

DAPHNE McSHARRY WAS FOREVER WAITING for the summer as a child, when she could escape from a dreary Dublin council estate to the wild splendor of Valentia. The summer—the island—was where Daphne found friends: the beautiful Leonie and her quiet cousin Finn, and Daphne's very best summer friend, the impish Ronan.

It's been years since Daphne has dared to visit Valentia—and since Ronan, Leonie, Finn, and Daphne have been together. Since their betrayals and secrets were laid bare during Daphne's first—and last—off-season visit.

That long-ago winter, the friends were invited to play a mysterious tabletop RPG, one set in the secret imaginary universe they'd created as children. But waiting at the table was something strange and sinister—warping their perception of where the game ended and their real lives began.

But the game was left unfinished—the final die uncast—and a horrible price was paid.

Now, called to Valentia to attend a funeral, Daphne, Ronan, Leonie, and Finn return to face the worst mistakes of their youth . . . and find out who, if any of them, will be allowed to have a future.

Sarah Maria Griffin is from Dublin, Ireland. She is the author of the novels *Eat the Ones You Love*, *Spare and Found Parts*, and *Other Words for Smoke*, which won an Irish Book Award in 2019. She writes about video games for *The Guardian*, and her nonfiction has appeared in *The Irish Times*, *Winter Papers*, and *The Stinging Fly*, among other places. She also makes zines.

Read by Karen Cogan



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