

Jill Dawson (Durham, 1962) started her writing career by publishing her poetry in specialized journals and then in a 1990 collection of her work entitled *White Fish with Painted Nails*. She went on to write best-selling novels that often revisit the lives of famous figures or real-life cases, such as *Fred & Edie*, on the Thompson-Bywaters murder trial (shortlisted for the Whitbread Novel of the Year in 2000 and the Orange Prize in 2001), and *Wild Boy* (2003), about the 'wild boy of Aveyron', while her novel *The Great Lover* (2009) was about the poet Rupert Brooke and her recent *The Crime Writer* looks at Patricia Highsmith. She wrote the screenplays herself for two of her novels optioned by ITV and the BBC, *Watch Me Disappear* (2006) and *Lucky Bunny* (2010); the latter was named "book of the year" by the *Daily Telegraph* and was shortlisted for the London Book Award in 2012. Dawson edits a number of anthologies and has taught in a variety of creative writing programs at top universities. She is currently teaching creative writing at the Faber Academy and serves as a mentor on the program for emerging writers she founded, Gold Dust.