

Prolific U.K. author plans to save Tolkien's house, establish literary center

British author Julia Golding, who has written and published more than 50 books since embarking on her literary career in 2006, was a recent guest on Dustin Plantholt's "Life's Tough" podcast. The podcast is now available for listeners through major podcast channels.

Most of Julia's books target children and teen audiences, though she has also written novels for adults. Her books span a range of genres, including historical fiction, fantasy, and romance.

Julia writes under her own name, along with two different pen names. She is "Joss Stirling" for her teenage mystical romances and "Eve Edwards" for her historical fiction.

Saving Tolkien's house

In addition to discussing the range of books she's produced, Julia described a three-month crowdfunding campaign she is leading in order to purchase and save the house where J.R.R. Tolkien wrote *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. The house, built in 1924, is located at 20 Northmoor Road in Oxford, England (an hour's drive from London). Known as Project Northmoor, the campaign started

this past December. Its goal is to secure \$6 million to acquire the house, renovate it, and set up a literary center there as a tribute to Tolkien.

Julia, 51, started out by studying English at Cambridge University. She then took a civil service exam and ended up working in Poland for three years as a member of the Foreign Office. She returned from Poland and enrolled at Oxford University, where she earned a doctorate in British literature of the Romantic period.

Cat Royal books

While wrapping up her studies at Oxford, she wrote her first novel, *The Diamond of Drury Lane*. The book, set in the 1790s (the early years of the Romantic Period), introduced one of Julia's favorite characters, Cat Royal. Published in 2006, it also won a few awards: Waterstone's Children's Book Prize and the Nestle Children's Book Prize. A series of five more Cat Royal books (released between 2006 and 2009) followed.

Julia's next stop was the policy department at Oxfam, the global movement that combats poverty and injustice. She served as an international lobbyist, advocating for the protection of civilians caught in war zones. After her tenure at Oxfam, she became a full-time writer.

More recently, Julia was writer-in-residence at The Royal Institution of Great

Britain in 2019. The London-based Royal Institution, established in 1799, promotes public awareness of, and engagement with, science.

Also in 2019, Julia launched her “What would Jane do?” podcast, in which she applies Jane Austen’s sensibilities to contemporary issues.

Julia resides in Oxford with her husband and three children.

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