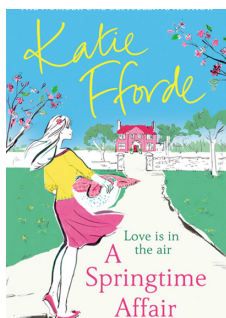


MEET THE AUTHOR

Best selling author **Katie Fforde** on reading and writing books and what inspires her



If there was one book you would recommend to a friend what would it be and why? Anything by Georgette Heyer. They are well written, have wonderful characters and are the perfect escape from hard times.

What was the last book that made you laugh? A Bicycle Built for Sue by Daisy Tait (not out quite yet.) It's about a group of women who go on a charity cycle ride for various reasons. It has a message but also is really funny!

Which was your favourite book as a child? Different books for different ages, but The Secret Garden made a deep impression, as did Little Women (but not Good Wives when Beth dies) although I felt a lot about that book was unfair.

What book are you reading now? The Road Trip by Beth O'Leary – she's great!

Whose biography would you like to write? No one's! It would be such a lot of work. There are a few biographies I'd like to read though.

Which book have you read that surprised you and why? Hope Nicely's Lessons for Life by Caroline Day. It's written from the point of view of a young woman with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder and is full of wisdom. It's also funny!

What inspired you to want to write? When I was a partly single parent with small children who didn't sleep I read a Mills and Boon novel everyday, in stolen moments. I really wanted to give some other sleep deprived mother a little break.

What are your top tips for people wanting to write a book? Read a lot. Persevere. Don't write in a genre you don't enjoy reading. Be prepared to fail a lot of times – you learn something important with every attempt.

Do you have a message for our NHS front line staff? So glad to have an opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful job you are doing keeping our nation safe. What you are all doing is well beyond the call of duty and we should all thank you, every day, every hour.

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