

Desmond Elliott Prize 2015

Shortlisted authors talk about libraries



Claire Fuller – author of *Our Endless Numbered Days*

“I've always sought out my local library wherever I've lived. They've been a wonderful source of adventure, discovery and solace.”

Carys Bray – author of *A Song for Issy Bradley*

“I remember watching the children's programme Mr Benn when I was small. Each week Mr Benn slipped into the changing room of a fancy-dress costume shop and had an adventure. Libraries have always been arenas of adventure for me; the perfect places to visit when I want to try on other lives.”



Emma Healey – author of *Elizabeth is Missing*

“Libraries are one of the few places left where people can go to read or think without having to buy a coffee first. This seems a flippant thing to say, but it's important that spaces in which to meet or study aren't always owned by profit-focused organisations. My first job was in a public library and I recognised, even at 16, how much of a haven it was for local people, somewhere for them to get away from the noise of the outside world as well as a place to educate themselves and their children.”