

# How to Grow Matches



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S. A. Leavesley/Sarah James is a poet, fiction writer, journalist and editor, fitting words around life and life around words. *How to Grow Matches*, published by Against the Grain Press in 2018, is her seventh poetry title. Overton Poetry Prize winner 2015, she is author of four other poetry collections, two poetry pamphlets, a touring poetry-play and a novella, *Kaleidoscope*. A sequel novella, *Always Another Twist*, is also scheduled for publication in 2018. Sarah's poetry has won or been shortlisted for many prizes, with individual poems published by the *Financial Times*, the *Guardian*, *The Forward Book of Poetry 2016*, on Worcestershire buses and in the *Blackpool Illuminations*. A member of the National Association of Writers in Education, she is an experienced workshop facilitator. She has been a festival poet in residence in a church and café, as well as a library residency on the West Midlands' Adopt a Poem scheme. Other recent commissioned work includes an article, photos and poem for the Wellcome Collection, poetryfilms for *Disappear Here's Coventry ring road project*, and a *Camaraderie* collaboration for *Ledbury Poetry Festival 2017*. Her poems feature on the *Polesworth Poets' Trail* in Warwickshire, a café mural, in the *Blackpool Illuminations 2014* and around 12,000 copies of AGFA's annual report distributed internationally. A regular guest poet, she has read at *Ledbury Poetry Festival 2013, 2015 and 2017*, *Cheltenham Poetry Festival 2013, 2015 and 2016*, and the *Carol Ann Duffy and Friends 2014 series* at Manchester's Royal Exchange. Her poetry has also featured on the BBC, in poetryfilms and on radio. Stranger claims to 5-mins of fame include her poetry translated into Russian (through English PEN), a poem screened at a Bulgarian film festival (thanks to animators Emily & Anne), reading from the top of a glass cone furnace and poems shared in the American classroom. She is also an award-winning fiction writer and journalist, and was longlisted for the memoir prize in the *New Welsh Writing Awards 2017*. Her website is at [www.sarah-james.co.uk](http://www.sarah-james.co.uk) and she also runs V. Press, poetry and flash

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