



The novelist, short-story writer and lyricist on woodland birthdays, thieving dogs and comfort food

MEET THE AUTHOR POLLY SAMSON

When are you at your happiest?

About once a year, if I can gather my family together for a campfire in the bluebell woods. Luckily my birthday falls as the bluebells are at their peak, so it's a happiness that falls within reach.

What is your earliest memory?

I can remember climbing out of my cot, landing with a bump and then crawling along a passageway with chocolate-coloured tiles towards a brightly-lit kitchen where my mother was sitting

with a man who rubbed whisky on my gums. When I told her this story she was astonished because, although it was news to me, we had lived in a flat in East Berlin and the tiles and the man and his whisky were just as she remembered them too.

Who has been your greatest influence?

My paternal grandmother.

What is your most treasured possession?

A piece of balsa wood and on which my first-born son wrote 'To mummy When you die I will die'.

He was five or six and I was in bed with flu.

Do you have pets?

I can't imagine life without a dog. I have two, both of them mutts. Doris, a lurcher who exists solely on stolen food, and Barbounia.

Favourite meal?

Baked potato cooked in the fire.

◆ ~~A Theatre for Dreamers~~
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