

Detectives, Thrillers and Mystery Stories



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Welcome to our insights behind stories

Hello and welcome. Sometimes it's easy to forget how much it takes to write a novel or indeed work up a short story - making sure the kernel of the idea is quickly portrayed. So we thought you might enjoy discovering some of the behind the scenes insights and have a taste of what makes a novel or listen to a selection of our short stories - which is particularly soothing at bedtime.

Inside this issue we have a mixture of sound bytes, video, slide shows as well as some great stories, which we hope you will enjoy.

Do keep in touch and let us know what else you would like to see, hear or read in our next Magazine.

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Detectives And Evidence

A detective can be referred to as an investigator, because that is exactly what a detective does. There is no limitation that a detective has to be a police officer, it can be anyone from a law enforcement agency or hired in a private investigation company. It is basically the nature of the job, which makes them a detective. Their main job is to investigate, find things out, and solve a case by collecting relevant information by digging out evidences and by interacting with the informants and witnesses. They collect the oral and physical evidences in order to solve a mystery or a case. They search records, or you can say that they take all the possible measures in order to solve a case. Their job allows them to arrest the criminals, by solving the mystery of a case and then it can further lead to conviction of the guilty in the court.



History Of Detectives...



If we dig in to the history of United Kingdom in regards to detectives then the era before 19th century can be discussed. Before the 19th century, there were only a few departments that were of municipal police, if we talk about the first one of these then it was established back in 1667 in Paris. The idea of detectives was not appreciated until the amount of crime increased and there was a need to solve the cases that were left unsolved. The first private detective agency was established in Paris in the early 1800s and was founded by Eugene Francois Vidocq. As far as London is concerned the history of detectives go back to the Bow Street Runner and then further it belongs to the Metropolitan Police Service in Greater London.

The London police force was established back in 1829, it was done by an act of Parliament by the Home secretary Sir Robert Peel. By 1839 this department which is known as Scotland Yard today, replaced the Bow Street Patrols, River Police and the rest too. At first their responsibility was to protect the important individuals, public affairs and community patrols. The spies were on the streets to protect the public, it was acceptable by the public because several important cases were solved by them. In 1877, the credibility of the department was under question because four out of the five heads for the detective branch were under trial under the charge of conspiracy. They were under trial for conspiring with the criminals in betting.







Mystery, Crime And Spies...

You may have heard about many spies getting caught in different parts of the world. A spy is actually a person who obtains confidential information, without the permission of the person or holder of that information.


Espionage, or spying to be simple, is not something new. They have been around since the ancient times and most of their stories have been uncovered since their job was undercover. Many authors and novelists have paid special attention to this genre, developing great novels and films.

During the times when Britain was in continuous wars with France, Spies in London set up a spying system to gather intelligence of the enemies. The method used was to intercept the mails and dispatches. London mixed spies in the postal system, who would copy the address on the mail and send the spies to investigate. Other kind of spies were used to estimate the military strength of the enemies.

Moving forward to the 19th century, the British Empire had built a strong Intelligence System over time. Instead of using amateur techniques like spies posing to be archeologists, new methods of spying were adapted.



Interesting Crime Fiction Authors..



Crime fiction is the genre of fiction which refers to crimes, the detection of crimes and criminals who carry out the crime and the motives of criminals behind committing a crime. One can say that most of the crime novels share the same structure, not all of them but most of them consider the same pattern. First of all, there is a crime for instance a murder, then a whole procedure of investigation of how that criminal act took place, and then finally the concluding part which is the judgement, mostly novels conclude it as arrest of the criminal or he/she dies.

The crime fiction revolves around a criminal act, but the main focus is the investigation that is done by the main character of the story such as a professional or amateur detective. There are less chances of featuring a court room in a crime fiction, it rather focuses on mystery and suspense.

In the 1850's and 1860's, street robbery was its peak and was referred as "garroting" back then. Then comes the murders by Jack The Ripper, which happened in the year 1888 in the season of autumn. Petty thefts used to take place on the daily basis, and normally the offenders were young males. The common type of crime committed by women were related to prostitution, the crimes reported against women were mostly being drunk, vagrancy etc. Domestic violence was hardly reported or brought in front of the court for proceedings. As the crimes related to domestic violence's were taking place in private sphere, it was not reported as such because nobody wanted to put their family reputation at stake.





