

# Autumn Writing Retreat 2026 with Priscilla Morris & Guest Author Melissa Fu

28 September – 4 October, Casa La Daina, Romanyà de la Selva, Spain

To book or enquire, email Priscilla on [priscilla\\_morris@hotmail.com](mailto:priscilla_morris@hotmail.com)

If you have a brilliant idea but aren't sure how to bring it to life on the page, if you're floundering in the middle of a draft, if you just can't find the time to finish the damn thing – join us for five magical days and six convivial nights this Autumn and let us help you!

We've found the perfect place for a writing retreat in a spacious, light-filled haven with gardens and a pool on the edge of the medieval hamlet of Romanyà de la Selva, Catalonia, Spain. A fifteen-minute drive from the Mediterranean, set on the top of a cork oak forested mountain with spectacular views of the Pyrenees, Romanyà has strong literary appeal – it's where the celebrated Catalan writer Mercè Rodoreda spent the last eleven years of her life. She finished several novels here, so perhaps you can channel her energy.

Highlights of your writing holiday will include: one-to-one consultations and stimulating workshops led by PRISCILLA MORRIS, Women's Prize shortlisted author of *Black Butterflies*; classes to generate and craft writing facilitated by our wonderful guest author, MELISSA FU, whose debut novel *Peach Blossom Spring* was a BBC Radio 2 Book Club Pick; ample writing and free time; a writing table in each room; a guided walk of the local area and a trip to the sea and

the rugged Costa Brava; access to magical forest trails; dips in the pool; dinner out in a harbour-side seafood restaurant and delicious meals prepared by a Cordon Bleu-trained chef.

The retreat is open to fiction and creative non-fiction writers of all levels of experience, from complete beginners to those who have been writing for years. There'll be no more than ten participants, so you'll receive lots of individual attention.

Come, write, enjoy! Unlock your creative potential and take your writing to the next level in 2026. Catalonia is calling!

## WHO WE ARE

PRISCILLA MORRIS will facilitate evening creative writing workshops and give individual writing consultations to discuss your work in depth. Priscilla's debut novel *Black Butterflies* was shortlisted for several awards, including the Women's Prize 2023, the RSL Ondaatje Prize, the Authors' Club Best First Novel Award and the Wilbur Smith Adventure Writing Prize. It was named a *New York Times* best historical novel in 2024 and awarded Runner-up in Fiction for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize 2025.

She's a highly experienced teacher with an MA and PhD in creative writing from the University of East Anglia, so you can rest assured you'll be in safe hands. She has taught creative writing at University College Dublin, the Irish Writers Centre and Kingston University among other places. Her approach is empathetic, incisive and encouraging.

MELISSA FU will lead two writing workshops each morning, GENERATE and CRAFT. She has taught at the National Centre for Writing (UK), mentored with the Middleway Mentoring Programme, and offered private mentoring and classes. She especially enjoys facilitating small groups. Melissa is from Northern New Mexico and lives in England. Her educational background includes degrees in Physics, English, and Education. She is widely published with work in *The Lonely Crowd*, *International Literature Showcase*, and *Wasafiri*. In 2018/2019, Melissa received an Arts Council England DYCP grant and was the DTK Wong Fellow at the University of East Anglia. Her novel *Peach Blossom Spring*, a BBC Radio 2 Book Club pick and a selected title for the American Booksellers Association, has been translated into 8 languages.

RORY PIERCE will offer two optional guided walks: a walk around our small village of Romanyà de la Selva and into the surrounding forest to visit the local menhir and magnificent stone circle; and a visit to the stunning Costa Brava coastline for a clifftop walk and sea dip. Rory and Priscilla live part of the year in Romanyà de la Selva (alas not in the retreat house) and adore the local area. Rory is an academy-trained composer, cellist & flautist, lecturer and nature lover. He has trekked all over the world and performed music all over the world too, in ensembles such as The Divine Comedy, The Grit Orchestra and Cuillin Music.

LUCY DOHERTY will be our fabulous chef! She is Cordon Bleu-trained and has cooked at the Michelin-starred AngloThai restaurant and the River Cafe in London. She's assisted The Hairy Bikers and many other interesting folk. Her incredible food and wonderful energy were a complete hit on our first writing retreat in 2025. Breakfasts are self-serve, along the lines of overnight oats, homemade breads, jams, eggs and ham. Lunch is a nutritious, filling buffet and will be eaten outside, weather permitting. Delicious three-course dinners may include a paella, a Catalan feast, a Thai night and a barbecue.

