

PRESS KIT · 2026

SPEECHDEBELLE.COM

# Speech Debelle

Author · Voice artist · Angler · Mercury Prize winner

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Black Fish: How to fish, and stories of the wata, kin & community (Watkins, 2026)

BIOGRAPHY

# Speech DeBelle has always been a storyteller. She's just changed the medium.

Born Corynne Elliott and raised in South London, she first came to national attention in 2009 when her debut album *Speech Therapy* won the Mercury Prize for British Album of the Year. Three more acclaimed albums followed, along with a reputation for honest, vulnerable writing delivered in an unmistakable voice.

That voice went on to change the sound of British advertising. Since her first campaign for H&M in 2018, Speech has been at the forefront of the move away from polished announcers towards real, rhythmic, conversational voices. She is the brand voice for eBay and has voiced campaigns for Google Pixel, Facebook, Barclays and ASOS, national initiatives including *Get Into Teaching*, the Channel 4 documentary *Murder in the Alps*, VR projects, sleep stories, and animation alongside Evanna Lynch.

Over the years she has followed her curiosity wherever it led: reaching the semi-finals of *Celebrity MasterChef*, hosting the food-and-music podcast *The Work Brunch*, publishing a cookbook-memoir, and spending three years at Arts Council England, where she led the Black Influencers Masterclass and Programme to open up funding for Black and Brown creatives.

Then she found the water. Speech first picked up a rod at 33, while learning how to be present in her own body and mind. On the UK shoreline, watching the tide and the height of the sun, she found a practice that grounded her and reconnected her with an ancestral relationship to the wata. That led her to co-found *We Are Black Fish*, a UK community celebrating that connection and growing into a BIPOC voice for the British coast. Today she is training as a volunteer watchkeeper with the National Coastwatch Institution, keeping watch over the coastline and alerting HM Coastguard when people get into trouble at sea.

Her book, *Black Fish: How to fish, and stories of the wata, kin & community* (Watkins, 2026), brings it all together: a practical guide to fishing, a memoir and a meditation on healing and belonging.



SHORT BIO

Speech DeBelle is a South London author, voice artist and angler. She wrote *Black Fish*, co-founded the community *We Are Black Fish*, and is the husky, lyrical brand voice for eBay. She won the 2009 Mercury Prize.

REAL NAME  
Corynne Elliott

FROM  
South London

AWARD  
Mercury Prize, 2009 (*Speech Therapy*)

BOOK  
*Black Fish* (Watkins, 2026)

COMMUNITY  
Co-founder, *We Are Black Fish*

VOICE  
Brand voice for eBay

THE BOOK

# Black Fish

How to fish, and stories of the wata, kin & community

Black Fish is a book about fishing. It's also about what the wata holds.

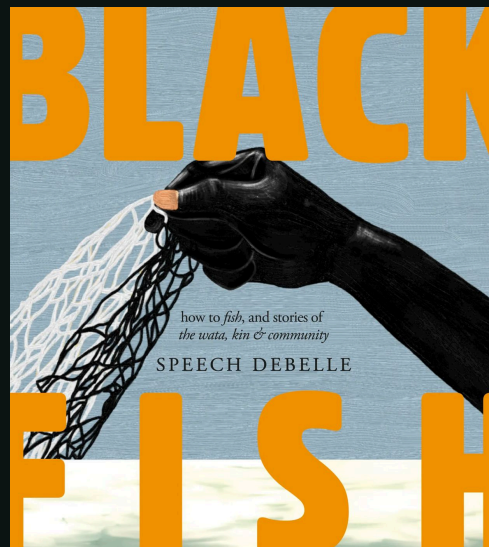
Speech DeBelle didn't pick up a rod until she was 33. What she found on the UK shoreline wasn't a hobby but a relationship: with the tide, with her own body, and with the wata itself, a presence she began to suspect might be aware of her too.

Part practical guide, part memoir, part conversation with seasoned anglers, Black Fish follows how our peoples have moved across water, fished it, survived it, and been pushed away from it. It asks what it means to return. To say all rivers, lakes and seas belong to me. To heal at the wata's edge, and to build community there.

And it will teach you to fish: kit, knots, casting, tides, weather, safety, and what to do when you finally get a bite.

For anyone who has stood at the edge of the sea and felt something look back.

