

Inca Author Information Page

Andy Paine

Currently living in: Sydney, Australia

Main works: Bad Business

I started writing because: I write because I daydream, and it seemed as though my imagination wouldn't shut up until I gave it a voice. Now I see inspiration for lampooning things just about everywhere I turn. It's a wonderfully abundant society we live in for a writer of satire/allegory etc

My main writing interests are: Comedic fantasy, particularly those with a satirical element.

My sources of research and information are: The world around me. I don't over research things as I don't want my books to make too much sense. The vast majority of my characters are idiotic, so I try not to educate them if it can be avoided.

My inspiration comes from: It's a mix really. I love world building and creating these crazy places that fly in the face of the world as we know it, and then I am fascinated by dropping real world problems/issues into that mix and just seeing where they lead. Its just an interesting way to take a look at flawed aspects of modern society. And then there is the English language itself. The quirks of modern language are very interesting, and I like exploring them. We use so many clichés and metaphors etc, and most of the time we no longer know why we use them or what the origin is. It's fun to break them apart, make them literal, and see where they go.

My stories are planned like this: I like to have a plot outlined, with a beginning, rough story arc, and a conclusion etc before I really dig in. This may be the project management course I tried to ignore years ago talking, but I don't so much plan in minute details, rather I set milestones of where the plot needs to progress to by certain points in the book. That allows for digressions as I see fit, and I think its important in humour to follow tangents in the pursuit of comedy. These are daft nonsensical characters and making them follow a linear plot line would be counterproductive and inauthentic. I also remind myself that the comedy/characters drive the story, so I allow it to go where they take it. Too much character control and they are no longer fully formed personalities. I just pull them back on course every so often if they refuse to leave the pub.

I have written a series of books based on: The great unwashed city of Titan, a place where absolutely everything is impossible! It is a city full of bizarre people, doing ridiculous things. There really are no rules in Titan, and from that starting point each book picks a set of characters and places them in circumstances that mirror a real world situation, i.e. small business, a political election, a war campaign, or the creation of private health care.

My future plans are to: I definitely gravitate towards the more irreverent styles, and I have a lot of future ideas for more Titanic Tales. I am currently working on a few of these, with Dumb Luck (religion/politics), Wealth Care (Health system), and Raw Crimes (War) all partially complete. I also like writing high concept short stories, and I have tried my hand at Childrens stories too.

My own favourite character is: I have always liked Detective Dan, more than I ever intended. I plan to utilise him regularly in future Titanic Tales. I also love the character Cornelius Bysterveld. He only plays a very minor role, but he is just so incredibly ridiculous. It was a blast writing his scenes.

I sometimes find myself thinking like: I like to think they are all like me in some way or another. I guess I identify with Detective Dan the most. Just the constant failures and tribulations, but at his core he remains an optimist in spite of himself. His coffee addiction is also very relateable!

I also have a few other books I'd like to highlight as follows: I have a novella called 'The Life and Lies of Danny Diaz' that has garnered some handy reviews, and I think has prospects as the basis for a film. I plan to make the story available for free download soon.

My advice to new writers would be: I'd say the best thing I ever did was embracing the writing community, meeting likeminded and talented authors. Its amazing how much I learnt about writing through peer interaction, and it is a great way to get educated feedback from people with no vested interest in either you or your work. And of course, keep writing! You get better and better the more you do it. You very rarely hear an author say that their first book was their best.

Writing has its ups and downs: The best aspect is easily writing a first draft – just imagining places and scenarios and getting it down on paper. I find that process so liberating and cathartic. It gets progressively less fun from that point on. Editing and re-editing and so on is laborious, but it is essential. Having a good story is one thing; making that story accessible and fully formed to a reader is another art altogether. The world is littered with potentially good first drafts, as are my cupboards. It's all worth it when you finally publish and can be proud of what you have created.

When I'm not writing: Playing or watching football, or watching youtube clips of people failing at things.

For copy editing and proofreading: I constantly edit my own work, and I have a pool of proofreaders that I utilise. I also have some very kind and altruistic author pals whose input I value and trust. So I often impose upon them from the safety of another continent.

I accept criticism from: Absolutely everyone. Criticism can be a lot more helpful than praise. Obviously some of it is thoughtful and provides valid points, and some is ill considered. Not everyone is going to like your style of book, particularly if it sits in a niche market. I think I've learnt not to try please everyone; after all, no one wants a watered down book that doesn't know what it wants to be. So I take all feedback on its own merits. Naturally feedback from a comedy reader or writer is more relevant to me than that from writer of detective murder mysteries etc. I tend to wait until a particular point/criticism is raised on a few occasions before I consider changing it.

My experiences with self-publishing: As a whole it was very fulfilling. My book is out there as I imagined it and as I wanted it done. Obviously a traditional publishing house was the dream, but it's increasingly just not a reality for most authors given the emergence of ebooks etc, particularly not when you write in a niche market. I am not a natural with all the formatting etc. needed for self publishing, but there are enough guides etc. available on this site that I was able to work through it, and it is a wonderful feeling to follow an idea from its birth all the way through to fruition. Now, I can go back to writing and start again.

I promote my books via: I really am not very accomplished at marketing. I have a website and all the usual social media accounts, but I would much rather just write. Call me optimistic, or even a delusional, but I believe that ultimately, producing a catalogue of good books is what is most important.

My favourite mainstream authors are: I guess unsurprising given my writing, that I gravitate towards humour, particularly Pratchett, Adams, Rankin, and Milligan. I have always loved Dahl and

Jennings, and then also fantasy authors like Brent Weeks, Peter Brent etc. I really do like Jules Verne and RL Stevenson. Oh, and JK Rowling.

I am currently reading: I don't read when I'm writing or I find myself unintentionally mimicking the style of the author im reading. I plan to read 'Dragons at Crumbling Castle' by Pratchett next time I take a break from writing.

I prefer to read books in: I don't own a kindle, and have never read an ebook. I may be old fashioned in a modern industry but I just cant go past a tattered old paperback. I like the folded pages, and the rough edges, and the creased spine. Stories are meant to travel.

A bit about my other interests: I despise pumpkin, but I like pumpkin soup. Go figure.

My most unattainable ambition is: Wake up one day and find a letter in my mailbox addressed to me, advising that Hogwarts have decided to accept mature age students, and I'm invited!

Last thoughts before we go down the pub/club/library/boot-sale/exercise yard: Just a big thanks to the Inca crew for this fantastic service they provide. If you are the kind of person that needs stress balls to unwind, then why not try Bad Business instead.

Author Links

Website: andypainebooks.com

Amazon Author page:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B018XJXHTA?keywords=Andy%20Paine%20Bad%20Business&qid=1449537892&ref_=sr_1_1&sr=8-1

Twitter: @Andy_A_Paine

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/> N/A

Any other links: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/14741104.Andy_Paine