What's behind the scenes of Inspiration..

It is really important to conduct interviews of the people who have been doing something to make a change. Such people make their name in the world such as politicians, writers, poets and many more. Here is an interesting interview of the person behind Lyme Regis Murders. First of all, starting with a brief introduction which is that he a licensed insolvency practitioner who deals with the problems of ordinary people, when they are unable to handle the debts in businesses. There are great solutions for such situations in the UK law and he aims to apply those laws in such a manner that it allows people to spent life with less worry.

His interview consists the questions related to his book Lyme Regis Murders, the first question that was asked to him was about the inspiration behind his writing? He answered that he wanted to write a crime thriller that consists of a private investigator's

character. His inspiration are other crime thriller authors such as Barbara Vine, such as Belinda Bauer, Rachel Abbott, Graeme Macrae Burnet, Peter James, Ian Rankin and others.

Upon asking about the book, he answered that there are some actions and thrills that are taking place in the story. Lyme Regis is the centre of attention, it is an ancient, Jurassic small town that is situated on the coast of Dorset. He further stated that he wanted to keep his main character not be a policeman, so he did but he took care of the fact that this main character should have a police experience. From the initial thoughts about the book, he wanted the main character to be a female. He further explained how he wanted the character to be, he said that the idea of main character was supposed to be a superwoman, but not everyone's idea of superwoman.

The character he had in mind was financially well-off, in a relationship. Then he came to character that he portrayed in the book, named as Tammy Pierre who is six feet tall and exponent of Krav Maga, the Israeli system of martial arts. She smokes panatelas, drinks vodka at £100 a bottle, does lines of cocaine when stressed. Is in a relationship with Ginny Jones, her PA, but, with the morals of an

alley cat, has flings with, among others, her sometime boyfriend, Israeli martial arts coach, Dov Jordan. She is a force of nature, but she's also a woman who can be vulnerable, she has health issues, and is easily hurt.

Then we asked him about his learnings from the book, and he answered that it all about constructing a crime thriller and giving the most attention to the main character. He gave some examples of other authors, saying that everyone has their own idea of depiction. Such as Agatha Cristie focused on setting puzzles, while Karen Slaughter consists of a male hero who is vulnerable. The crux is that he learnt the construction of a crime thriller.

Now comes an interesting part, because while you are reading a book or piece of writing you might imagine what did the author think while writing this or what would have surprised them. Upon asking him we got to know that he answered this question in the last stage in the book, in a single sentence. We know that you might be curious about the title, upon asking he said that it is what it is, a number of murders take place in the town of Lyme Regis and that's it. You might get to know more when you read the book by yourself.





Another important factor while reading a book is, you keep imagining it's real. We asked the author if there is any reality behind this book and he said the main character is inspired by mixed heritage. As his first wife belonged from Trinidad and her father was an architect by profession. And that's where the resemblance end, Tammy's mother was French, Jewish. While other characters are moulded according to the main character.

He has been writing for 30 years, when he met his second wife. He said that, back then he had an idea of writing a short story. The motivation and encouragement came from his wife. He ended up writing "Little Ouss", and his wife kind of really liked it so did his daughter. The group of writers he joined were impressed by the conclusion, the story revolved around a little man and his cat.

There are some people who always think that they are going to become an author,

but he did not think like that until he wrote the first short story. He is also of the point of view that 'If it isn't meant to happen, it won't.' In his point of view if the readers like something and you successfully engage them in what you have written then that's the success of a book. He says that there is no order of what comes first, the plot or the characters. You might be interested in knowing that how the authors develop the plot and characters of a story, for him he starts with an idea or a notion.

As far as the title of the books are concerned, he is of the view that choose what fits right. Giving some references, the Hamilton Conspiracy is a thriller, based in Hamilton, Bermuda. Conspiracy is what drives it, but at the same time, that word conveys to the reader an element of suspense before the book is even picked up. Ditto titles that have an element of the familiar about them. So, short stories with titles like, Death Zone,





Licence to Kill, A Perfect Match, I am a Gigolo, Beads of Blood. Titles need to pique the reader's interest. After that the narrative must hold it till the end.

