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Among Pyrates

EMERY FUTER

Key Selling Points

- Sketched Illustrations by the Author
- The Author's first novel, 'Renegades', received a Lammy Award in 2020 for LGBTQ+ Young Adult Fiction

"We have no home; we belong to the sea."

Once upon a time, in a kingdom by the sea, Duri Nightingale longed for freedom; longed for adventure and passion that was not just on the pages of the books their father printed. They wanted to capture far off lands in charcoal and oil and dance with strangers in satin under the moon.

Once upon a time, in this same kingdom by the sea, there was a girl called Freya, with no home and no family and no hope. She did not know she was a girl, she only knew she was different, and longed for love that did not falter in the face of that difference. She wanted to have someone look at her like she was the sun.

Once upon a time, on the crow's nest of a ship fast approaching the kingdom by the sea, there was a cat who longed for a stolen part of him. A part he had been chasing for so long he had forgotten what it felt like to hold. A part he would sail round the earth to find.

Among Pyrates follows the story of three paths colliding; of love and identity, and most importantly adventure at sea. It is a fairytale for all the queer kids who never saw themselves in fairytales.

"Emery's characters are something so new and beautiful in the world of queer and trans fiction. Their world is just enchanting." – **Rin Chupeco, author of Silver Under Nightfall**

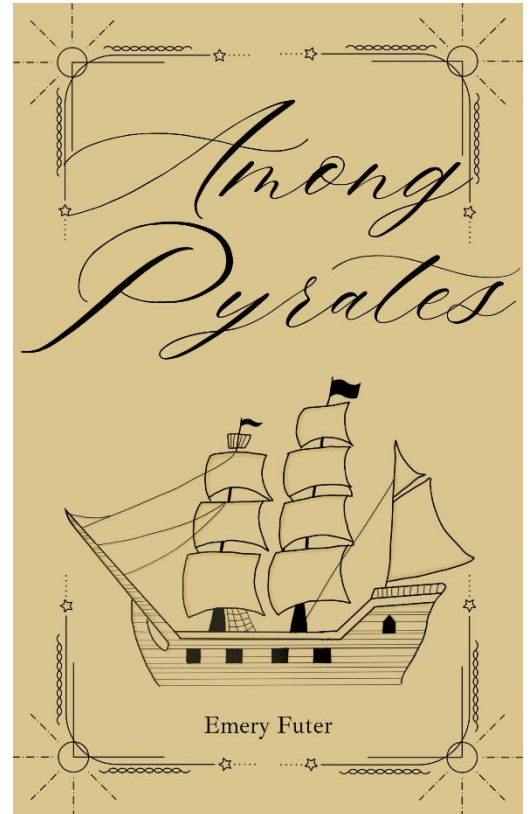
"The inclusion of Emery's own artwork is refreshing, and really brings the world to life." – **Alice Oseman**

About The Author

Born in a small town in Northamptonshire, Emery Futer has been

writing since he was small. He has always had a love for the fantasy genre because it is where he has been able to see characters similar to himself. Emery is queer and trans, using He/They pronouns, as well as being neurodivergent. Having grown up with little representation in the books he loved, Emery wanted to write a story that queer youth could relate to, and find themselves in. A love of piracy and DnD has led them to where he is today: writing a fantasy novel centred around three queer pirates and their adventures.

Emery has a BA in creative writing from the University of Wales Trinity St David, where he fine-tuned his style and discovered his voice, inspired by authors such as Erin Morgenstern and Neil Gaiman.



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Among Pyrates Synopsis

Among Pyrates tells the stories of three lovers, from their meeting to the completion of their quest to find a pocket watch. It's about identity, community, love and adventure.

