

with author Natali Simmonds



Storytelling Workshops for Schools

njsimmonds.com

Natali Simmonds

Passionate about stories

I've lived all over the world and I've been writing stories since I could hold a pencil. I first worked in marketing until my debut fantasy novel was published in 2017. Since then I've written many fantasy novels for all ages, created a manga series, co-write a paranormal series, and I now mainly write thrillers (one of which, GOOD GIRLS DIE LAST, is being made into a TV series).

Passionate about teaching

One of the most wonderful things to come out of my writing has been the opportunity to share my experience with students - from five year olds to teaching on MA courses. I love sharing the power of storytelling with all ages.





A World of Stories

In 2017 my debut novel *The Path Keeper* was published in the UK, since then the full trilogy has been signed by a US publisher, I've embarked on a seven book co-written paranormal romance series, written a 12-part story for the UK's #1 English language manga magazine, had two thrillers published, and I've co-written two middle grade novels. My debut thriller, *Good Girls Die Last*, is also being developed for TV.

The only thing I love as much as telling a story is talking about the magic of words. As an author of many genres I've taught and talked at dozens of high schools and unis in Spain, Gibraltar, UK and the Netherlands.

And through my consultancy company - Rebel Storytelling - I lecture on the power of stories and self-branding at organisations such as the Raindance Film School in London, the Romance Novelist Association, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Collab Writers, Jericho Writers and various Women in Business events. I'm also the co-founder of the online Caedis Knight Romance Writing School and have my own column in London's King's College Inspire The Mind magazine.

I work closely with schools to fit their students' needs. Whether you need an author to talk about creative writing or topics such as resilience, I'm able to develop a bespoke workshop to fit your curriculum and your students.

Manga Matters!

Why comics and graphic novels are bigger than ever

Comic books and Manga are often the first story series a student falls in love with - yet many adults dismiss them as having less importance than a novel.

That isn't true!

On this course I teach the art of telling a story when you have to rely on more than just words. We talk about structure, frames, and the mathematics involved in fitting a story into a pre-determined set of pages.

I also discuss the importance of tropes and archetypes in the comic world - and the messages they have communicated over time about the power of good and evil.

Students even get to create their own comic and superheroes!





Fantasy Worldbuilding

How do you build a world that doesn't exist?

This is one of my most popular talks that suits children of all ages. It can also be combined with your English, Design, and Art departments.

Students get to really delve into the skills required to create world lore as the foundations of a fantasy novel - as well as learn how to combine creativity, imagination and writing strategy to build an unforgettable backdrop for their story.

