

## ONE MINUTE WITH...

Polly Samson,  
novelist

### **Where are you now and what can you see?**

I am at the kitchen table. It's mayhem – there's a recently incubated chick in a birdcage hanging from a beam above my head and a puppy asleep on my feet. The table is strewn with everyone's half-finished projects – my son has decided to make us all hats, so those are jumbled up with dishes of my mother's Chinese dumplings, a flower press, a semi-whittled spoon and the newspapers, which today are lightly burned because the baby switched up the oven while no one was looking.

### **What are you currently reading?**

*Cloudstreet* by Tim Winton and *Monkey Grip* by Helen Garner. I've also just finished reading the proofs of *Featherhood*, a memoir by my son, Charlie Gilmour.

### **Who is your favourite author and why do you admire her/him?**

My favourite at the moment is Anne Tyler. I carry on thinking about her characters long after finishing their stories.

### **Describe the room where you usually write...**

I write in a shed in the garden. It's a tip, with piles of books, photographs of my characters and Post-it notes all over the walls. If the door is open, there is a view over fields, but the roses I planted have scrambled over the walls and obscured the windows.

### **Which fictional character most resembles you?**

I'll plump for Erica, the narrator of my new book *A Theatre for Dreamers*. If only I'd had the guts to go and live on a Greek island when I was 18!

### **Who is your hero/heroine from outside literature?**

The investigative journalist Carole Cadwalladr. She interviewed me years ago and afterwards we walked our dogs for miles through a rainstorm. I liked talking to her so much I didn't notice we were getting soaked. I watch in awe as she takes on the bullies of political corruption and wish I had even half of her courage and temerity.

**'A Theatre for Dreamers' is out now ([Bloomsbury Circus](#), £14.99)**