*Wata – the way it feels escaping the mouth  
– is more like a prayer.*



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PUBLISHER  
Watkins, 2026

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FORMATS  
Hardback · Audiobook, read by the author

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AUDIOBOOK  
Audible · Apple Books · Spotify

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INSIDE  
The Wata · Ancestry · Healing · The Craft · Community

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LISTEN TO THE OPENING  
[speechdebelle.com/black-fish](https://speechdebelle.com/black-fish)

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# From the cities to the seas.

A UK fishing community bringing people together at the British coast to fish, cook, eat and talk, and growing into a BIPOC voice for the British coast.

## Hook Ups

Our monthly gatherings, and the heart of everything. We fish, cook, eat and talk together, in a space centred on Black and Global Majority people.

## Coastal knowledge

Sustainable fishing, fish stocks, seasons, tides, pollution and the changing coast, explained clearly and honestly.

## Food & culture

Sustainable seafood through Caribbean, African and other food cultures.

[weareblackfish.com](https://weareblackfish.com) · [hello@weareblackfish.com](mailto:hello@weareblackfish.com)

# The voice that helped change the way Britain sounds.

A Mercury Prize-winning lyricist, Speech was one of the first to carry the cadence of UK rap and spoken word into mainstream advertising, and she proved that a South London voice, just as it is, could carry the weight of global tech brands and major banks.

**Global brands:** Google Pixel · Facebook · H&M · eBay (brand voice)

**UK campaigns:** Barclays "Moneyverse" · ASOS "I Stand Out" · Moncler

**National initiatives:** Get Into Teaching · National Literacy

**Documentary:** Murder in the Alps (Channel 4)

**Animation, VR & apps:** Animation alongside Evanna Lynch · VR projects · Sleep stories

Represented by The Joneses. Lizzie Doherty:  
[lizzie@meetthejoneses.co.uk](mailto:lizzie@meetthejoneses.co.uk)



## MUSIC

# Where the storytelling began.

In 2009, Speech Debelle's debut album *Speech Therapy* won the Mercury Prize for British Album of the Year, beating Florence and the Machine, Kasabian and La Roux. Three more albums followed, each one honest, poetic and unmistakably hers. The music is where the voice, the writing and the storytelling all began.



### Sunday Dinner On A Monday

2023 · "Atlantis"



### Tantil Before I Breathe

2017 · "The Work"



### Freedom of Speech

2012 · Ninja Tune · "Live For The Message"



### Speech Therapy

2009 · Ninja Tune · Mercury Prize winner · "Spinnin'"

## ALSO

Semi-finalist, *Celebrity MasterChef*

Host, *The Work Brunch*, a food-and-music podcast

Author of a cookbook-memoir

Three years at Arts Council England, leading the Black Influencers Masterclass and Programme

Training as a volunteer watchkeeper with the National Coastwatch Institution

[Bandcamp](#) · [SoundCloud](#) · [YouTube](#) · [Spotify](#)

## PRESS PHOTOS

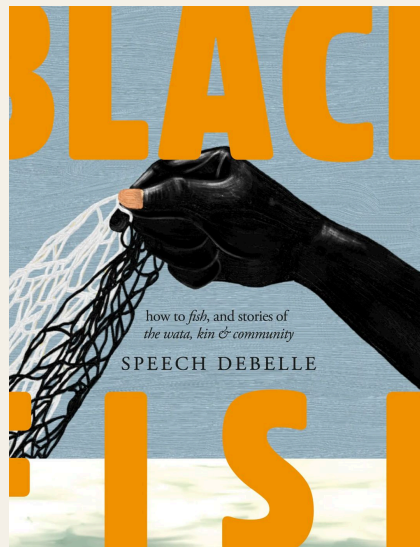
# Images



Photo: Ty Faruki



Photo: Ty Faruki



Cover design: Ana Pryor · Illustration: Mercy Thokozane Minah

Download the press photos from the Contact section of [speechdebelle.com](https://speechdebelle.com), or request them via [contact@speechdebelle.com](mailto:contact@speechdebelle.com). Please credit as shown.

## CONTACT

# Get in touch.

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### BOOK, FILM & TV

OWN IT! Agency  
[Agency@OWNIT.London](mailto:Agency@OWNIT.London)

### WE ARE BLACK FISH

[hello@weareblackfish.com](mailto:hello@weareblackfish.com)

### PRESS, EVENTS & EVERYTHING ELSE

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