



1-15 August 2019

Dear Reader,

It's amazing for me to think that you're looking at the ebook of *The Binding* right now – it's still difficult to believe that so many people have bothered to give it a go! *The Binding* is my first adult novel, and when I wrote it, I was struggling to work out where to go next in my career, and on the point of giving up and getting a "proper" job. Then the idea came to me and I told myself that I'd stop worrying about the future and simply write the book I wanted to read. In some ways, it feels like the most passionate, authentic story I've ever told, and as I wrote it, I rediscovered the joy of creating something from nothing, and remembered why I wanted to be an author. So it's a book that's very close to my heart.

I've always been fascinated by memory and identity, two of the biggest themes of *The Binding*. At its core, though, it's a love story, and one that unashamedly wears its heart on its sleeve. For me, one of the saddest things in the world is seeing someone you love when they can't remember who you are, and I wanted to tell a story that evoked some of that poignancy and desperation. (Although I wanted to evoke joy, too – you can't have one without the other.) It's also a book about books, of course, and their power – a book-lover's book, I hope, in more ways than one.

I am so delighted that OverDrive readers have selected it for their book club. I really hope you enjoy reading it – and discussing it!

Very best wishes,

Bridget