

PRESS RELEASE - LITERALLY PR (info@literallypr.com @literallypr)
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Queer YA Takes Centre Stage at the British Library *The Boy From Elsewhere* Launches with Heartstopper Star Tobie Donovan



12th February 2026, London, United Kingdom: A powerful new Young Adult novel exploring identity, belonging, and the courage to find where you truly fit was celebrated at a special London launch event last night (11th February 2026), as author **Kestral Gaian** and publisher **Reconnecting Rainbows Press**, unveiled *The Boy From Elsewhere* at the iconic British Library.

Hosted by actor **Tobie Donovan**, best known for playing Isaac in Alice Oseman's *Heartstopper*, the RSVP-only evening brought together readers, creatives, and the publishing community for readings, conversation, signing, and a celebration of queer storytelling.

The novel marks the first instalment in Gaian's eagerly anticipated *Reality Quake* series and has already drawn attention for its emotionally resonant storytelling, richly imagined world, and authentic portrayal of queer friendship and found family. Described by some early readers as "a modern-day Oscar Wilde", Gaian is a prolific writer, playwright, author and poet. His latest poetry collection, *Tubelines*, released in October 2025 and received myriad 5-star reviews. Gaian also,

quite literally, wrote the book on Section 28. They created an anthology of works by the survivors of the Section 28 era, published by Reconnecting Rainbows Press.

A Story for a New Generation of Readers

Blending speculative imagination with deeply human questions about identity, loyalty, and choice, *The Boy From Elsewhere*, Gaian's latest YA novel, speaks directly to teenagers navigating who they are, while offering adults a meaningful way to reconnect through shared reading.

Kestral Gaian, author, said:

“I wanted to write a story that treats teenagers as real, thoughtful humans navigating huge emotional questions about identity, belonging, and change. Queerness in this book isn’t a problem to solve - it’s simply part of the fabric of these characters’ lives. My hope is that readers of all ages see themselves reflected somewhere in these pages.”

A Night Celebrating Queer Creativity and Community

The launch event featured welcome remarks from the publisher, two live readings from the novel, and a host-led conversation exploring the book’s themes, creative origins, and the evolving landscape of queer storytelling.

Tobie Donovan, host, said:

“It is a privilege to be part of an event that celebrates queer stories, and it’s lovely to be here in the British Library, where parts of *The Boy From Elsewhere* is set. It is such a feat to write a whole novel and it’s amazing to be part of this celebration. There needs to be more stories like this one in the mainstream and championed by everyone.”

Publisher Vision

Published by Reconnecting Rainbows Press, *The Boy From Elsewhere* reflects the publisher’s mission to champion inclusive storytelling and amplify LGBTQ+ voices for young readers.

Ash Brockwell, publisher, said:

“From the moment we encountered Kestral’s story, we knew it was something special - bold, compassionate, and urgently relevant. This launch is not just about one book, but about the growing future of inclusive YA storytelling and the communities it helps to build.”

Additional Details

Book: *The Boy From Elsewhere*

Author: Kestral Gaian

Publisher: Reconnecting Rainbows Press
Publication date: 6 February 2026
Launch event: British Library, London
Date & time: Wednesday 11 February 2026, 7:00pm-9:00pm
Host: Tobie Donovan (Actor)
Author online: <https://kestr.al/>
Book purchase link: <https://mybook.to/TheBoyFromElsewhere>

Media Enquiries

For review copies, exclusive interviews, event photography, please contact:

Literally PR: dianaashlee@literallypr.com

Media folder: <https://bit.ly/KestralGaian>

Notes to editors

- *The Boy From Elsewhere* by Kestral Gaian is a queer YA novel exploring identity, belonging and chosen family.
- Reconnecting Rainbows is an independent publisher of bold, beautiful, boundary-breaking literature from queer storytellers: <https://reconnectingrainbows.co.uk/>
- **Kestral Gaian** (They/Them) is a writer of fiction, theatre, and poetry, whose work explores systems, survival, and the strange beauty of being human. From young adult fiction to non-fiction essays, poetry to plays, screenplays to audio drama, their writing blends speculative imagination with emotional clarity - often asking what it means to stay human in systems that seem to forget what that means.
- **Tobie Donovan** (He/Him) is best known for his portrayal of the loveable 'Isaac' in Netflix's hugely successful series HEARTSTOPPER. He booked the show through an open casting call, standing out amongst thousands of young actors from around the UK. His stage work includes 'Harry' in PAPER CUT at the Park Theatre. Most recently, Tobie guest starred in the new series LYNLEY as 'Ryan Kilfoyle'.

-Ends-