Duri Nightingale, heir to Their father's printing press feels pressured into a life that They don't want to lead, running away from Their family to stowaway on a sailing vessel, The Briarwood, docked in Their hometown. There They encounter a young transwoman (then called Finn) who is following a sailor in search of answers after his pocket watch began whispering to her. When they are both found in the cargo, the crew of the Briarwood throw them overboard, where they're rescued by the shapeshifting Pirate Captain of the Chimaera, Thalos Jax, who has been chasing the Briarwood under the employ of king's consort who hired him to retrieve stolen items. He strikes a deal with Duri and Finn for information about the destination of the Briarwood. Unbeknownst to Duri and Finn, Thalos' real motivation for this chase is retrieving the pocket-watch that was stolen from him, containing a part of his soul that enables him to shift freely between forms, without which he is limited to only a few creatures including the black cat which his companions first meet him as.

While aboard the Chimaera, Duri and Finn find a shared connection in their identities and family circumstances, and Finn finds her new name, Freya. As the Chimaera heads to the intended destination of the pocket watch, Duri, Freya and Thalos are drawn closer together, despite the Captain's want to keep them both at arm's length to preserve his heart when they leave. Duri re-ignites Their love of art, with Freya as inspiration, and Freya learns new skills from the members of crew that will help her – fencing, violin, languages; astronavigation.

At their destination, the Chimaera is ambushed and Thalos injured, Duri and Freya decide to stay on board to nurse him and though the trail of clues to the pocket watch has ended, Freya discovers she has a connection with it that pulls her towards its location.

When Thalos wakes from his rest to find Duri and Freya had stayed to take care of him, he let's his walls down and after a party to celebrate the captain's recovery, they travel on together to continue chasing the pocket watch which leads them inland, first to Caliss where Thalos reveals that he was betrayed by the man who hired him to retrieve the stolen cargo from the Briarwood, Szenda Bacchus. They then head to the city of Balorin where, on the road, they stop at an inn where Freya and Duri

confess their attraction to Thalos who turns them down, not because the feelings are unreciprocated, but because he is afraid. Due to fear of disappointing them and his own struggle with his asexuality, he asks them for patience.

In Balorin, they track the watch to a seller who at first claims to know nothing, but when pushed, leads them to a cellar full of smuggled goods where she holds Duri at knifepoint saying that none of them will not leave with her cargo. Thalos shifts into a cat and attacks, catching the seller off-guard while Freya defends Duri with her blade. The seller dies, the three collect the watch and when it is reunited with Thalos he regains the parts of his soul that were taken from him, allowing him to shift freely again. This weight lifted from his shoulders, he reveals more about his past and the truth about how he feels about Duri and Freya, leaving them all in agreement that they should be together.

In the Epilogue Duri, Freya and Thalos, having returned to the Chimaera, set sail with the intention of confronting Szenda Bacchus for his betrayal that lead to the deaths of Thalos' crew.

Author's Website

Page One, 'Home', Word count 308

Page Two, 'Shop', Word Count 568

Page Three, 'Coming Soon', Word Count 91

Page Four, 'Discussions', Word Count 684

Page Five, 'Bonus Content', Word Count 618

Emery Futer

He/They

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Emery Futer was born and raised in a town in Northamptonshire, England, where from a very young age he was immersed in books and encouraged to write creatively, a hobby he discovered after entering a world book day competition at his school age 10.

Growing up asexual and transgender, Emery was painfully aware of the lack of queer representation in mainstream books which inspired Their ambition to incorporate these characters into Their work in a realistic and relatable way to give queer youth the stories They wished They'd had as a teenager. They mostly write young adult fiction, focusing on the themes of mental health, identity, love and loss. Using the fantasy genre, Emery plays with what it means to be 'normal' in Their worlds. In Their style, Emery is influenced by authors such as Erin Morgenstern and Neil Gaiman and They are inspired by Their favourite book, *The Princess Bride*, having wished throughout Their childhood that They could be The Dread Pirate Westley.



Growing up privileged enough to travel extensively, Emery was inspired by many of the places he visited - most notably Italy - and they feature in many of his works, as love letters to his favourite places.