Writing for a Living

How to turn your idea into a book...and further

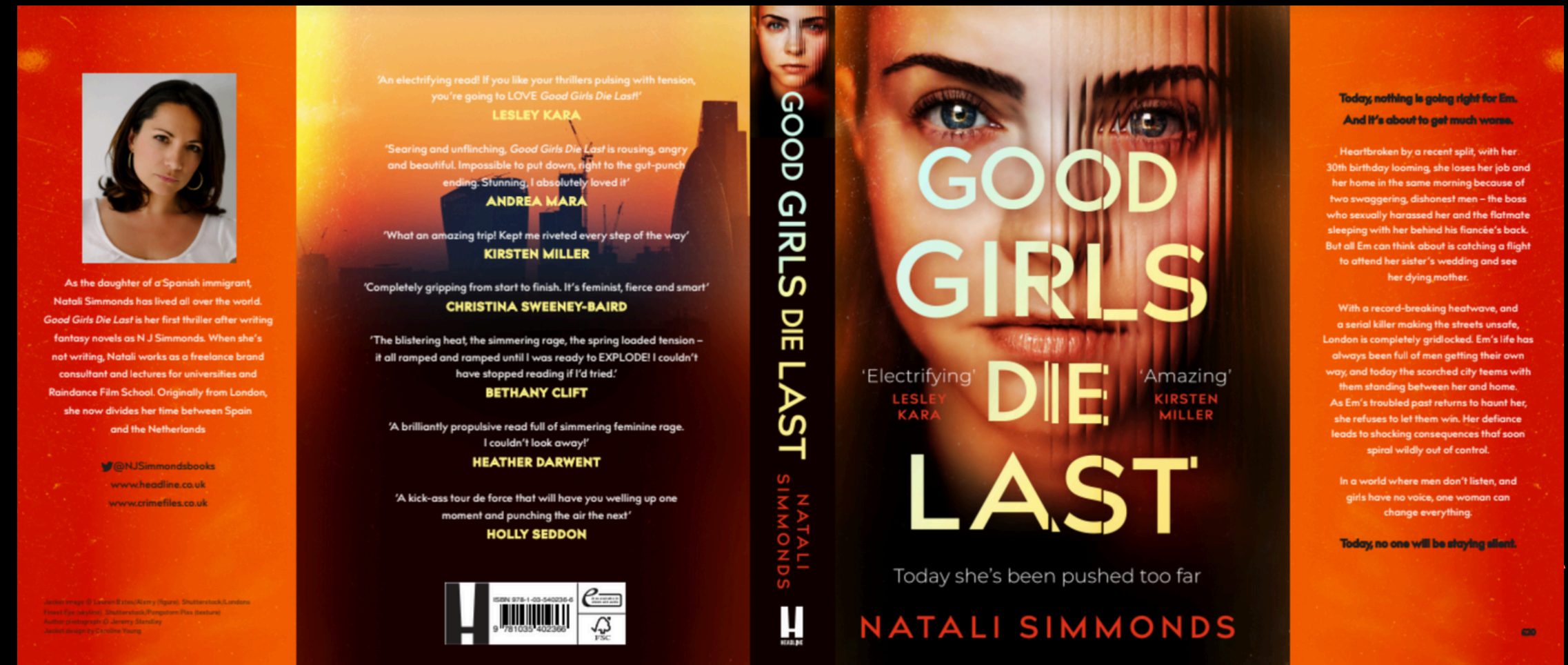
Most books start as an idea, but the idea is the easy part. In this pragmatic talk I explain what it really takes to be an author.

- How do you write a book?
- How do you get an agent?
- How do you get published?
- How do books get translated?
- How do you get your book turned into a movie?

Ideal for students contemplating a career in the arts, I discuss the realities of working as a writer including what the average author earns, the difference between self-publishing and traditional, and the power of creative diversification.

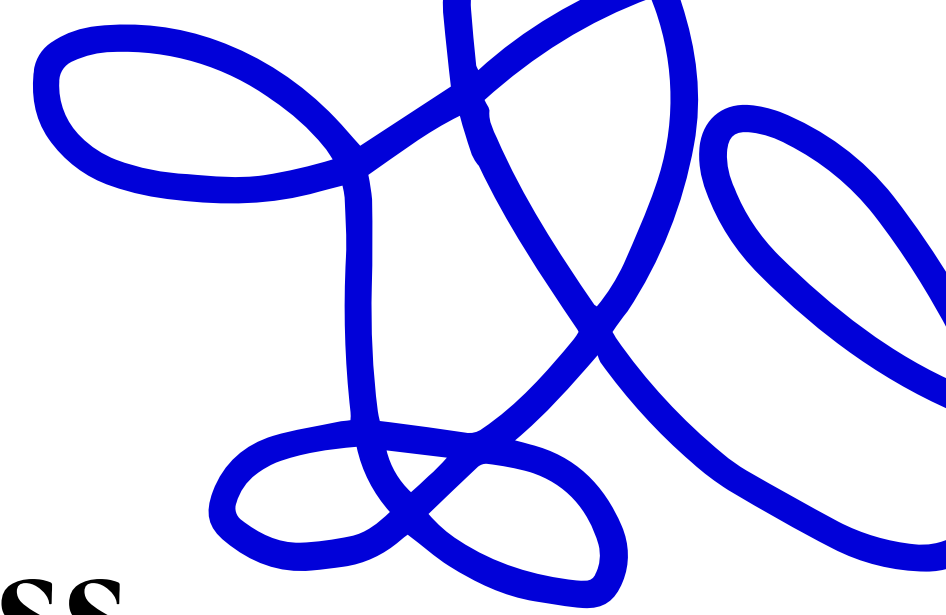
This is also a good opportunity for students to ask me questions in the class, or combine it with a creative writing workshop.

