



# GLOWGLASS

Kirkland Ciccone

Publishing 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

Strident Publishing // Paperback £7.99

ISBN 978-1-910829-25-7

***Porridge, Lies, and Videotape.***

*Kirkland Ciccone's new book for Young Adults explores disorganised religion, family secrets, accepting yourself...and murder.*

Starrsha Glowglass is the most famous teenager in the country. Her face is on the front page of every newspaper and her story is the main headline. She isn't a model, Vlogger, or contestant on a reality TV show. Starrsha is famous for something darker: she survived a massacre that claimed the lives of her brothers and sisters.

They were no ordinary family. They were The Family Glowglass, a zany religious order set up by an eccentric businessman as a tax dodge. One morning the parishioners sat down to eat breakfast... Most didn't get back up. Only Starrsha and her mute 'brother' Simon survived.

For the first time ever they both have the chance to lead an ordinary life. And for Starrsha *ordinary* means a chance to enrol at high school.

How can a videotape bring back the dead? What's behind the red door at the end of the dark hall? Why won't Starrsha's best friend admit the truth about her sexuality? When is a poster on a wall a secret trap? Will Gerard Way sing *Action Cat* at the concert? Why is Father so obsessed with vintage technology? Why does Barbie freak out Starrsha? Did

Aunt Imelda bump off (m)any rich husbands? Why is Uncle Ezra crashing the party? Will My Chemical Romance reform? And why is God crank-calling Starrsha at school?

All will be revealed as soon as someone presses PLAY on the remote control...

Praise for Kirkland Ciccone and his fiction:

“A real breath of fresh air. Tense and exciting yet down to earth and realistic with perhaps just an inkling of satire at the same time.” - *Our Book Reviews* on *Conjuring The Infinite*

“Brilliantly conceived and executed.” – *The Bookwitch* on *Endless Empress*

“It’s weird and fabulous, and it will make you laugh along the way.” – *Heather McDaid* on *North of Porter*

“Original and different to anything we’ve read before.” *Teen Titles* on *Conjuring The Infinite*

**Note to Editors and Reviewers:**

Kirkland Ciccone is from the ugliest town in Britain. No, not Luton; Cumbernauld near Glasgow. He writes cult YA novels that burst with punk energy, each featuring an array of freaks and geeks.

He won the 2014 Catalyst Book Award for *Conjuring The Infinite*, pipping Kevin Brooks and Sarah Mussi to the title.

Kirkland regularly tours Scottish school libraries, theatres, and has appeared at various festivals including The Edinburgh International Book Festival, Aye Write and ReimagiNation. Kirkland Ciccone is a favourite with students, teachers, and librarians for his anarchic live storytelling and his quirky fiction. He writes in unconventional styles and tells compelling stories that pull no punches.

Kirkland Ciccone set up Scotland’s first YA book festival, **Yay YA**.

**In His Own Words:**

“*Glowglass* isn’t about organised religion. It’s a book about *disorganised* religion. I also wanted to write something that tapped into the current vogue in YA stories for retro technology. *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher made use of cassette tapes for a narrative device. *Tape* by Steven Camden did the same. *Glowglass* makes use



of the video-tape confessional, which means I can do certain things in my story to catch my reader off-guard.

My book uses present and second person points of view. I've been gasping to combine those for a long time.

It's also a book that taps into youth culture, particularly music. My first live gig was *Babes In Toyland* at King Tut's Wah Wah Hut. It was amazing. When I was a teenager, I'd hang out in record shops, waiting for the latest alt-rock imports. (Missing and Fopp in Glasgow were particularly good for getting records by Smashing Pumpkins, The Vaseline, Bikini Kill, L7, The Cardigans, The Craft OST, Juliana Hatfield, and of

course Nirvana. This was at the height of Brit Pop!) I love it that in *Glowglass* the teenage characters hang out in equally cool record shops, listening to the latest bands. Gerard Way (of My Chemical Romance) even makes a cameo. Indeed, the working title was *The Gerard Way Fan Club*.

*Glowglass* is a dark book, like my others, but the story is told in my particular way, which people find strangely uplifting. It's personality-packed and brimming with humour. And murder, of course. Trust no-one."

**For The Classroom:**

Exploring unlikely friendships: In *Glowglass*, Starrsha befriends a girl from a different background from her own, but just as unconventional in her own way.

Accepting yourself: there are lots of characters in *Glowglass* who hide their true selves because they fear their friends and peers won't accept them. Does it make sense to pretend you are something you are not?

Fiction as social commentary: should fiction reflect the world we live in? (Kirkland's books are full of comments on pop culture and nods to the current political climate.)

Playing with structure *Glowglass* uses many structural and narrative techniques to keep the reader guessing until the very last page.

*For more information, please contact Keith Charters at Strident Publishing*

*[keith@stridentpublishing.co.uk](mailto:keith@stridentpublishing.co.uk) or 01355 220588.*