Vienna Christmas Markets, Austria
- as appears in *Prophet's Luck*



Amsterdam, The Netherlands - The
inspiration for 'Pendragall' in *Among
Killers*



Florence, Italy - backdrop for *The
Vanishing Door Series*



Sorrento, Italy - the inspiration for *The Company of Shadows*

After getting his BA in creative writing at the University of Wales Trinity St David where he experimented with his writing and found the style you will now recognise throughout his works, Emery moved to another small town with his partner, Alier and their two dogs to focus on writing. He is often found, headphones on, at his local cosy café with his laptop and a caramel americano.

Emery Futer

He/They



Home

Shop

Coming Soon

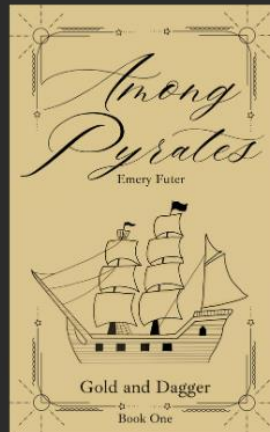
Discussions

Bonus Content



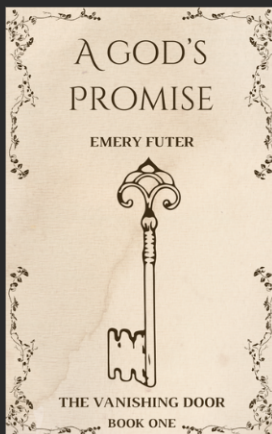
In a small town in Italy, in house that is not a home there is a boy who talks to shadows. They have whispered to him since he was young, they have been his friends when he had none. He finds comfort in the darkness where his companions hide. But now they are hissing and screaming. They tell him not to turn off the lights. They tell him to run.

When Alessio follows the voices to a cellar that shouldn't exist he begins to understand why the darkness is to be feared.



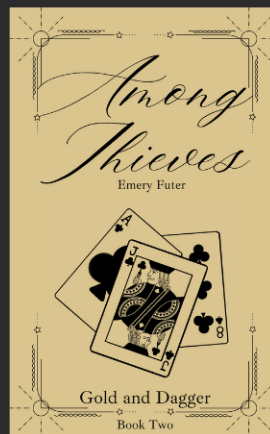
In a kingdom by the sea there is a boy who is not a boy, and he dreams of adventure. There is a girl who doesn't know she is a girl that dreams of love. And there is a cat who is also a captain on a search for his soul.

When these three paths collide on a search for a pocket-watch, they discover they have more to learn of adventure and love, and more to find than just a watch. Their chase leads them across the coast, as as they draw farther from home, they draw closer together. But love at sea never comes without tidal waves.



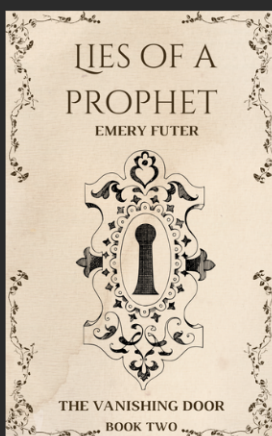
The prophets told of a day when Lucifer would once again choose a champion. That day has come. Caylin Sandriel has been chosen. He knows nothing of the doom that is said to follow him, all he knows is that someone was willing to kill him to prevent it, and his god was willing to save him.

He places his trust in the voice that guides him and gives him the gift of place, the ability to be anywhere, the ability to outrun his enemies. Enemies growing in number and power.



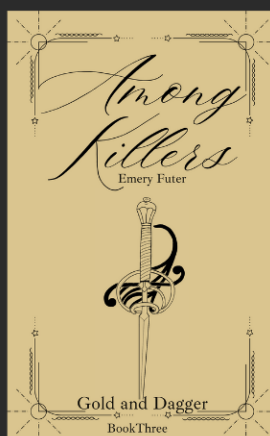
In a kingdom by the sea there is a dealer with a card up her sleeve and a smirk on her lips. She has a plan, she has a motley crew. All she needs now is a distraction, and the upcoming Carnival of Kings is the perfect one.

When a lover from a past life interferes with the heist and a new truth comes to light, a dealer and her deck will find there is more to their quest than gold. There is a price that must be paid, and a sacrifice that must be made. A heist becomes a rescue with a risk too high for some.



