

# STILL REBELLING FOR LIFE



Sue Hampton

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## Intro

REBELLING FOR LIFE was a fundraiser for Extinction Rebellion's Legal Fund, but I always hoped that it would encourage supporters on the edge of taking direct action to become Rebels, so I've been glad when extra copies have been bought as gifts for activists' family and friends. This sequel picks up where that collection left off, exploring my experience and feelings in poetry and prose and adapting Rebel life into fiction in the short stories.

The poems tend to be written fresh, while multi-sensory experience – often in action with XR or Christian Climate Action – remains vivid. Sometimes the stories are translations that draw heavily on my reality, but I've created characters who direct the narrative in the way that characters should. Some of them are quite different from me in age, background and personality, and while many events in the stories actually happened, other plotlines were inspired by situations I can only imagine, such as struggling with the grief and demands of the climate crisis alongside an unsupportive partner. Or how two people might fall in love via Zoom during lockdown: a conventional citizen who hasn't yet understood, emotionally as well as intellectually, that climate change is a Code Red for humanity, and a committed Rebel living simply by the light and darkness of that truth.

I'm a Quaker and lifelong Pacifist who prefers to call myself a follower of Jesus rather than a Christian, choosing love and justice before doctrine. Oh, and in case anyone wonders, I lost all my hair to alopecia universalis in 1981 and used to support adults and children with hair loss. After nineteen years as a primary school teacher, I gave up a job I had loved to be a full-time author. But with nine arrests at the time of writing I'm no longer booked by schools and this book, my 41st, is pretty much the sum total of my writing in 2021. At sixty-five my identity is primarily activist grandma – and I've recently decided to donate everything I earn (not a hill of beans) from all my titles to XR. While like many Rebels I live with depression which I consider to be climate grief, I'm blessed with a remarkable, gifted, caring and indomitable husband who encouraged me to recover myself, and without whom I would probably still be hiding under a wig. Our leaders can't be trusted but I believe in my family and friends and everyone who takes peacefully to the streets because