

Inca Author Information Page

Phillip.D.Curwood

Currently living in: Shipley Park, Derbyshire

Main works: Arabella: A Picture of Beauty

I started writing because: I suppose I have always wanted to be a writer since an early age, but it took something unique to happen, a trigger to take up the pen and compose an actual novel is not to be sniffed at. If it wasn't for the Sir Godfrey Kneller portrait of Lady Jane Smijth (with a 'J') hanging in the Great hall of Newstead Abbey, I doubt I would have been inspired enough to let go of my wordly senses and enter the dreamy void of authorship.

My main writing interests are: That's easy... The supernatural, Sci Fi, and factual history of lesser known individuals.

My sources of research and information are: I'm mostly inspired by music, and see a story unfold in my head like a film when I listen to particular favourite classical peices. Obvious interactions and passions for erstwhile buildings like Annesley Hall do the rest. History and my voluntary work at several museums has helped me gain an understanding of the people and places long forgotten.

My inspiration comes from: My trigger for Arabella came in the guise of a 17th Century portrait attributed to the artist, Sir Godfrey Kneller. Lady Jane Smijth has got to be the most beautiful woman I have ever laid my eyes on (beside my wife)... and she was the root of my inspiration. But it wasn't until I was listening to the radio and reading 'Sense and Sensibility' that the whole story came together. The character in Jane Austen's novel, Marianne, was about to meet the dashing John Willoughby while out walking, at the same time a song by Gordon Lightfoot 'If you could read my mind' caught my ear and the story of Arabella soon fell into place. A 19th century heiress who was hopelessly in love with a Theodore Bramley... all inspired by a portrait and Jane Austen; not forgetting Gordon Lightfoot (Lytefoot Park). My love for ghost stories did the rest.

My stories are planned like this: My story was planned out as a take on the 19th Century writers, however, nobody in this century likes 'Purple Prose' so with a heavy heart I had to change it awkwardly back to a more basic 21st century English mode. I hate the writing of today...

I have written a series of books based on: No series, but a sequel of a sort will be in the offing - Watch this space!

My future plans are to: For now I like writing about the supernatural, but if I carry on writing, then maybe I shall write about my other love, which is 'Time Travel'.

My own favourite character is: I love Arabella to bits because she is very much like my wife, determined, capricious and somewhat tenacious in her attitude... I love her!

I sometimes find myself thinking like: A friend of mine is very much like Nathan Rothwell... I shall say no more than that.

I also have a few other books I'd like to highlight as follows: I haven't got that far yet, but my next book will be entitled 'Lytefoot Legacy'. A sequel of a sort set in the present day.

My advice to new writers would be: My advice would be to never give up, and if you have a real passion for writing, listen to your heart, never your head... and read lots of books to gain an understanding of style and structure of a story.

Writing has its ups and downs: Best aspect has to be the days you feel eager to write. Worst aspect is sitting at the desk with a 'Mental Block!' Horrible.

When I'm not writing: I read a lot, I also like taking to the Derbyshire hills, finding it in me to walk for miles, looking out for historic landmarks and places of interest. I'm also a keen fan of Tennis, especially Andy Murray. I play Badminton when I can, and am highly competitive for an old guy. I like museums and art... It's a huge clique in art circles, but I love the work of John Constable, and always have, including his early portraits. Not many people know the great man painted people as well as landscapes.

For copy editing and proofreading: I edit alone and proofread, along with the help of fellow Incarist Robert Wingfield, of which my work would be a pile of pap without.

I accept criticism from: I don't! I hate criticism in any form, mostly because I am passionate about my book. My ethos is 'words are words' and 'opinions are just opinions'. Readers will either love or hate your book no matter how good or badly it's written... biasness gets in the way all the time; human nature dictates, simple as that.

My experiences with self-publishing: I found the whole experience of self-publishing a miracle. Giving my story to the world would not have been possible a few years ago, but with the advent of the internet, the whole world of self-publishing has a new lease of life.

I promote my books via: I'm still learning, however I'm on Twitter and soon shall be on Facebook. I have an idea to take a few copies of my work to the local library and to also inform the local rag they have an author in town... all good for business don't you agree!

My favourite mainstream authors are: Neil Gaiman, Dan Brown, Susan Hill, Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens, H.G.Wells... the list goes on.

I am currently reading: Robert Wingfields 'Ankarita'. I must say, it has many twists and turns, and I believe there is a little Neil Gaiman screaming out the pages.

I prefer to read books in: I prefer e-book format these days. My collection of physical copies is at a joke's end, and I have no room to move in my house anymore.

A bit about my other interests: One of the odd things about me is that I like to landscape gardens... yes I'm an Alan Titchmarsh! I suppose that goes hand in hand with the mundane, the mundane thing being that I love to mow my lawn every single week... very therapeutic indeed.

My most unattainable ambition is: To see Arabella on TV or at the cinema.

Last thoughts before we go down the pub/club/library/boot-sale/exercise yard: Unlike my protagonist 'Nathan Rothwell' I don't drink, never smoked, and always exercise to keep myself fit. I'm 52, but don't look it. On top of that, my wife was surprised to find I'd written a romance. She knows me all too well... as for me being a carer for my 28 year old daughter; well it's the best job in the world.

Author Links

Website: www.incaproject.co.uk

Amazon Author page: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Arabella-Picture-Beauty-Phillip-Curwood/dp/1515072592>

Twitter: @D_Curwood

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/> Coming soon

Any other links: <http://www.zipworld.com.au/~lnbdds/home/smijthdebate.htm>