VERVE BOOKS



HEAP EARTH UPON IT

CHLOE MICHELLE HOWARTH

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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 250k copies worldwide

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 included 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

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...

Crackling with suspense and intensity from start to finish, *Heap Earth Upon It* revisits the rural Ireland of Howarth's critically acclaimed debut, delving into claustrophobic relationships and tangled identities, and leaving you wondering who to trust until the very last page.

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 Mhaoileoin, author of *Ordinary Saints***

'I loved it' - **Maisie Peters**

'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***

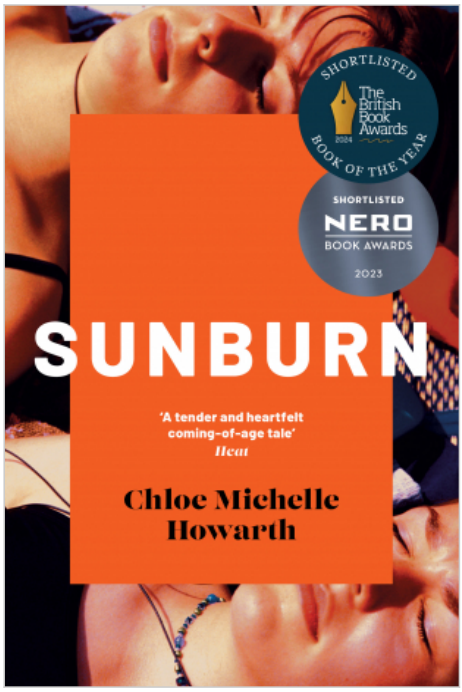
'Dark, passionate and poised. A remarkable story of the way rural Ireland haunts and is haunted. Intense and thrilling' - **Soula Emmanuel, author of *Wild Geese***

CHLOE MICHELLE HOWARTH

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. 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.



OTHER TITLES BY CHLOE MICHELLE HOWARTH



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