

Recommended Reads

Caroline Smailes recommends other books that you may enjoy:

Cat's Eye by Margaret Atwood
[Virago]

Weight by Jeanette Winterson
[Canongate]

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
[David Fickling Books]

The Lovely Bones by Alice Sebold
[Picador]

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson
[Vintage]

Breath by Tim Winton
[Picador]

Also written by Caroline Smailes

In Search of Adam published by The Friday Project.
[ISBN 978-1906321024, paperback]

Disraeli Avenue published by bluechrome Publishing.
[ISBN 978-1906061692, limited edition hardback]

About Caroline Smailes

In September 2005, two weeks before she was due to start her PhD in Linguistics, Caroline Smailes watched an interview on Richard & Judy where they referred to someone as a 'nearly woman'. She identified with the label, thinking herself a 'nearly' writer. As a result, she gave up her funding and a PhD place and a few weeks later enrolled on an MA in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University. *In Search of Adam* was written during her study.

In brief:

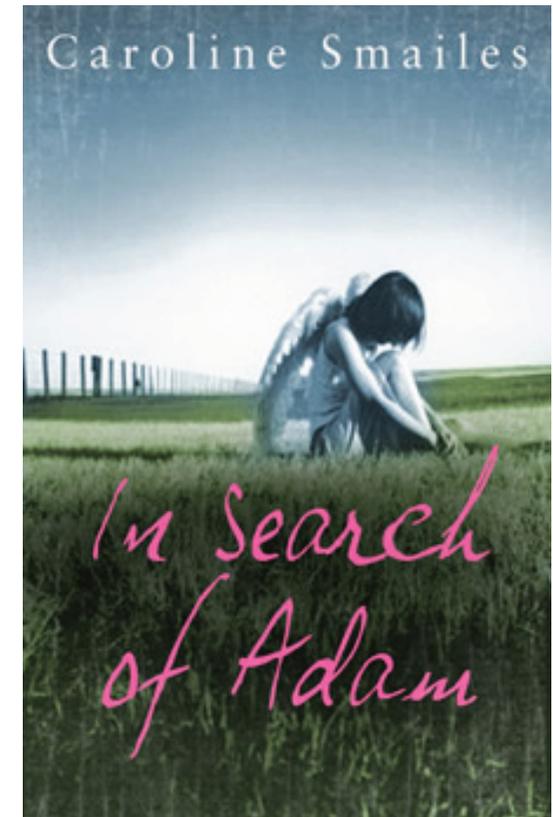
Caroline Smailes was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1973. She now lives on the Wirral with her husband and three children. Caroline Smailes appears to make life changing decisions based on passing comments made by Richard & Judy.

You can find out more about Caroline at www.carolinesmailes.co.uk

A READER'S GUIDE TO

IN SEARCH OF ADAM

by Caroline Smailes



"There is little in the way of relief in this harrowing first novel, but Smailes' sensitivity towards her subjects – and the poetry of her writing – carry the story."

Financial Times



Points for discussion

Left abandoned by the suicide of her mother and betrayed by her closest family, six-year-old Jude Williams' childhood is fractured by the horror and experience of sexual abuse. Trapped within the limitations of her language and understanding, and unwitting party to a shocking family secret, Jude becomes the consequence of her mother's tragedy.

- Jude the collector. Why does Jude collect?
- Is Jude a consequence of her mother's tragedy or does Jude create her own tragedy?
- Consider Jude's relationship with food. What does Jude gain from this relationship?
- Why did Jude think the snowman was evil (p.89)?
- Do you think that Auntie Maggie was aware of Eddie's behaviour ?
- Are Sarah's actions the result of choice or destiny?
- Did your opinion of Bill Williams alter/ evolve as the novel progressed? Is he a good man? Is he a good father? Is he a good husband?
- Consider February 1981 again. A self-harming Jude chooses her father's hammer. Why?
- Disraeli Avenue is a close community. Discuss.

- Grammatical and typographical choices have been made within the novel. What is gained by altering font style and sizing? What is gained through altering grammatical rules?
- Twisted fairytale imagery emerges throughout the novel. Jude Williams is a modern day Cinderella. Can you cast the other roles?

Author introduction

I have always wanted to write.

I used to think that it was better to keep my dream secret. I thought that it was better not to voice my hope, not to open myself up and to have that wish ridiculed or criticised. Writing was my secret. I would fill diaries, create worlds, escape.

I used to think that it was better to protect myself, for my writing to be hush-hush, never shared, never open to comment.

I was wrong.

Caroline Smailes

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 HarperCollins
Publishers Ltd

