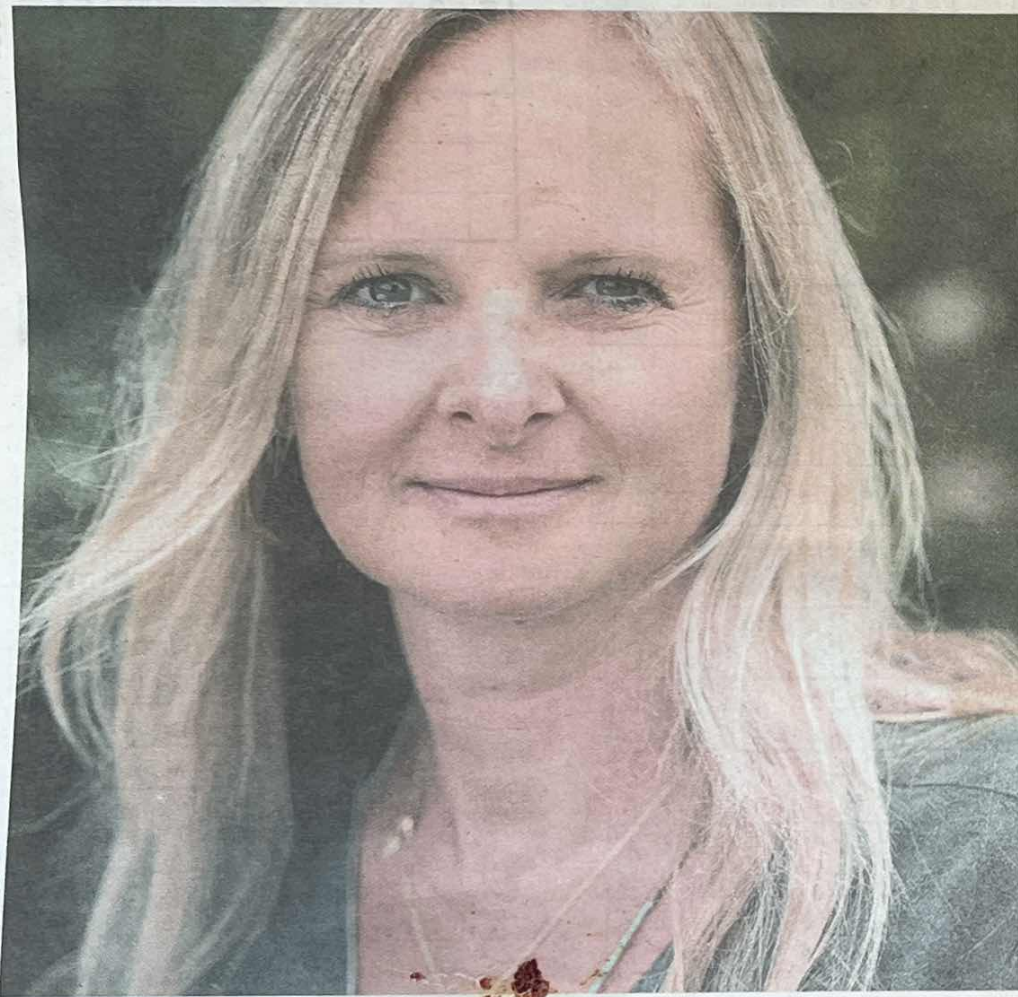


# Sophie offers “the story of a family that has been tragically torn apart”



Sophie Anderson

## Books Phil Hewitt

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The Sapphire Cove is the new book from Arlington author Sophie Anderson, published by Bookouture (£0.99 on Kindle, £9.99 paperback, £7.99 audible).

Sophie, aged 45, said: “The Sapphire Cove is the story of a family that has been tragically torn apart. I wanted to write about decisions and consequences and the huge impact that one person’s life choices can have on another family member.

“There are two little girls at the heart of this story who are forced to grow up on opposite sides of the world through no fault of their own. However they are not the only victims. Each of the characters play their own tragic part and have to live with the guilt and retribution that follows.

“It is hard to talk about the plot without giving too much away but basically it follows the lives of three women, Romy in the Philippines, who is diagnosed with a kidney disease and needs a trans-

plant in order to survive; and Flora in rural Dorset, who is looking after her sick mother when she discovers a photograph of a baby girl that she doesn’t recognise; and Lizzie in Sussex.

“At just 17 she is running from her past when she meets Edward and embarks on a friendship that will change the course of her life forever.

“The three women have no apparent connection to each other at the start of the story but all is revealed about half way through!

“As a reader I like to be challenged. I enjoy the intrigue of not necessarily knowing what connects the various narrative threads and characters. You play a more active role in the book and are forced to make your own assumptions rightly or wrongly!

“And so I decided I wanted to write something with multiple voices. This also made it easier for me to write this book as I wrote the stories of all three characters separately and then wove them together afterwards.

“I was given a pretty tight deadline by my publisher

for The Sapphire Cove and it is only my second novel so it was a real test of my discipline and capability as a writer as to whether I could pull it off!

“It was tough, especially when the second lockdown and home-schooling was thrown into the mix. I was having to get up at the crack of dawn to squeeze in a couple of hours of writing before I started teaching phonics and crafting Supertato out of felt!

“But actually I found that writing under pressure suited me well. I had to be a lot more organised and I planned every chapter meticulously but it paid off. It took me four years to write my first book but I managed to do this one in six months!

“I had actually started writing another book for my editor when the inspiration came to me for The Sapphire Cove.

“It was a lightning bolt moment. I had been really struggling to make the other story work and then this one came to me one day and it just seemed to flow effortlessly out of my mind and onto the page.”