

# KAREN OWEN



**Name:** Karen Owen

**Where did you grow up?**  
Staplehurst, a small village in rural Kent, England

**What was the best thing about your school?**  
An amazing library and equally amazing school librarian

**What did you want to be when you grew up?** A writer or journalist (I ended up doing both)

**What are your hobbies?**  
Walking a long way (my ambition is to walk the entire coastline of Great Britain). Reading. Drinking tea. Daydreaming.

**What was your favourite book when you were young?**  
Enid Blyton's The Enchanted Wood. I used to go for walks in the woods near my home and imagine that one day I really would find a tree to climb that had a ladder leading up into the clouds and many different worlds. I still do!

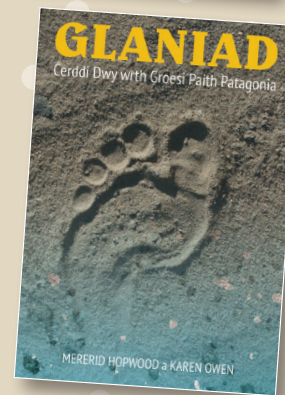
**When did you consider being an author?** I was a journalist for a long time but I realised I wanted to be a fiction writer much more because I liked making up stories rather than sticking to the facts.

**Are there any themes that appeal to you in particular?**  
Identity/self-identity: who we are and the place we have in this world. How each of us sees and hears the world differently (I am partially deaf so my outlook is different from some folk).

**What advice can you give to budding authors?**  
Your imagination is the most amazing place! Visit it and write those adventures down! Most importantly, write what excites you.

**Do you have any rituals when you write?** I must drink tea. And my best time to write is early in the morning when everyone else is asleep or my street is just waking up.

**What's the best / worst part about being an author?**  
Best = discovering the most amazing facts while researching for a story, being able to live in my imagination, and to talk stories and adventures with readers.



## Quick fire questions:

**What's your favourite childhood book?**  
The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton

**Where is your favourite place to write?**  
Anywhere, so long as I have a notepad and a pencil. I always write my ideas by hand, not on a computer. That only happens later.

**What's your favourite food?** Fish and chips and mushy peas

**What's is your favourite word?**  
Hullabaloo. I like the sound the letters make together.

**What would be your superpower of choice?** To put a spell on folk to be kind and compassionate towards one another.

**What makes you smile?** Reading a book. Watching kids reading books. Creating a story in my imagination.

**If not an author, what would you be?** A taster of tea. Or a teapot maker. I love teapots.

**What's your advice for budding writers?**  
Your imagination is the most amazing place! Visit it and write those adventures down! Most importantly, write what excites you.