



[Download high resolution image](#)

Pub. Date:	30 October 2025	Price:	£16.99
ISBN:	978-0-85730-905-1	Binding:	Hardback
Format:	Demy (216 x 135mm)	Extent:	288
Weight:	Rpt. Code: IP		
Publishing Rights:	Exclusive: UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada & India. Open Market: RoW. excl. North America		
Sales Rights:	Exclusive: UK & Commonwealth excl. Canada & India. Open Market: RoW. excl. North America		
Market:	Gothic Fiction, Historical Fiction, LGBTQIA+ Narratives, Sapphic Literature		
BISAC Code:	FIC019000: Fiction : Literary FIC018000: Fiction : Lesbian FIC027040: Fiction : Gothic		
THEMA Code:	FV: Historical fiction FS: Family life fiction FYL: Fiction: Gothic		
Overseas Publisher:	USA & Canada: Melville House PB, \$20.99, 3 Feb 2026		
Country of Manufacture:	UK		

vervebooks.co.uk/

HEAP EARTH UPON IT

by CHLOE MICHELLE HOWARTH

THE BOOK

January 1965. The orphaned O'Leary siblings - Tom, Jack, Anna and Peggy - arrive in the village of Ballycrea, tight-lipped about their troubled past and desperate for a fresh start.

After being met with suspicion from most of the locals, the family are thrilled when they're taken under the wing of their well-respected neighbours, Bill and Betty Nevan, who offer them work, companionship and an opportunity to fit in.

But for one of the O'Learys, this new friendship sparks an intense attachment that makes the dynamic dangerous for all. It's difficult to bury secrets, but almost impossible to bury feelings...

CHLOE MICHELLE HOWARTH (Location: Hove , England)

Chloe Michelle Howarth was born in July 1996. She grew up in the West Cork countryside, which has served as an inspiration for her writing. Chloe currently lives in Brighton. Her debut novel, *Sunburn*, was shortlisted for the 2024 Polari First Book Prize, the 2024 Book of the Year: Discover Award at the British Book Awards and the 2023 Nero Book Award for Debut Fiction and longlisted for the 2024 Diverse Book Awards.



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A creeping story of sibling rivalry and dangerous obsession, from the NERO Prize-shortlisted author of *Sunburn*, which has now sold over 100k copies

Like Howarth's acclaimed debut, *Heap Earth Upon It* explores rural Irish life at a specific moment in time, combining the emotional intensity and slow-burn sapphic obsession of Julia Armfield's *Our Wives Under the Sea* and Yael van der Wouden's *The Safekeep* with the gothic undertones of Daphne du Maurier and Shirley Jackson's fiction

Major campaign launched the hardback in October 2025, including interviews across national press and radio, podcasts and queer and Irish press and extensive support across social channels from high-profile lifestyle influencers, BookTokers and Bookstagrammers

Chosen as a 2025 Book of the Year by Blackwell's and Foyles' booksellers

Howarth is undertaking an extensive author tour across the UK and Ireland with events in cities including Dublin, Belfast, Cork, London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Brighton and further bookshop and festival events confirmed in to 2026

Melville House will release North American edition in early 2026 to tie-in with VERVE's UK PB publication

PRAISE FOR HEAP EARTH UPON IT

'A deeply affecting tapestry of gothic landscapes and virtuosic, character driven prose. As it haunted me, *Heap Earth Upon It* will haunt you too' - **Lucy Rose**, author of *The Lamb*

'Airless and gripping... A devastating mix of hope and heartbreak, from one of Ireland's most exciting queer voices' - **Niamh Ni Mhaioileoin**, author of *Ordinary Saints*

'The perfect slow burn, an absorbing, multifaceted and uneasy novel, with inscrutable characters who shed layers until their fierce, flawed centres are revealed' - **Emma van Straaten**, author of *This Immaculate Body*

'A tense and claustrophobic novel with gothic atmosphere which seeps into your bones like fog... Howarth knows her sapphic yearning!' - **Rachel Dawson**, author of *Neon Roses*

'Dark, passionate and poised. A remarkable story of the way rural Ireland haunts and is haunted. Intense and thrilling' - **Soula Emmanuel**, author of *Wild Geese*



VERVE Books
Harpenden
Herts AL5 1EQ
Tel: +44 (0)1582 766348

UK Distribution: Turnaround
Second Floor, Crown House
47 Chase Side, Southgate
London N14 5BP
Tel: +44 (0)208 829 3000
www.turnaround-uk.com



