



## Newsletter

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*Issue 6 - June 2016*

Welcome to our sixth newsletter from the project, along with the possibility that summer has finally arrived.

This is our way of staying in touch with our membership, now having passed a half-century of exceptional authors. We are highlighting your work and bringing you all up to date with the latest writings.

We hope you enjoy reading it and would welcome any feedback.

If there is anything else you would like to see, or you find any inaccuracies then please email me. As we are stored electronically, the newsletter can be updated on the hoof.

Best wishes

Bridget

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## News from the Incas

### Inca Symposia

While we were visiting the old ancestors in Cheshire, we contacted two of our 'local' writers and had two meetings in agreeable hostelries for face to face and catch up. While we kept the 'business' to a minimum, we did more 'business' with ale and hearty chat.

This was the north-west, but if there are huddles of authors in other parts of the UK, and you would like a get-together, then please let me know. Things can be organised.

### Fire & Steel by C R May...

...got to number one in the Amazon Historical Norse fiction listings (3rd April 2016). One of his reviewers (slightly translated from one let down by the education system) tells it all: "Now I'm not the type to tell you every that's happened during the telling of this tale, that's up to you to discover when you read it, but I can only reveal that once again C R May delivers with his latest novel. I found that it is fantastically written with an eye for detail that only a few top class authors can match; he absolutely 100% knows his stuff. He brings us a fantastic new hero in Eofer and an awesome shield-maiden in Spearhavoc who is worthy of future books on her own right. Through a bit part in Mr May's last title, Eofer has been developed into a main character, totally deserving of this and other books, Mr May's work is always a joy and pleasure to read; the battles are very well written and build the tension perfectly, being descriptive without over bloodthirsty. His ship knowledge of that time is excellent too, and you can instantly tell he really knows and loves his research and history, from start to finish."

### The Inside Story

Darius is collecting a number of interviews from characters in the some of the books highlighted. The main site is at <https://theinsidestoryweb.wordpress.com/>

But links are included for authors from the Inca main site.

It's the people *in* the books who are important.

Instead of reading the 'blurb' on the back of a book you can actually 'hear' what a particular character thinks about things. You'll learn his/her 'Inside Story'. In fact, you'll get an insight into his thoughts. Thoughts and ideas that were never told to the writer.

You might think that the creator of a book knows EVERYTHING about the people in their tales? That is where you are wrong. Sign up for updates from 'The Inside Story' and you will find a stranger whispering in your ear (metaphorically of course) and telling you the inside information that has never been told before.

[RW] I've submitted one for The Magus from the Dan series. It is much harder than you might imagine, but a lot of fun. Even the author discovers more about their character when he (me) has to think about an interview with him.

## **This Quarter's Thoughts**

### **Kindle Scout for your new novel?**

If you can hold back on self-publishing your latest novel, think on the service and opportunity provided by Kindle Scout (<https://kindlescout.amazon.com>). You submit, people read and rank, and if you get to the top, "selected books will be published by Kindle Press and receive 5-year renewable terms, a \$1,500 advance, 50% eBook royalty rate, easy rights reversions and featured Amazon marketing."

Does that sound like Authonomy? Maybe, but it might be worth a try, and with Amazon, they are more likely to stick with it.

### **Pricing – Zager and Evans Tubthumping**

What price do you set on your book? Ask yourself how famous you are and how eager people are to read it and if the people who are eager to read it are friends and family that you don't want to rip off. If you are successful and are selling lots of books, then by all means set your prices as high as people will pay to read them, but if not, then consider setting them as low as you possibly can. For an 80K words novel, the minimum price you can set on the Kindle is something like £1.99, and for a paperback, probably £7.50. Even with these attractive prices, you will have difficulty selling fiction, when supermarkets are selling pulp for £3.99, so don't order the Jag just yet.