Caylin Sandriel has been lied to. By his god, by his friend's, by the prophets that saw his fate. He is on his own surrounded by doors to anywhere. On the run he has found others like him and as he learns more about his patron and his enemies, he realises he might have got it all wrong.

He follows the truth across the world and lands back where he started, all leading to a betrayal that will be his undoing. He will have to choose between love and power. He will have to choose to fight his fate.



In a kingdom by the sea there is an avenging angel. He has been searching for answers and justice since the moment he lost everything but only now is he drawing closer to his enemy.

He makes his way to the city of sin with a love-struck companion, a dagger and a singular goal only to find that in his obsession for revenge he has lost his way and turned to the very power that caused his plight. With his companion trying to keep him from straying to the dark, he learns that love is not as simple as he'd thought.

Emery Futer

He/They

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STRANGE

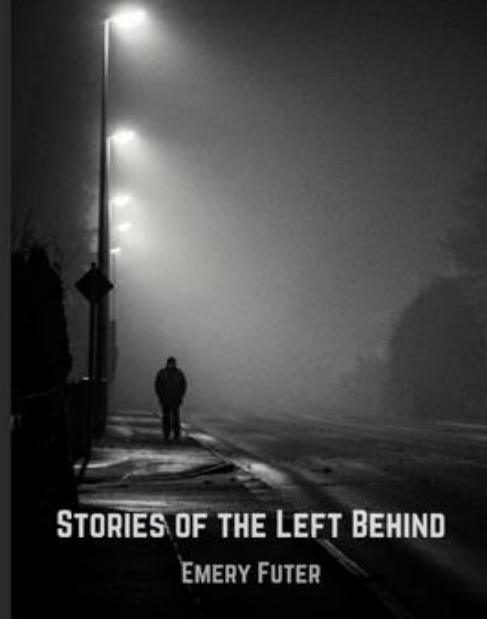


QUEER LOVE AND LOSS
EMERY FUTER

COMING NOVEMBER 2024

Strange is a collection of short stories featuring and centred around queer relationships and chosen family within the queer community. It explores the impact of bigotry and hate crime on the community, and the lack of understanding from the wider world.

PREDATOR



STORIES OF THE LEFT BEHIND
EMERY FUTER

COMING SPRING 2025

Predator is a collection of short stories following the friends and families of victims; from killers to arsonists, each predator leaves a trail of stories behind them. Read an excerpt from the upcoming novel [here](#).

Emery Futer

He/They

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Inspiration

It's always hard to pinpoint where a particular idea comes from when you're so surrounded by ideas and art and music. I cannot say for sure what sparked each idea, but I know I've been influenced by the books I read and cherish. Throughout my childhood it was Cassandra Clare's 'Shadowhunters' that had my heart, I loved being so immersed in a world that I could switch characters, era, city and still feel like it was familiar to me. Holly Black's 'Modern Fairy tales' was another favourite, as it felt grittier and darker when I was going through my adolescent years. Recently what has driven me is music. I find meaning in lyrics and turn it into poetry, I mess around with the style and suddenly I have a chapter. I pick and choose the best and the worst of those around me to form my characters and some of my closest friends have recognised their stolen jokes in my novels. I always want my characters to feel real, and sometimes this means they resemble real people.

Writing Advice

Some of my best work has come out of the blue, based on a dream or a single line of speech, or a picture on the internet. So my key piece of advice for any aspiring writers would be to always write down your thoughts. Whether you think it will amount to anything or not, write down everything you think, every strange description, every character name and even the vaguest ideas. One day you might look at that list of nonsense and realise some of it is good. Sharing your ideas with others is another great way of honing some of that list into a comprehensive idea, even if none of your friends are writers they can be immensely helpful tools for bouncing ideas off, brainstorming names of people and places. Get someone to proof read as you go, it's all very well and good using AI's to check for spelling and grammar but they don't get everything right, ad they don't account for dialect and tone when you're choosing to use specific syntax and spelling. Use what tools you have and be open to constructive criticism.

