



JULIA BLACKBURN (& MUTTLEY!)

Finding the magic in nature, one story at a time

Julia Blackburn is a children's author who grew up on a Somerset farm and has been shaped by a lifelong love of the natural world. A former BBC Berkshire book reviewer, she now writes stories that explore the delicate balance between people and the ecosystems that sustain them.

She co-authored *Riverside Lane* (Momentum Press, 2019), a cozy mystery that sold over 5,000 copies. Her upcoming middle grade novels, *The Lost Dragonflies* and *The Songbird Army* (Root & Branch Publishing, Nov 2025), are the first in a series of nature-inspired adventures for young readers. Each story highlights a different “ecosystem balancer” — the creatures whose hidden roles help restore and protect the living world. Julia has written a nature-themed story for each of her five children and now shares that same love of wonder and wildness with readers everywhere.

Writing Background & Inspiration

The Lost Dragonflies was inspired by Julia's own experience of finding comfort in dragonflies after personal loss; their luminous, darting presence became symbols of hope and quiet healing.

The Songbird Army was inspired by her son's early fascination with birds and his struggle to connect at school — a story of small voices finding courage, friendship, and belonging.

Publications:

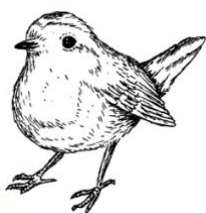
- *Riverside Lane* (Momentum Press, 2019) — as Ginger Black
- *The Lost Dragonflies* (Root & Branch Publishing, 2025)
- *The Songbird Army* (Root & Branch Publishing, 2025)

School Visits & Speaking Topics:

- Dragonflies & Ecological Storytelling
- Songs of Courage: Finding Your Voice in Nature
- How Stories Help Us Care for Ourselves, and the World

Fun Facts:

- Julia celebrated completing *The Lost Dragonflies* with a dragonfly tattoo.
- The dragonfly motifs in *The Lost Dragonflies* and *The Songbird Army* cover & illustrations were done by one of her daughters.



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