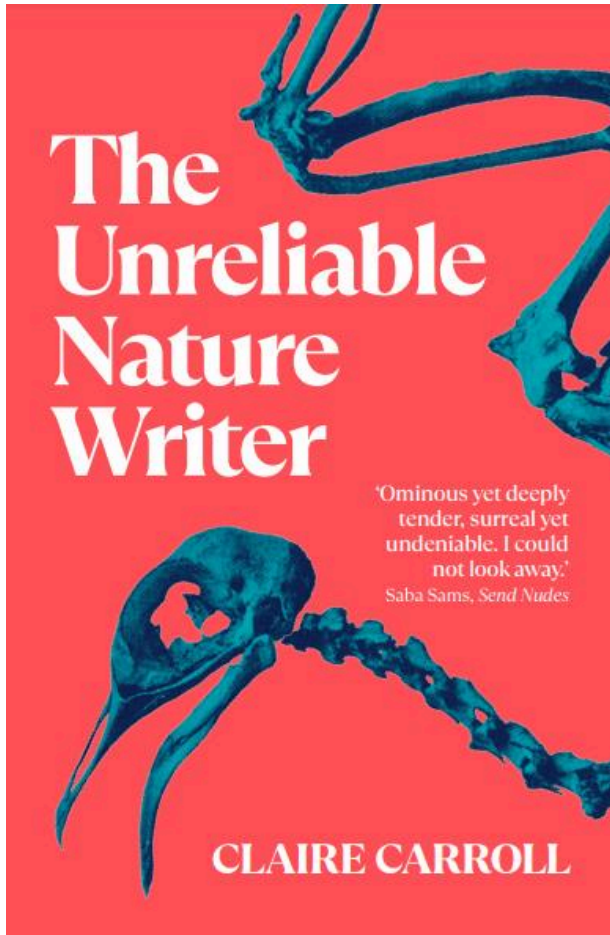


Scratch
Books

The Unreliable Nature Writer



—Did you say you were a certain type of nature writer?

Yes. An unreliable one.

—But don't you need to be an expert to write about nature?

I don't know.

Pbk 9781739830182 £10.99
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'Ominous yet deeply tender, surreal yet undeniable. I could not look away.'

Saba Sams, *Send Nudes*

'Brilliant. A playful and witty take on our relationship with the natural world.'

Irenosen Okojie, *Nudibranch*

The Unreliable Nature Writer is the eagerly-awaited debut collection of exhilarating, unsettling and dreamy short stories from Claire Carroll.

Carroll portrays an unsettlingly hot world of people facing the strain of intimate and global anxieties – trying to live alongside new technologies and failing environments. Delightful to read and unsettling to imagine, these are haunting stories about love, loss and strangely-exposing housing applications.

Claire Carroll lives in Somerset and writes about desire, nature and technology. Her short stories and poetry have been published by journals including *Gutter Magazine*, *perverse*, *Lunate Journal*, *The Oxonian Review*, and *Short Fiction Journal*, as well as shortlisted for *The White Review Short Story Prize*.

Praise for *The Unreliable Nature Writer*

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“It unsettles the reader into stories of imagined natures, ones we live in & beside, & that might outlive us. Worlds of present & approaching dread, slow cooked in catastrophe, of transformed or extinct personhood.” **David Hayden, *Darker with the Lights On***

“This is an absolute stand-out. Reporting from the borderlands of continued human existence on earth. Bleakness opens out into something tender, and funny and beautiful. To be read urgently.” **Ben Pester, *Am I in the Right Place***

“When I say I loved this book, I genuinely did. The stories, though knitted together by the thread of nature, were all widely different – standouts for me included; ‘My Brain is Boiling with Ideas’ – A woman runs off into a peat bog Marshes, full of wine and in the arms of a robot AI man – that one got your attention, didn't it! ‘My Two Sons’ – the uneasiness of this really got to me. There was much that was left unsaid, and it created such an ominous atmosphere.

What I also loved was the reoccurring the Unreliable Nature Writer snippets, I could have basked in those awkward interactions for hours.

I highly recommend picking this one up. You won't be disappointed.”

The Literary Addict, Instagram

“Carroll’s voice is distinctive, often wryly deadpan, and this is a rare collection that manages to maintain coherence as a single work. The stories are interspersed with snippets of a conversation being had by the titular unreliable writer at a wedding, which are actually hilarious. The Unreliable Nature Writer is out TOMORROW and I urge you to get hold of a copy.”

Alyssa_sian_reads, instagram



“Each of the stories in the collection is abrupt, with a dreamlike quality that feels like being jolted awake. Surreal, unexplained things happen: a boy, startled by a horse in an enclosure, is suddenly packed away into a case; a woman at a sound bath is drawn away from the yurt and into the forest; hundreds of dead birds litter the tarmac on a cold morning. These strange incidents, alongside a constant heat and underlying worries about digitisation, allude to larger issues at play, an unsettling near-future where the climate crisis has surpassed anxiety and is heading towards destruction.

Read *The Unreliable Nature Writer* for stories of how humans and nature can interact, in ways that may not necessarily feel entirely normal.”

Mslexia

“An impressive and always engaging debut from a writer whose future work I look forward to reading. Original and entertaining, these stories make full use of the form to hold attention in a world designed to distract from critical thinking.”

3:AM Magazine