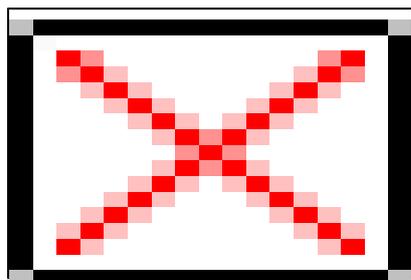




# NATASHA FARRANT WINS 2020 COSTA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

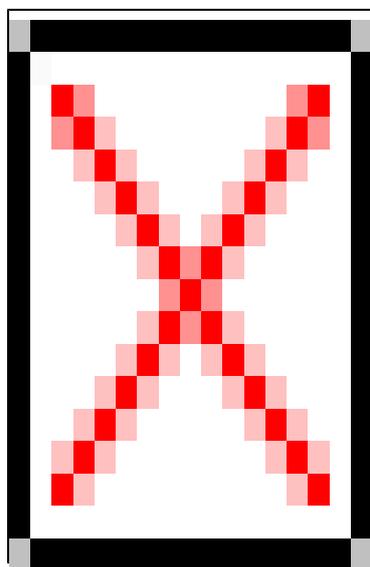
By *AndreaMReece*

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Writer and literary scout Natasha Farrant has won the **2020 Costa Children's Book Award** for [Voyage of the Sparrowhawk](#) [1], a book which the judges described as 'pure heavenly escapism and a purely joyful read.'

The **Costa Book Awards** is the only major UK book prize open solely to authors resident in the UK and Ireland and, recognises some of the most enjoyable books across five categories - First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book - published in the last year.



Natasha Farrant is the author of the bestselling novels [The Children of Castle Rock](#) [2], [Eight Princesses and a Magic Mirror](#) [3], the acclaimed teen **Bluebell Gadsby** series and Carnegie-longlisted and **Branford Boase Award** shortlisted YA historical novel, **The Things We Did for Love**.

She has worked in children's publishing for 30 years, 20 of which as a literary scout. Three-quarters French, an eighth Dutch and an eighth English, she was born and raised in London, where she still lives with her family.

In an [interview for Books for Keeps](#) [4] about **Voyage of the Sparrowhawk**, Farrant highlighted the importance of children's agency in her writing, saying, 'I'm interested more and more in children's empowerment, particularly around climate and children, the youth climate movement. I feel like we're handing kids such a messed-up world, they're going to need all the courage and wit, bravery and resilience, friendships and working together - and they're going to need it in

spades.?

She receives a prize of £5,000 and [Voyage of the Sparrowhawk](#) [1] will now be considered for the overall **Costa Book of the Year Award** which will be announced at a virtual ceremony on 26th January 2021.

The 2020 judges for the **Costa Children's Book Award** are Patrice Lawrence, John McLay Children's Literary Scout & Book Event Organiser, and Alex O'Connell Arts Editor and Children's Book Critic, **The Times**.

Also shortlisted were [Darren Charlton](#) [5] for **Wranglestone**, Jenny Pearson for [The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates](#) [6], and Meg Rosoff for [The Great Godden](#) [7].

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**Links:**

- [1] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/reviews/voyage-of-the-sparrowhawk>
- [2] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/229/childrens-books/reviews/the-children-of-castle-rock>
- [3] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/239/childrens-books/reviews/eight-princesses-and-a-magic-mirror>
- [4] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-natasha-farrant>
- [5] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/245/childrens-books/articles/featured-author/an-interview-with-costa-book-award-shortlisted-da>
- [6] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/243/childrens-books/reviews/the-super-miraculous-journey-of-freddie-yates>
- [7] <http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/243/childrens-books/reviews/the-great-godden>