

JESSICA DUNROD

HERITAGE

Born in Cardiff, Jessica Dunrod was raised proudly Caribbean.

Her grandparents and father, from St Catherine, Jamaica, ensured their children understood their heritage and identity.

Inside the family home was Caribbean culture, language and pride.

WALES MEANS...

LOUD PROUD WILD

Wales did not feel like hers until her early thirties.

After the George Floyd movement, she stated "if no one was going to define a Black Welsh identity for me, then I had to claim my own."

Learning late that natural features were never the problem, wearing her natural hair became a pledge to represent that identity openly.



LITERATURE & ARTS

CONTRIBUTION

Jessica writes children's books that reshape how young readers understand Wales and themselves.

Recognised as the first Black children's author and publisher, born in Wales.

Her book about rugby legend Billy Boston ensures a Black Welsh sporting pioneer is remembered.

Your Hair Is Your Crown encourages pride in natural hair and identity. She writes so children never have to unlearn that pain.

STRENGTHS & JOY

Jessica has a strong instinct for language and storytelling. School visits, where children respond with curiosity and confidence, bring her the greatest joy.

“YOU WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO FIT IN... FIT INTO WHAT?”