

SUNBURN

CHLOE MICHELLE HOWARTH

MARKETING & SALES POINTS

** Shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize 2024 **

** Shortlisted for the 2024 Book of the Year: Discover Award by the British Book Awards **

** Shortlisted for the 2023 Nero Book Award for Debut Fiction **

** Longlisted for the Diverse Book Awards 2024 **

Over 100,000 copies sold worldwide - *Sunburn* has proved extremely popular on social media and is fast becoming a queer classic, beloved by book influencers, readers and booksellers alike

An atmospheric LGBTQIA+ love story and coming-of-age novel with the intensity of Megan Nolan's *Acts of Desperation* (9K sold), the long hot summer of André Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name* (156K sold) and the female friendships of Anna Hope's *Expectation* (36K sold)

Sunburn received extensive press coverage in the *Daily Mail*, *Independent*, *Herald*, *Irish Examiner*, *SAGA*, *Heat*, *Diva*, *Scene Magazine* and *PinkNews*, among others. It was selected as 'One to Watch' by the *Evening Standard* and *The Bookseller*, and chosen as *Sainsbury's Magazine's* Book of the Month

Howarth's hotly-anticipated second novel, *Heap Earth Upon It*, was published in hardcover by VERVE Books in October 2025

An evocative literary debut by a young writer, inspired by her own experiences growing up in rural Ireland. Chloe Michelle Howarth is now based in Brighton - which has a thriving and supportive LGBTQIA+ book community - and is available for in-person interviews and events

Sunburn was released in North America by Melville House Publishing in summer 2025. International rights sold in Germany (Bastei Lübbe), Czechia (Dobrovský), Poland (Artbooks Spółka) & Ukraine (Laboratoria)

THE BOOK

It's the early 1990s, and in the Irish village of Crossmore, Lucy feels out of place. Despite her fierce friendships, she's always felt this way, and the conventional path of marriage and motherhood doesn't appeal to her at all. Not even with handsome and doting Martin, her closest childhood friend.

Lucy begins to make sense of herself during a long hot summer, when a spark with her school friend Susannah escalates to an all-consuming infatuation, and, very quickly, to a desperate and devastating love.

Fearful of rejection from her small and conservative community, Lucy begins living a double life, hiding the most honest parts of herself in stolen moments with Susannah.

But with the end of school and the opportunity to leave Crossmore looming, Lucy must choose between two places, two people and two futures, each as terrifying as the other. But only one can offer her real happiness.

***Sunburn* is an astute and tender portrayal of first love, adolescent anxiety and the realities of growing up in a small town where tradition holds people tightly in its grasp.**

PRAISE FOR *SUNBURN*

'A tender and heartfelt coming-of-age tale' - *Heat*

'This is a compassionate take on the push and pull between what's expected and what is felt' - *Herald*

'Heart-wrenching. Another incredible debut that I'll be thinking about for a very long time' - *Mirror*

'A deeply moving, heartfelt love story' - *Daily Mail*

'Lucy tells her story in a true, compelling voice, with an eye for minutiae, quaint aperçus, and confidences that make her account moving and convincing' - *SAGA*

'A tender coming-of-age novel and a heartfelt sapphic love story' - *ELLE Canada*

'A beautiful coming of age love novel' - *Scene Magazine*

'Tender and poignant' - *Diva (Book of The Month)*

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. She attended university at IADT in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, where she studied English, Media and Cultural Studies. Chloe currently lives in Brighton. *Sunburn* is her debut novel.



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Market: Contemporary Fiction, General Fiction, LGBTQIA+ Fiction, LGBTQIA+ Romance, Literary Fiction, Romance

BISAC Code: FIC019000: Fiction : Literary
FIC068000: Fiction : LGBTQ+ : General
FIC018000: Fiction : Lesbian
FIC027020: Fiction : Romance : Contemporary

THEMA Code: FBA: Modern & contemporary fiction
FRD: Adult & contemporary romance
FXB: Narrative theme: Coming of age
FXD:

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