

Charis Cotter

Pronouns: She/Her

Email address: chariscotter@gmail.com

Website: www.chariscotter.com

Region: Avalon Peninsula

Willing to Travel: Yes

Available For: - Manuscript Evaluations

- Mentorship
- Prize Adjudication
- Editing/Proofreading
- Readings
- Book Reviews
- Workshop Facilitation
- School Visits
- Speaking Engagements

Other: I have an hour-long presentation of Newfoundland ghost stories that is suitable for both children over 8 years of age and adults.

Biography: Charis Cotter grew up beside a cemetery and has been living with ghosts ever since. She studied English in university and went to drama school in London, England. Now she lives at the end of a road by the ocean in Newfoundland, where the landscape and a plentiful supply of ghosts inspire her work.

Her first book, *Toronto Between the Wars: Life in the City 1919–1939*, won the 2005 Toronto Heritage Award. Since then, Charis has written books about kings, queens, child prodigies, famous authors and ghosts. Her spooky, suspenseful novels—*The Swallow: A Ghost Story*, *The Painting* and *The Ghost Road*—have won awards and enthusiastic reviews.

Charis has worked in schools and libraries across Canada, using drama and storytelling to bring her books to life. She has worked with Newfoundland students to collect traditional ghost stories from their communities and published two books of these tales, written and illustrated by the students. Newfoundland ghost stories continue to inspire her own work and in 2020 she published *Screech! Ghost Stories from Old Newfoundland* and *Footsteps in Bay de Verde: A Mysterious Tale*. Her fourth novel, *The Dollhouse: A Ghost Story*, was released in August 2021 by Tundra Books.

An editor with twenty-five years' experience helping writers bring their books to life, Charis works as a writing coach for writers of fiction, non-fiction, children's books and young adult fiction. She is also a proficient editor who can take a manuscript from first draft to print-ready proofs, or do any stage in between.

Charis is available for school and library visits with readings from her books, a Newfoundland ghost story presentation, and writing workshops.

Selected Publications:

The Dollhouse: A Ghost Story. Tundra Books, 2021 Screech! Ghost Stories from Old Newfoundland. Art by Genevieve Simms. Nimbus, 2020
Footsteps in Bay de Verde: A Mysterious Tale. Illustrated by Jenny Dwyer. Running the Goat, 2020
The Ghost Road. Tundra Books, 2018
The Ghosts of Southwest Arm. Editor and publisher. Baccalieu Books, 2017
The Painting. Tundra Books, 2017
The Ferryland Visitor: A Mysterious Tale. Artwork by Gerald L. Squires. Running the Goat, 2016
The Swallow: A Ghost Story. Tundra Books, 2014
The Ghosts of Baccalieu. Editor and publisher. Baccalieu Books, 2013
A World Full of Ghosts. Art by Marc Mongeau. Annick Press, 2009
Born to Write: The Remarkable Lives of Six Famous Authors. Annick Press, 2008
Wonder Kids: The Remarkable Lives of Nine Child Prodigies. Annick Press, 2008
Kids Who Rule: The Remarkable Lives of Five Child Monarchs. Annick Press, 2007
Toronto Between the Wars: Life in the City 1919–1939. Firefly Books, 2004

Selected Awards:

The Dollhouse – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, 2021
The Ghost Road – Bruneau Family Children's/YA Literature Award, Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards, 2020
The Ghost Road – Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection, 2018
The Painting – Hackmatack Children's Choice Award, 2019
The Painting – Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature, 2018
The Swallow: A Ghost Story – Silver Birch Award 2016
Atlantic Book Award The Swallow: A Ghost Story – IODE Violet Downey Book Award 2015
Honour Book Toronto Between the Wars: Life in the City 1919–1939 – Heritage Toronto Award of Excellence, 2005