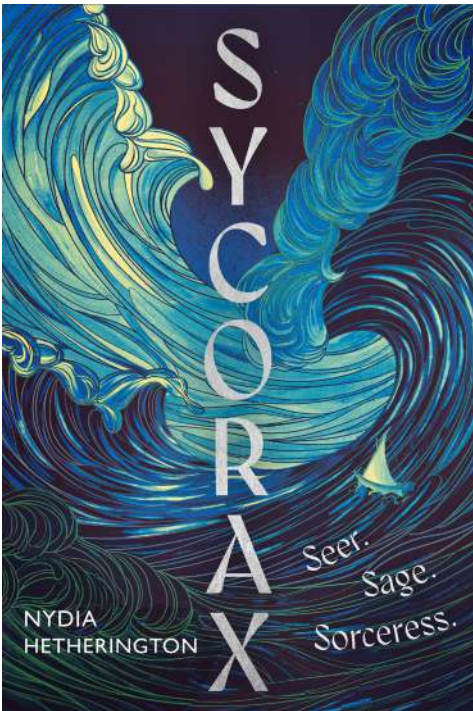


SYCORAX

By Nydia Hetherington

AN ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE READ. SHARE. RECOMMEND



Quercus, 2025

About the Book:

Born of the sun and moon, shaped by fire and malady, comes a young woman whose story has never been told...

They call her Sycorax. Seer. Sage. Sorceress.

Outcast by society and all alone in the world, Sycorax must find a way to understand her true nature. But as her powers begin to grow, so too do the suspicions of the local townspeople. For knowledge can be dangerous, and a woman's knowledge is the most dangerous of all...

With a great storm brewing on the horizon, Sycorax finds herself in increasing peril - but will her powers save her, or will they spell the end for them all?

A beautifully written and deeply moving imagining of what came before Shakespeare's *The Tempest* from the author of *A Girl Made of Air*.

About the Author:

Originally from Leeds, Nydia Hetherington moved to London in her twenties to embark on an acting career. Later she moved to Paris where she studied at the Jacques Lecoq theatre school before creating her own theatre company. When she returned to London, she completed a creative writing degree at Birkbeck.



Nydia Hetherington

Other Books by the Author:

A Girl Made of Air (2020).

Discussion Points:

- *Sycorax* gives voice to a figure erased from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. How does this retelling shift your understanding of the play?
- How are Sycorax's powers portrayed in relation to the fear of the townspeople? What does the novel suggest about the historical treatment of women who were seen as different, knowing or dangerous?
- Sycorax is said to be born of the sun and moon, shaped by fire and malady. How does the novel use myth and folklore to build her identity? Do any truths lie in fantasy?
- Sycorax is consistently portrayed as an outsider. In what ways does the novel reflect on belonging to a place, community or family, and how does Sycorax's otherness affect how she is seen or sees herself?
- How does the style or structure of the prose influence your connection to the story?
- What does it mean to reclaim a character like Sycorax? What impact does this have on how we read other marginalised characters in classic literature?

Useful Links:

- [Q&A: Nydia Hetherington, Author of 'Sycorax'](#)
- [Author's Afterword - 119: Nydia Hetherington \(Sycorax\)](#)
- [The Lotus Readers - Sycorax by Nydia Hetherington](#)

Suggested Further Reading:

Hag-Seed by Margaret Atwood
Circe by Madeline Miller
The Mercies by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
Stone Blind by Natalie Haynes
Witches, Witch-Hunting, and Women by Silvia Federici

Connect with the Author:

www.nydiaheterington.com