Kindle Direct Publishing have an option called KDP Select, where in exchange for your soul and a pint of blood, you can participate in a pool of cash based on how far members (usually in the US) read your work. The upside is that you can offer your book on promotion for a few days every now and then. On promotion, the price is zero, but if you add entreaties at the end of the book for people to do you a good review (the end, because if people get that far they are more likely to say something nice) and put in links to your other works, you may get knock-on sales. This of course means you need to have more than one book in a series. Unless you are very lucky, a publisher (or even an agent) will be less likely to market your work, thinking you are a one-hit-wonder (now you see the reference).

### **The Inca Template**

This is being continuously updated. If you are starting a new book, always download the latest version. You will find notes in the text as well. A major change has been to make it so that you only need to fill in the first title page, and then with the cunning combination of keystrokes explained, copy all this information to the rest of the document.

## Chapter Length

At the penultimate chapter of the template, are details of how to add extra chapters if you exceed the standard 24. Why 24? This is worked out based on ideal chapter length (3000-3500) and number of words for a standard novel (80,000). If you find yourself exceeding 30 chapters, consider adding the shorter ones together and using a page break and subtitle to indicate change of scene or time. If you've written something much longer, then consider splitting it into two books. This will keep the cost of your book down and also be of more interest to publishers – you have the beginnings of a series.

## Images in your Text

If you format your images correctly in your manuscript and then convert it to a PDF for upload, they will appear exactly as you want them to, in the correct places.

For the Kindle, if you put images in, they have to be set up to be in-line with the text in order to be treated as another block and turn up where they are supposed to. If you try to use the 'wrap' function to fit, say, a narrow image and still leave space for more text at the side of it, then it may appear anywhere, without the connected text.

If you want captions on an image, right-click on it and 'Add Caption'. For some reason, this attaches the caption to the image, so that it formats correctly in Kindle.

## Reviews on Amazon

All our members can support each other by simply downloading (or buying the paperback of) a few of the other Inca books. Please read them and do a 5 star recommendation if you like what you've read. If you don't like it, or feel it deserves less, don't do a review - better to keep schtum than slag something off, and destroy its chances. Constructive comments for improvements can be sent to me and I'll pass them on anonymously to the authors.

## Taboo words

We are still building our collection of words to try to avoid in your text.

To recap, we have:

- **Well** – beware starting a speech with this
- **Indeed** – only used in Victorian melodramas by the BBC when they want to sound posh. If you write it, try deleting it and see if the context of the line changes. You may use it in speech of course – most people do.
- **Very** – try to be more descriptive (very busy = frantic, overloaded, on fire etc.).
- **Really** – like ‘Very’.
- **Just** – Often not needed. Try removing it completely and if the sense of the phrase changes, qualify it with different words.

## Clichés

These are too numerous to include them all, so we will highlight a few specials of the quarter:

- **Up and running** – originally from mainframe computer programmers, and you don’t want to be associated with that sort of person, now do you?
- **Reboot** - (or booting or anything footwear related that has nothing to do with feet). Again another computer word, shortened from bootstrap, which was the way a computer pulled itself up by its own bootstraps when restarting (without external intervention).

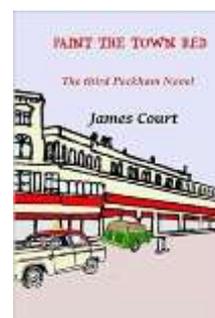
*Please contact us with any other hate words, phrases or clichés you would like us to highlight and we will credit you in the next newsletter.*

## New Books

Our members are publishing new books all the time. If you would like them included here, please let me know directly if I've missed any. I do sometimes see them on Facebook, but would not normally highlight them here unless they have been through the Inca review. We rely on you to tell us when you have published.

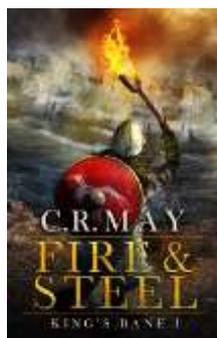
### Paint the Town Red – James Court

The last of the Peckham Chronicles brings the Sixties to a perfect close as the polish and paint factory gropes for survival with the lovely Tracey Mulligan running it. But the combination of incompetent staff and an interfering ex-owner make life challenging for her. More impossible situations and comic events as this third instalment completes the Peckham trilogy. Dumb waiters and silent undertakers are just a few of the new characters that you meet in this final work, and everything draws to a happy conclusion for everyone except dodgy restaurant owners and dedicated gangsters.