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*"It had always been a dream to go on an international writing retreat, and this experience exceeded every expectation. After meeting Priscilla on a webinar, I knew she would create a warm, supportive environment and she did exactly that. Her teaching style was both inspiring and empowering. I'm so grateful to have attended Priscilla and Rory's first writing retreat and can highly recommend. It was the best six days!!!"*

***Tracy, Perth, Australia. Autumn Writing Retreat 2025***

## **RETREAT SCHEDULE**

### **Before the retreat**

- An in-depth Zoom consultation with Priscilla to discuss where you're at in your writing journey and set your goals for the retreat

### **Arrival: Monday 28 September 2026**

- Arrival at Casa La Daina from 4pm, settle in, freshen up, explore
- Introductions, welcome drink and canapés at 7pm
- Delicious 3-course dinner at 8pm

### **Five-Day Retreat: Tuesday 29 September to Saturday 3 October**

- Self-serve breakfast from when you wake
- Morning writing time
- *GENERATE* with Melissa Fu at 11am. Playful and provocative prompts and activities to generate new writing. All classes are optional so you can carry on writing, if you wish
- *CRAFT* with Melissa Fu at 12pm. Exercises to extend and deepen existing pieces (either work from *GENERATE* or writers' works-in-progress)
- Lunch Buffet at 1.30pm
- Afternoon writing time; individual consultations with Priscilla Morris
- When you fancy a break from writing, there are many forest trails for you to explore, a pool for you to dip in and lots of lovely reading nooks and crannies. There will be guided walks offered (around the village and to the sea) on two of the afternoons
- *CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP & DISCUSSION* with Priscilla Morris. Bring your works-in-progress for constructive critique and reader response. Tuesday to Friday 6-8pm
- *READINGS* with canapés and a glass of cava, Saturday 6-8pm
- Delicious 3-course dinner at 8pm. On Thursday, we'll eat out at a wonderful harbour-side restaurant (not included in the retreat fee)

### **Departure: Sunday 4 October**

- Self-serve breakfast from when you wake until 9am
- Say adieu to Casa La Daina by 10am

### **After the retreat**

- A follow-up in-depth Zoom consultation with Priscilla to consolidate your learning and draw up a continuation plan.

Note: the above schedule is indicative and may be subject to change

## CLASSES AND CONSULTATIONS

### i) Creative Writing Classes

The creative writing sessions are all optional to allow you to carry on writing, if you wish.

#### **GENERATE with Melissa Fu (11am Tuesday to Saturday)**

Through a variety of prompts, both playful and provocative, we'll spend an hour getting words on the page. Come with a blank page or handful of ideas you've been meaning to explore, and leave with seedlings of story, ready for water and light.

#### **CRAFT with Melissa Fu (12pm Tuesday to Saturday)**

We'll experiment with ways to deepen and expand existing work via craft lenses such as dialogue, setting, subtext, or narrative voice. Writers can work with pieces created during the GENERATE sessions or with sections from a work-in-progress.

Saturday's class will be a Q&A with Melissa and Priscilla to answer your questions about finding an agent, getting published and the writer's life.

See following page for Melissa's sample schedule.

#### **WORKSHOP and DISCUSSION with Priscilla Morris (6-8pm Tuesday to Friday)**

In the closing session of the day, you'll share what you're currently working on with your peers and offer each other support and advice. You'll learn to critique your peers' work and, if happy to do so, read a page or two of your own writing to the group to receive feedback. This is an oral workshop, so no advance reading or preparation is required.

The workshop will then develop into a more general discussion about what makes good fiction. Depending on your interest and needs, we might consider what makes a good beginning, middle and end, the differences between short story, novella and novel, how to kickstart the engine of plot and how plot and character entwine, and the blurred line between fiction and creative non-fiction.

**Priscilla Morris** is experienced in facilitating warm, constructive workshops where you'll feel supported and encouraged. Having your work critiqued by others, when done under careful guidance, will develop your confidence and help you see the blind spots in your writing. Learning to critique your peers' writing will deepen your understanding of how fiction works.

#### **Readings (6 pm Saturday)**

An opportunity to read from your work-in-progress and celebrate the end of the retreat. Canapés and a glass of fizz will be served :)

Note: The above programme is indicative and may be subject to change

## Sample schedule for Melissa Fu’s GENERATE and CRAFT sessions

Each GENERATE session is focused on creating new work by giving prompts and opportunities to write. The activities will jumpstart your writing so you have momentum to continue on your own. Come to each session ready to write.

Each CRAFT session is focused on a different way of revising and expanding existing work. The discussion and exercises will offer new ways of considering your works in progress, adding depth, voice, and structure. Come to each session with 1-2 pages of writing you’d like to work on further. You might bring work from the GENERATE session preceding the CRAFT session. You’re also welcome to bring something else.