I also offer one-to-one mentoring for students interested in being an author.





Resilience and Success



Working in the arts sounds glamorous. It's not.

Resilience is an important part of life, and never more so than when choosing to work in the arts. My debut was rejected dozens of times before it was published. Even after writing seven books, my eighth was rejected by agents. How do you accept criticism, learn, move on and keep going?

This lesson is a vital one, especially for older teens facing exams, further education and the world of work.

There's no such thing as failure...there are only lessons. This I teach through my own personal story and writing journey.

Recommendations

Schools, Unis, Writing Groups, and Businesses



Sarah Barrett - Head of Year

"Natali visited our 14-16 year old students at Hendon High School to talk about what life as an author is like. The students were hugely enthused by her writing journey and asked lots of questions. At the end I had a number of students remark on how they were now inspired to write too."



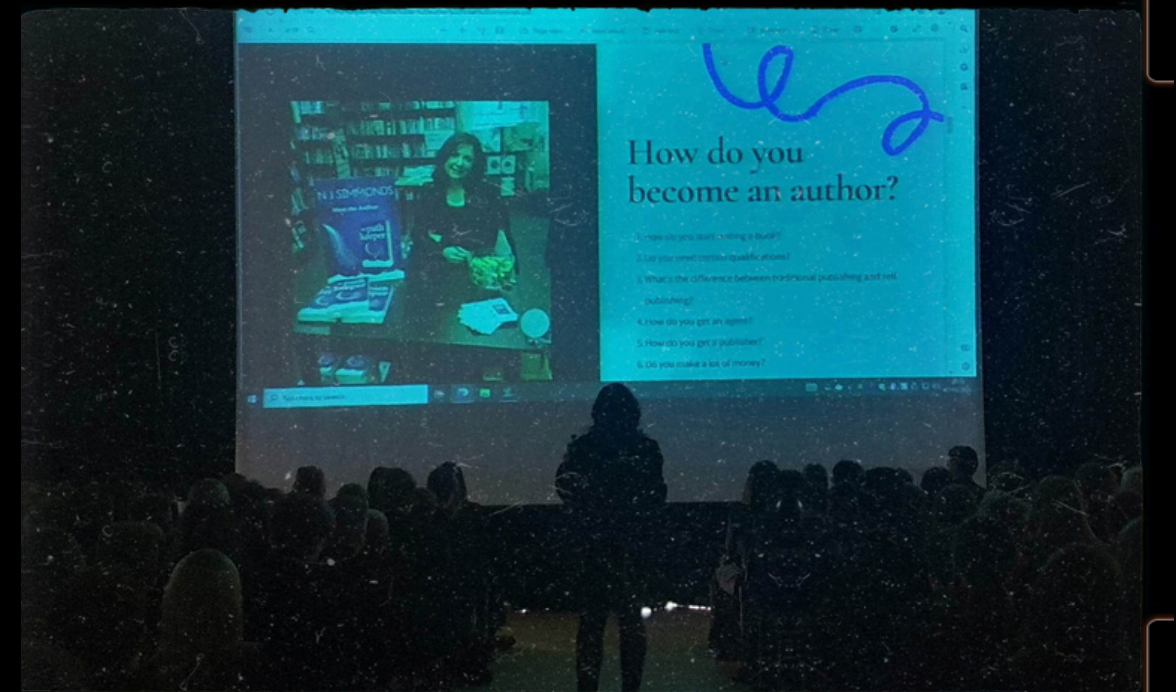
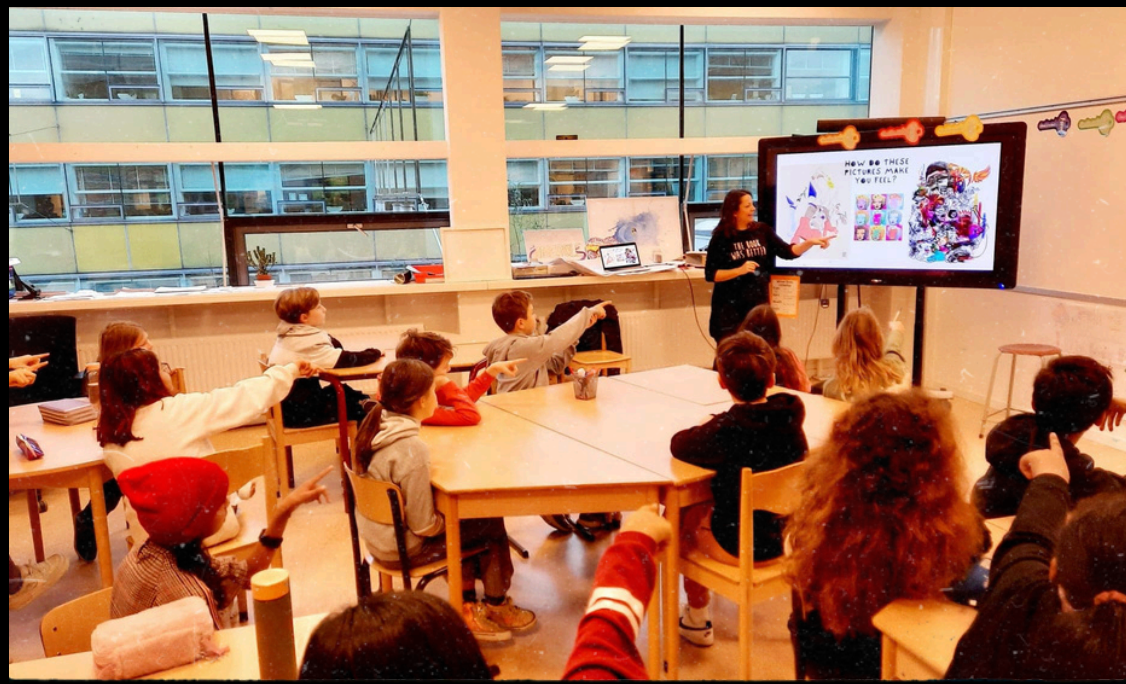
Renee Veldman-Tentori - Snr Lecturer

"Natali teaches Storytelling in Business as part of our MA in Int Comms. The students have remarked that her lectures are some of the most memorable and informative they have received on the course. She's professional, knowledgeable and highly engaging. A pleasure to work with."



Jennifer Griffiths - Founder

"Natali is a regular guest author at our monthly online events. She has helped our members grow on their creative path by sharing top tips on creative writing, storytelling, resilience, delivery and collaboration. We are always amazed by how much we learn from Natali, not to mention the extras she brings to the party on creative branding and marketing. Natali is the whole package, a leader in the field - a truly professional creative!"



Workshops for all ages and all budgets

2024/2025 RATES*

Assembly (60-90 mins) - €210

Assembly and workshop (2-3 hours) - €350

Assembly, 2 x workshops & library talk (full day) - €600

*Travel costs may apply. Please let me know if you need prices outside of these options.

Creative writing workshops

Manga and the power of comics

Storytelling in business

Resilience and how to keep going

Behind the scenes: An author's life

Bespoke workshops to fit with your needs

Find me online

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Get in touch

I can't wait to meet you all!

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