

Edinburgh International Book Festival – winner of the First Book Award announced



The Edinburgh International Book Festival proves that there is more to it than a few weeks in Charlotte Square Garden in the summer.

YA Author Kathryn Evans was today announced as the winner of the 2016 Edinburgh International Book Festival's First Book Award for her debut novel, *More of Me*, a gripping and thought-provoking story of growing up and teen identity.

All 46 debut novels and short story collections for adults and young adults featured in the Book Festival public programme this year were eligible for the Award, which is voted for by readers and visitors to the Festival. This is the first time in the seven years of the Award that a YA novel has won.

Kathryn Evans said: "I am stunned to have won this award – when I saw the calibre of the other authors I thought I didn't have a hope. So often children's fiction is seen as the poor cousin to adult books – yet in it, we tackle some of the hardest subjects in the most innovative of ways. I am so proud to hold the banner up for YA fiction.

"I had such an amazing time at the Edinburgh International Book Festival, this award is the most delicious icing on an already fabulous cake. Thank you to the Festival team for inviting me, to Usborne for publishing me, and to Sophie Hicks, my amazing agent, for sticking with me all this time.

"But most of all, a huge thank you to everyone who voted for *More of Me* – especially the teenagers, let no one tell you

you're apathetic because *I know* that you are full of passion. Readers, you stars, thank you for voting and making this happen. I owe you all the cake, you are wonderful."

The authors eligible for the 2017 First Book Award will be announced in June 2017. Full details of all nominees for this year's First Book Award can be found at www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/first-book-award.