### Fire & Steel – C R May

“This is a book the likes of friends Cornwall, Kristian and Low, would give their eye-teeth to have written...do what you can or must to get hold of this book, you won't regret it.” Speesh Reads.



523A.D. Arthur is dead.

Chaos sweeps Britannia as rival warlords fight for control of its riches. Into this toxic brew a small tribe clings to its new colony of Anglia as war rages along the frontier.

But Britannia is not the only land in flux and powerful enemies covet the homeland of Engeln itself. As Danish raids increase in daring and ferocity, a momentous decision is reached as the English king prepares to lead his people on the greatest campaign in their nation's history.

A hero, Eofer King's Bane lands the first blow. Leading a lightning-fast raid he burns Heorot, the heart of the Danish kingdom. Before the Danes can recover, Eofer leads an army north, laying waste the lands of the Jutes as the war of fire and steel begins...

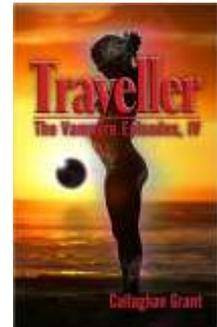
Fire & Steel is the first in a major new series which chronicles the migration and settlement of the first English people, the Angles.

## Traveller – Callaghan Grant (Vampyre Episodes Book 4)

"I invoke The Will that is Holy", she breathed and a whole new vista was revealed.

A Traveller has invaded their realm, opening hearts sealed by time's long wearying road and transforming their world. Their visitor's blood has re-made the Stuart Clan daywalkers and intensified rivalries between even those most deeply bonded by blood and friendship. But Michael has far more than interpersonal issues to manage. The visitor has rendered their world a tropical paradise and attracted the attention of the rival tribe that controls the global banking industry. They will stop at nothing to take the blood that they need to become daywalkers.

Book four of "The Vampyre Episodes", Traveller examines Love's ultimate power to transform the Beloved and the Beloved's world, rendering Michael fearless even in the face of certain death. Traveller inspires, focusing the twin lights of reason and passion with laser clarity upon the faces of death and separation, revealing them as "only spectral". "Breathless pace, gut-wrenching choices and deep esoteric insight take the reader on a journey of discovery of their own limitless Being."



"'Traveller' delivers more than just a great story with heart-pounding pacing, vivid descriptions and deep insight," editors at "The Other Side Press" praise. "It orchestrates transformation of the reader's worldview to the transcendent perception that only an inspired parable of magnificent scope can offer. ...'The Vampyre Episodes' captivate and inspire, leaving the reader breathless and eager for more. ...You may start this series expecting a blistering paranormal romance," they warn, "but 'The Vampire Episodes' are the portal into a whole new realm. This is one very deep and winding rabbit hole that leaves its mark on your heart and mind, changing the reader forever. ...Callaghan Grant's debut offering heralds our discovery of a brilliant new author who writes projects of unsurpassed scope and ambition.

## Mulligan's Revenge – James Court

This sequel to Strudwick's Successor sees more of the lovely Tracey Mulligan as she seeks to revenge herself on Sir Arthur Brain. She recruits John Dillon, a retired police officer with his own reasons for finding the man, and the hapless Piggy Swinton, in her search for the man who has robbed her of her life savings. The search is complicated by the involvement of a local crime boss, and the end is not quite what she had hoped for. But Dillon has a plan. Meet many of your favourite characters from book one, together with more improbable personas and impossible situations. This very funny book is set in Peckham, South London, in the 1960s



## Requiem for the Forgotten Path – Robert Wingfield

The long awaited sequel to Ankerita. A fast-moving Gothic thriller, alternately funny, sinister, sexy and evocative, calling on many elements of the supernatural as well as contemporary issues facing normal people as experienced through the eyes of a feisty heroine without a recorded identity. You won't have read anything quite like this through conventional publishing channels.