*Below are sample topics and areas of focus for each session. The actual sessions may differ depending on the makeup and interests of the participants.*

| SESSION | GENERATE   | CRAFT   |
|---------|--|---|
| Day 1   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priming the Pump: What do you need to write?</li> <li>• Starting points</li> <li>• Fiction/Nonfiction/Memoir/personal narrative: Where do you plant your flag(s)?</li> </ul>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not so tense: Loosening up the words on the page.</li> <li>• Whose line is it anyway?: Playing with narrative stances.</li> </ul>      |
| Day 2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character as pulse and heartbeat</li> <li>• Inviting a character onto the page</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviewing a character.</li> <li>• A merciless 360: What do others have to say about this character?</li> </ul>                      |
| Day 3   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Situation and the Story: What are we really writing about? What do plot, context or theme have to do with it?</li> <li>• Inciting incidents, crossroads, and revelations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut and paste: What can be shuffled and shifted?</li> <li>• Interiority and how what happens off the page shapes your work.</li> </ul> |
| Day 4   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadening horizons 1 – the uses of distance</li> <li>• Broadening horizons 2 – the uses of time</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional Layer Cake</li> <li>• Getting unstuck: the power of one good line.</li> </ul>  |
| Day 5   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflecting on the week</li> <li>• Looking ahead: What’s next?</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q&amp;A with Melissa and Priscilla: Ask us about our writing practices and publication experiences.</li> </ul>                         |

## ii) Consultations

### Before the Retreat

- **Zoom Consultation with Priscilla.** A 40-minute chat to say hello, discuss where you're at in your writing journey, what you'd like to get out of the course and to answer any questions you have. This will take place in the month before the retreat,

### During the Retreat

- **One-to-One Consultation (Wednesday to Saturday afternoons).** A 40-minute meeting with Priscilla to discuss and receive feedback on your writing. If already working on a story, novel or work of creative nonfiction, you'll send an outline and up to 3,000 words to Priscilla two weeks before the course starts. If a novice, you can email me a page or two of what you've written during the course ahead of the consultation or bring it to the consultation for on-the-spot feedback.

### After the Retreat

- **Zoom Consultation with Priscilla.** A 40-minute Zoom chat after the retreat to discuss your progress, address any questions and draw up a continuation plan.

## GUIDED WALKS AND FREE TIME

Guided Walks: On two of the five afternoons we will offer: a guided literary stroll of the tiny hamlet of Romanyà de la Selva discussing some of the highlights of author Mercè Rodoreda's life and a walk through the forest to the impressive Bronze Age dolmen La Cova d'en Daina, after which the retreat house is named; a guided walk along rugged clifftops with views of the Mediterranean and glimpses of hidden coves and sandy beaches with the option for a sea swim.

Strolling or hiking: We're up a hill at the edge of an extensive forested natural reserve with several glorious hiking trails. We recommend following the signposted circuit to visit the wonderful giant oaks and following stretches of the GR92 through the hills.

Cycling: the hilly area around Girona is known as one of the cycling capitals of the world! There'll be a couple of mountain bikes you can borrow (best for the dirt tracks through the forest) and we can arrange the hire of excellent road bikes for serious cyclists, if given a few weeks' notice.

More: Swim in the pool, if warm enough. Enjoy the garden or lounge in one of the many reading nooks and crannies inside Casa La Daina. Play billiards, table tennis or board games. Nap...

Please note that Romanyà de la Selva does not have any shops, cafes or bars. The nearest supermarket, pharmacy and post office are in Santa Cristina D'Aro, a ten-minute drive away. Please bring all that you will need with you and then switch off the need to shop for five days!

## FOOD AND DRINK

- Breakfasts are self-serve, along the lines of overnight oats, cereal, yoghurt, homemade breads, jams, eggs and ham.
- Lunch is a nutritious, filling buffet. Think hearty soups, quiches, tortillas, salads, hams and cheese.
- Delicious three-course dinners may include a paella, a Catalan feast, a Thai night and a barbecue. On Thursday night we will eat out at a wonderful harbour-side restaurant in Sant Feliu de Guixols (not included in the retreat price, about 30 euros for the three-course set menu).
- There will be coffee, tea, biscuits and maybe the occasional cake available during the day.
- Wine and other drinks are not included in the retreat fee. You'll be able to purchase excellent wine from us at cost value or you're welcome to bring your own. Tap water is fine to drink, though we will provide bottled water too.
- Vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, gluten-free and lactose-free diets will be catered for, if we are informed of your food requirements in good time. Please inform us when you book. Unfortunately, those with nut and other severe allergies cannot be catered for.

## RETREAT FEES

Book before 1 April 2026 for a £100 early bird discount.