Reviews

If my opinion means a thing to you, I have some recommendations and opinions to share:

Firstly, my most recent read 'Most Ardently' by Gabe Cole Novoa. This book has been my first delve into the period romances, it is a Pride and Prejudice retelling with a trans boy (Oliver) taking the place of Elizabeth Bennet. I've had my nose stuck in it for a nigh on a week now and I've loved every moment, it's endearing, intriguing and most importantly it feels real. You can tell it was written by a Trans author as each moment of discomfort for Oliver feels like something I felt myself, over and over. Having been gushing over it to my partner, who is a lover of Pride and Prejudice, I have learned that it follows many of the key plot points and character developments of the original story with not too many sacrifices made to suit the new themes of identity. The writing style is uncomplicated and suits a blanket and a mug of something sweet.

Going with a very different tone, I was encouraged to read Jeanette Winterson's 'The Passion' by a colleague of mine, and it has swiftly flown to the top of my list for both its seamless queer representation, and its passionate and romantic Venetian setting. Bear with it because it has an admittedly slow start, introducing our main man 'Henri' as a soldier in Napoleon's army, but stick with it because it is truly a beautifully moving story of love, of war and freedom, of madness. Be prepared to cry, because if you love it like I did there will be tears by the end. You might notice a phrase or two that sound like something I might write; I loved the style of this book so much I must have inherited some of it.

Emery Futer

He/They

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Excerpt from my upcoming book 'Predator'

It's hard not to be attracted to a gentleman who wrestles lions all day.

I'm not sure that's quite true, but Kendra seemed pretty sure of it, and seeing as I don't have all the expertise in this field, I thought I'd take her word for it. He seemed nice enough, from what I saw across the bar; a well-kept beard and quaffed black hair to match, piercing blue eyes and a pale, freckled complexion. He was pretty, that was true, but more than that, he seemed content. Genuinely so. Relaxed, smiling, laughing at her jokes. And when he laughed he flashed the whitest of teeth, the sharpest of teeth, or maybe it was bar lights throwing shadows where there were none. He didn't seem like the type to wrestle lions. Didn't even seem strong enough. But you never know what goes on in someone's free time I suppose. We're all enigmas. Kendra more than most.

When she approached someone, it was always with an unnerving confidence and grace, so unlike her when she was with her friends. I knew her to be quietly strange, not so sure of herself, always doubting her goodness and striving for perfection in everything she did. But when there was a pretty man involved, all that seemed to peel away and she was some hip-swaying, heels clicking striking thing that made anyone turn their head. And she had loosened this charm on the bartender almost within a minute of arriving at The Redan – our not so local cocktail bar, because she'd gone through all the locals and wanted some fresh meat, her words not mine. I had watched her with my usual awe, as she slid into a seat, and into the conversation, with ease. I had never been so fluid. Me with my clunky frame and my heavy walk, and a resting bitch face to boot. No. People assumed the worst when I approached, so I learned to stay back and watch her shine.

She found a way to keep me updated during her conversation, texting from across the room about how fascinating he was, but it wouldn't last forever. At one time, I would have been hurt to see her leave with a stranger when she had arrived with me, but now it was a given. So when she sent me the message, I knew it was the last I'd hear from her for a few hours.

It's hard not to be attracted to a gentleman who wrestles lions all day.

I wasn't sure how it had come up, unless he was bragging. But he didn't seem the type to brag. Although, he didn't seem the type to go home with a stranger either. There was something unassuming and gentle about him that didn't pair with one night stand. And that was all it would be with Kendra, she never let it be anything else. But there he was, leaving with her, hand on the small of her back, glancing over his shoulder at me as though he knew I would miss her. There was a sadness in his eyes that I didn't think about until the next day, when I still hadn't heard from her.

By the second evening, all I could think about were his sad eyes. The way they had locked onto me, trying to say something. The way they seemed black not blue, like a shark's. Like a predator's.

