

NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

The Telegraph

The best novels of 2020

It was the year we fell back in love with old-fashioned storytelling. The world may be in crisis, but the future of fiction looks bright

Polly Samson's [**A Theatre for Dreamers**](#)

(Bloomsbury, £14.99) reminds British readers of Charmian Clift, the Australian writer who spent the early 1960s on Hydra with Leonard Cohen and a bunch of boozy creative types. One of the year's most lushly enjoyable novels, published during lockdown, it transports us straight to a Greek island and leaves us yearning for the sight of a lemon tree against a turquoise sea.