

PRESS RELEASE
8th February 2010

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

"BETTER THAN SHOPPING!"
- NEW BOOK ON WOMEN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CLOTHES

Nicola Heywood-Thomas of Radio Wales was so impressed with Welsh publisher Honno's latest collection of short stories that she declared that reading it was 'better than shopping!'

Cut on the Bias, launched last week in The Bookshop, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, was the inspiration of theatre director Stephanie Tillotson who wanted to explore the intensely personal relationships women have with what they wear.



The call for submissions attracted over 200 entries from women across Wales and beyond, with 23 stories being selected for inclusion.

The stories cover a wide range of subjects, from serious issues, such as a woman who experiences domestic abuse, an older woman remembering the death of her younger brother from diphtheria in the '50s; and about finding love when one is at one's most vulnerable and exposed. Also included are more inspirational stories - a Down's syndrome woman faces the future with hope, a group of friends get the better of a reality television programme that aims to redress them in the style of Trinny and Suzannah and a woman gets rid of her boyfriend using the ruby slippers from the film,

'The Wizard of Oz'!

"Clothes - objects of desire, armour, a comfortable friend or a revenful enemy. The relationships we have with clothes are beautifully explored in this collection of short stories. Women of all ages will recognise themselves and their emotions in these stories which take us on a journey through wit and humour to heartache and triumph. Reading these stories is better than shopping!" commented Nicola Heywood-Thomas, Radio Wales

The launch was a party event, with over 60 people squeezing into the Bookshop at the Arts Centre, listening to three of the authors read from their pieces and editor Stephanie Tillotson talking about the inspiration for the collection.

ENDS

For further information or review copies please contact: Helena Earnshaw at Honno
Tel: 01970 623150 • Email: press@honno.co.uk • www.honno.co.uk

Editors Notes

Cut on the Bias: Stories about women and the clothes they wear
Honno Press • Paperback Original • £8.99 • ISBN 978-1-906784-13-3

Author biographies (Aberystwyth area authors)

Yasmin Ali grew up reading the fashion trade press at her parents' womenswear shop and celebrated her 10th birthday by demanding an Yves St Laurent trouser suit! Although most of her career has been in teaching, training and consultancy, Yasmin has retained an interest in fashion and from 2002 has edited a fashion website. Yasmin has written a number of articles and chapters in non-fiction books and journals, as well as contributing to the Honno crime fiction anthology *Written in Blood*.

Lindsay Ashford is a former BBC journalist and the author of five crime novels. Her second, *Strange Blood*, was shortlisted for the Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award and she is now published in the USA, Canada and Brazil as well as the UK. She has co-edited two Honno anthologies, *Strange Days Indeed* and *Written In Blood*, and her short stories have appeared in several of Honno's previous collections. One of these, *Passion Fruit*, was broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Originally from the West Midlands, she now lives on the west coast of Wales near Aberystwyth.

Hilary Bowers is a sixty year old divorcee. Yorkshire born and bred, she lived for twenty years in the environs of the beautiful coastal university town of Aberystwyth. She is the deputy manager of Barnado's charity shop, a novice bell ringer, enthusiastic newcomer to outdoor bowls, a member of Wells Little Theatre and has recently started training with the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade. A novelist by inclination, she also enjoys writing short stories, two of which have been published in previous Honno fiction anthologies; *Coming up Roses* and *Written in Blood*.

Suzy Ceulan Hughes was born in England but has lived in Wales since 1977. She is a writer, translator and book reviewer. 'A Woman of Grace' is her second short story to be published. Another of her stories, 'Broken Words', was shortlisted for the Jane Austen Short Story Award and is included in the award anthology, *Dancing with Mr Darcy*.

Lorraine Jenkin wrote *Chocolate Mousse and Two Spoons* whilst walking around the wilds of South America with a tent and a toothbrush. *Eating Blackbirds* was written in the corners of playgroups and whilst sat in laybys with two small children sleeping in the back of the car. Her third novel is being written whilst searching for lost shoes and PE kits, and battling with all-day morning sickness with her third child. But then, life was never meant to be easy... Lorraine also writes articles for publications including The Times, the Guardian and the Observer, as well as blogging at www.lorrainejenkin.blogspot.com. Her style has been described by Bookbag as being "gloriously off-the-wall...". Lorraine lives in Mid Wales with her partner Huw.

Debbie Moon is an author and screenwriter based in mid-Wales. Her short stories have been published in the UK, the US and further afield, and her first novel, *Falling*, was long-listed for the Welsh Book Of The Year Award. She is also developing ideas for a number of television and film companies, including a children's series, a science-fiction thriller, and a drama about Dr Barnardo.

Sarah Todd Taylor moved from Yorkshire to Ceredigion at the age of eight. She graduated from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1998 with a PhD in early modern ballads. Her short stories have featured in three of Honno's previous anthologies and she continues to work towards finishing a larger work of fiction for children. She lives in Aberystwyth with a long-suffering husband and a succession of adorable hamsters.

Stephanie Tillotson (editor) joined the BBC in 1989 and worked in television and radio for many years before moving to the independent sector in Wales. For the past ten years she has been teaching, directing and performing for the theatre and is also a published playwright. Originally from Gilwern near Abergavenny, Stephanie now lives in Aberystwyth where, until recently, she was teaching in the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies at the university. She is now studying at the Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham, where she is specialising in Theatre and Performance. This is the first time that Stephanie has edited for Honno though she has been published by them several times, most recently in *Dancing with Mr Darcy*.