Ankerita, a Tudor anchoress released from her tomb after nearly 500 years of disturbed sleep, is suffering from amnesia and dying of exposure on a hilltop. From being at the lowest of ebbs, she is rescued by a scruffy hillwalker, who decides to take her as his girlfriend. It is only when Ankerita discovers he is custodian of a witch's tome handed down by generations of Ankerita's family, that she regains her memory and comes to terms with her situation. She has dreams of re-joining a foreign rock band she used to belong to, and use her enchanting voice, but her fake passport is held by a photographer linked to a gang of people-traffickers. Ankerita confronts him, but this alerts the organisation to her presence, and now the head, Fantasia Stanhope, is using all her resources to track her down. Ankerita becomes aware that her best friend, Jo, is dying of cancer, but that there is a chance Jo can be cured if Ankerita can petition the witch to help her with the 'Summoning'. To do this she needs to collect a number of ancient artefacts, hidden long ago by a sorcerer from the Celtic legends. The Summoning has to be evoked on a specific night when five planets align in formation for the first time in 500 years, but before the collection is complete, Fantasia abducts Ankerita from the protection of her faithful guardian, and is now intending to sacrifice her in a full black-magic ritual. If Ankerita cannot escape, the 'Summoning' cannot be called and Jo will die. As per 'Ankerita', the first novel in this series, all supernatural content is based on existing sightings, legends etc., some of which have been experienced by the author personally, and the occult procedures detailed are a combination of documented rituals and methods.

## North Cyprus – One Man in a Pocket – Robert Wingfield

A travel guide you really can fit in your pocket? Have you noticed that most guidebooks are the size of a brick, and you need an extra rucksack simply to get them in? Not so here. If you are visiting North Cyprus and don't want to miss anything, this real pocket book has listings and short details on just about all of the places you need to visit. If you can't see everything, there is a set of references



at the back to catch up on, so you don't even need to use a search engine to let Google know what your travel plans are!

There seems to be very little written in a single place about this small magical country, unrecognised by everyone except Turkey, but you are missing a gem of a holiday location; it's almost like going back to the 1950s, especially when you discover the prices!

Included also are a few dozen points and advice about how to get there and what to do when you are. 'North Cyprus, The Pocket Guide' deals with the history and locations of the country. It is not intended to focus on water sports, beaches and lazing-about stuff, but is a guide for you to see the

best of the country. You can bask in the sun anywhere around the Med, but you can't climb a Crusader castle like Kantara or see incredible gold jewellery dating back 2500 years at Güzelyurt or feed the wild donkeys on the Karpaz Peninsula by relaxing with a glass of Brandy Sour or the local lemonade (although you can do this in the wonderful evenings, sitting and eating at the harbour). Note that 50% of the royalties from this guide will be donated to Kyrenia Animal Rescue.

## Life, Love and Death – Cat Nicolaou

A collection of short stories, each with a twist or supernatural undertone, or simply plain creepy. Love hurts like a thorn when red lips give a last kiss on a rainy day on the island of bliss.

Life, Love and Death is a collection of short stories of Romance, Crime, Horror and Comedy.

“This was an incredible read. From the beginning I was enthralled by this writers ability to plunge the reader into the setting so vividly and with beautiful words. I found each story so gripping, the book was hard to put down once I began reading. I would thoroughly recommend this to any fans of short stories. The stories will remain firmly in your mind long after reading. A fine book of quality reading awaits you. Buy It !! 10/10” – a review by Cloud Dancer.

“Not having the time to read novels any more, I've turned to short stories and flash fiction for train journeys and other snippets of 'me time' that I might find. This book was a perfect choice. The stories are bite-sized with a bite back. Although short, they made me smile, surprised me and some made me think on long after reading them. This is a great little collection of twisted tales.”

Review by Jes

