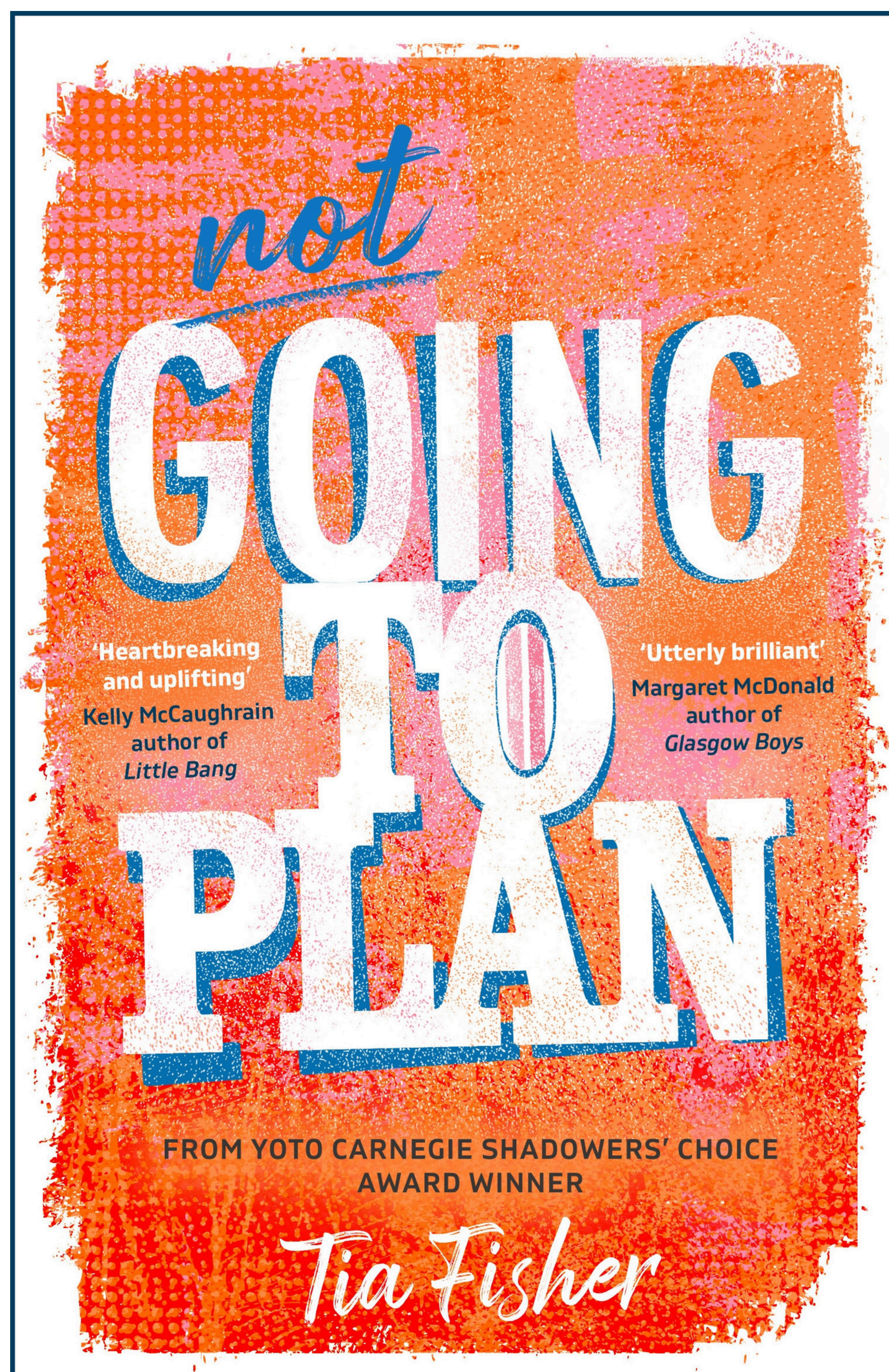


The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



Not Going To Plan

Carnegie Medal for Writing

Author: Tia Fisher

Age range: 14+

Description:

A romantic entanglement takes a dark turn in this tale of control and consent. Friends Marnie and Zed are left with impossible decisions and difficult consequences. Playful use of language highlights character relationships and the twists and turns that these take and showcases how important the words we use are in determining our identities.

Themes:

- Verse
- Empathy
- Consent
- Identity
- Teenage pregnancy
- Stealthing
- Friendship

Shadowing Ideas:

1. In *Not Going to Plan*, Zed quotes physicist Melvin Schwartz, who was a co-winner of the Nobel Prize in 1988 (p. 346). Is there someone who inspires you? It could be a scientist, as it is for Zed, an artist, musician, politician, humanitarian or even a family member. Think about what makes their contribution special and share these attributes with your shadowing group. You could even create a group anthology of short biographical profiles.
2. *Not Going to Plan* is a verse novel in which Tia Fisher tells Marnie and Zed's stories in different verse forms. Choose one of the following to depict a memorable event in your day (past or present; good or bad): haiku, acrostic, shape poem, rhyming couplet, sonnet, limerick.
3. Marnie's GCSE art exam is described in detail in *Not Going to Plan*; she uses a variety of media, including collage, screen printing and sculpture to create something which is very personal. Either choose one of these to create your own personal piece or find out about the life and artwork of Nnena Kalu, who won the prestigious 2025 Turner Prize.