Under 40? Apply for our 50% Bursary before 26 April 2026. Details and [apply here](#).

| Room       | Size (m2) | Bathroom       | Retreat Fee £                     |
|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mercè      | 28.5      | Ensuite bath   | 2,450 for one /1,800 each for two |
| Núria      | 12.5      | Shared shower  | 2,200                             |
| Montserrat | 20        | Shared shower  | 2,300                             |
| Libertad   | 21        | Ensuite shower | 2,400 for one /1,750 each for two |
| Pilar      | 16        | Shared shower  | 2,200                             |
| Carmen     | 15        | Shared shower  | 2,200                             |
| Federica   | 15        | Own shower     | 2,250                             |
| Ana        | 12        | Ensuite shower | 2,250                             |

- The retreat fees vary depending on which room you'd like. [View the rooms here.](#)
- There are extra non-private writing spaces throughout the villa and farmhouse.
- If you're interested in sharing Mercè or Libertad, consider inviting another writing friend so you're sharing with someone you know. Alternatively, we'll aim to pair you with someone suitable. Contact us to find out more.
- Please note the retreat is for writers only. We cannot accept non-writing companions.
- The £ sterling fee is the fixed retreat fee. Ask Priscilla for currency conversions.

#### **Included in the retreat fee:**

- a 40-minute Zoom consultation with PRISCILLA MORRIS before the retreat to hear where you are in your writing journey and to set your writing intentions.
- pick up and drop off from Santa Cristina D'Aro coach stop, if required
- 6 nights' accommodation at Casa La Daina.
- Welcome packs
- 6 x self-serve breakfasts, 5 x buffet lunches, 5 x 3-course dinners. Coffee, tea, biscuits and the occasional cake. A welcome and goodbye drink. Light canapés on the first and last night.
- 10 x 1-hour creative writing classes facilitated by Melissa Fu, 4 x 2-hour workshops/discussions and 1 group reading facilitated by Priscilla Morris
- a 40-minute individual mentoring consultation with Priscilla during the retreat.
- two optional guided walks, transport as necessary.
- access to swimming pool (unheated), two mountain bikes and helmets, a couple of yoga mats and props, billiards, ping pong, board games.
- bedrooms come with soap, bed linen, blankets, a big and small towel per person, a beach towel per person, a writing table and chair per person, shared hair dryers
- Wi-Fi, use of washing machine, iron, board, two fully equipped kitchens (limited access to the kitchen in the villa while Lucy works from late morning till dinner time, but tea, coffee and biscuits will be available)
- transport to and from a lovely harbour-side restaurant on the Wednesday night (note the price of the meal is not included)
- a follow-up 40-minute Zoom consultation with Priscilla after the course to consolidate learning and draw up a continuation plan.

#### **Not included in the fee:**

- flights, trains or other means of transport to and from Spain. Please arrange these yourself and let us know.
- transport to and from Casa La Daina (unless you travel to/from Santa Cristina D'Aro for a free pick up / drop off)
- wine and other drinks at dinner. (We will sell good Spanish wine at cost price, approx. 8-15 euros a bottle.)
- one dinner at a lovely harbour-side restaurant in Sant Feliu de Guixols. The excellent three-course set menu is about 30 euros (not including drinks) or you can order à la carte, if you wish.
- printing at 40 cents a page.
- high-quality road bikes and helmets. We'd be happy to arrange these, if given a couple of weeks' notice.

## GETTING HERE

- Romanyà de la Selva is 35 minutes from Girona and 90 minutes from Barcelona.
- Girona Airport is our closest airport, followed by Barcelona Airport. The high-speed train from France stops in both Girona and Barcelona.
- From Barcelona airport and Barcelona centre, you can take a coach which will drop you off at Santa Cristina d'Aro and we'll pick you up from there. One way from Barcelona Airport is about €20. Download Omio app for coach times and to book.
- Alternatively, we can arrange taxis from Barcelona Airport or centre (about €180 per taxi) or Girona Airport or centre (€50-€65 per taxi) straight to Casa La Daina. We'd be happy to organise taxi shares wherever possible. This would be the fastest, most comfortable option.
- Consider spending some time in Girona, the Costa Brava or Barcelona before or after the retreat and making a holiday out of it!

## PAYMENT AND CANCELLATIONS

### Payment schedule. Payments as follows:

- £250/€300 deposit at the time of booking
- The balance to be paid by 30 June 2026

### Making the Payment

- Please pay by bank transfer. Contact us for payment instructions when you're ready to book.

### Cancellations

- Please note your deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- However, if you need to cancel but can find someone to take your place, we will refund you the balance of the holiday (minus an administration fee of £20) immediately.
- If we find someone to take your place, then we will need to sell out the retreat before refunding the balance of payment.

## BOOK or ENQUIRE

Places are limited to 8-10 participants so book early to secure a place and the room you want. Email [priscilla\\_morris@hotmail.com](mailto:priscilla_morris@hotmail.com) to enquire about or book a place on the Autumn Writing Retreat 2026. She'll get back to you as soon as possible.

We'd love to see you in Romanyà de la Selva this October and are excited to share this magical part of the world with you!

[www.priscillamorris.org](http://www.priscillamorris.org)