And they were gone. And she'll stay gone. I know that now.

And I know why those sad eyes saw me.

Pre-order the book [here](#), to read more. Coming in Spring 2025.

Literary Festival Programme

Inspired by the Aberystwyth poetry festival

Advertisement, Wordcount 92

Events Programme, Wordcount 460

The Cotswold Literary Festival



The Cotswold Literary Festival is a celebration of nature, community and rural culture in fiction and poetry. Workshops, readings, Author meet and greets; advice for upcoming writers. Join us for the weekend and stay with our sponsors at The Old New Inn, or come for the day.

13TH- 14TH AUGUST 2024

Events held in Bourton-On-The-Water and Asthall Manor. Weekend ticket includes entry to all events - travel provided. £80 Adult Weekend - Students discount available. Day and single event tickets available through CotswoldsLiterary.com or via email at CotswoldLiterary@outlookcom

ALL VENUES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Cotswold Literary Festival

Programme Times & Speaker Details

Saturday 13th August

10 AM	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, Model Village. Sponsored by The Old New Inn Welcome talk by Emery Futer, Coffee and cakes at the café and a Cotswolds history tour. Pick up your welcome pack and lanyard.
11 AM 	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, Victoria Hall "In the Blink of an Eye": a flash fiction workshop with Michael Johnstone - Lecturer at University of Gloucestershire.
12.30 PM	COACHES LEAVE FROM THE VICTORIA HALL
1 PM	LUNCH IN ASTHALL MANOR, Travel Provided
2.30 PM 	ASTHALL MANOR, Kitchen Garden "Working With the Earth": a hands-on exploration of self-sufficiency and sustainability in historical and eco critical fiction led by Adam Henson and Philippa Gregory
4 PM 	ASTHALL MANOR, Ballroom "Pleasant Valley Prejudice" the diversities of rural peoples - a poetry reading and discussion with Raymond Antrobus.
5.30 PM 	ASTHALL MANOR, Ballroom "Creative Aspirations": advice for amateur writers led by Emily Roth - Winner of the 2023 Bridport Prize
7 PM 	ASTHALL MANOR, Walled Garden Book signing, Q&A and Picnic with Philippa Gregory and Raymond Antrobus promoting their new works: 'Normal Women' and 'Signs, Music'
8.30 PM	COACHES LEAVE FROM ASTHALL MANOR

Get your ticket via our website: CotswoldsLiterary.com



Book Signing/ Author Meet and Greet



Reading and Group Discussion



Workshop



Lecture



ALL VENUES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Cotswold Literary Festival

Programme Times & Speaker Details

Sunday 14th August

10 AM	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, Victoria Hall Take breakfast in any of the scenic cafes by the river or take a walk to fill your creative bank before joining us in the Victoria hall for an introductory talk
11 AM 	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, Greystones Farm "Queer Countryside": exploring the crossover between LGBTQ+ identities and the rural landscape led by Ocean Vuong author of 'On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous'
12 AM 	BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, Greystones Farm Choose from a range of collaborative projects and workshops at our 'Novice Fair': Georgian poetry, Eco-Critical thinking, Historical Fiction and more
1.30 PM	COACHES LEAVE FROM GREYSTONES FARM
2 PM	LUNCH IN BURFORD , We can provide a long list of recommendations for great places to eat within a short walk
3.30 PM 	BURFORD, Library A reading from Christopher Hart's 'Hedgelands'
4.30 PM 	BURFORD, Library A Q&A session with Christopher Hart and Ocean Vuong with chances to get merchandise and signed copies of their works
5.30 PM	COACHES LEAVE FROM BURFORD
5.30 PM	FULBROOK, Dinner Join us for dinner and an open mic night at the Carpenters Arms in Fulbrook with showcase performances from Zach Goldberg and Rudy Francisco
7 PM	COACHES LEAVE FROM CARPENTERS ARMS

Get your ticket via our website: CotswoldsLiterary.com



Book Signing/ Author Meet and Greet



Reading and Group Discussion



Workshop



Lecture