As an author, he thinks he is still on the learning curve and he is not able to compare himself with his inspirations. He writes while he is sitting in a cosy environment in his bedroom. Most of the authors prefer to write in the night time and we do not know what's up with that timing, so does he. If you are concerned about a typical day that you choose to write something, in his opinion he said there is no specific typical day. He gave a reference to his Hamilton Conspiracy book which took him almost a year to write and he choose the weekends to write it down. Sometimes you just use your imaginations, ideas or thought but most of the times there is research involved which can be about guns and more.

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The best advice we could conclude from the interview is that in his opinion one should not write something which makes the reader get bored. Avoiding too much details, inaccuracies can make the readers lose interest. Upon asking the experience of his first ever book, he said that he was given a tip by US publishers for his first novel. An interview is incomplete when you do not get an advice for upcoming writers from an established author. For the new writers, he suggested that do it because you want to, have to and do not do it just because it's in your mind that you should.



The Lyme Regis Murders by author Andrew Segal



Dichotomy of Innocence..

A local reporter announces the horrific story, throwing the quiet town into turmoil at this shocking discovery.

Local Inspector unused to dealing with a murder in this gentle seaside resort, takes the easy option and points a finger at the only suspect linking the children to this scenario; accusing the stepfather of being behind the attacks.

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COCKNEY CURIOSITIES
Clare Newitt



Extracts from

Little London Adventures & Cockney Curiosities

A collection of amusing historical stories by

Clare Newton

I would like to invite you to share in some of East London's delights. It is a treasure trove of curiosities and artifacts. Before I came to live in east London, I didn't really consider there was anything of interest let alone of importance in this historical suitcase. But how wrong I was.

Back in 2007 and the announcement of the Olympic Games coming to share its extravaganza with London. It was hinted that parts of Newham, would undergo a complete transformation, with the arrival of four spanking new sport centres and a giant stadium. This spurred me to pick up my camera, dust it down and leap on my bicycle to photograph whatever bits of history I can uncover, before it changed forever. Although I'm not an historian, nor known at school for enjoying the inevitable weekly history lessons, I was never the less intrigued by the number of 16th century maps of the City of London, that threw themselves at me

via the internet. Each etched cityscape longing to offer its little clues, if one took the trouble at studying their pictograms, that symbolised something or other. The curious thing I found was that if I overlaid the old map on top of a new map.. I could become a bit of a detective and uncover an historical clue. For example one evening, while peering into the British Library's online archive, I found an odd set of cross roads that looked more like X roads. But a small symbol like a castle positioned in the middle of the X. So off I trot to find the co-relating roads. And there hidden at the back of a rather smelly city farm, amongst the hens and the sheep poo - King Henry the 8th's Hunting Lodge. .. OK, so I didn't quite know at the time, that I was looking at such a place.. sitting forlornly in the middle of Stepney Green's shrubland. It did however trigger another adventure into finding out what the ruins where all about, especially after recognising the tell-tale clues of red Tudor Bricks, which lay scattered around the site AND to my delight hiding amidst the scramblings bramble - a silhouette of a portal gateway, made of the same deep red brick.



Pocketing a tiny fragment of the brightly coloured brick, I visited the Museum of London, and asked what they thought, which they then introduced me to the local history club. I had a field day, meeting all sorts of people with similar interests, whom all eagerly gave me leads and an array of pamphlets and snapshots to set me on the right track.

With a hot cup of coffee in my right hand, a computer buried under heaps of growing print-outs, as I hit save at every gem.

Late into the nights I poured over the virtuality of historian's notebooks, fading photographs and elaborately painted maps bound into large leather books with fraying gold letters, which almost flaked off as I breathed at the screen. Each trail lead to another until finally reaching the original undercrofts of the Times International, (when it lived in Wapping for a while). There I found first hand the original copies of centurys' old newspapers. Opening a page I found myself reading the intense account of the Ratcliffe Highway Murders in 1819 in another East London's great Lady Angela Burdett Coutts, 1st Baroness, Daughter of the 5th Baronet and Grand daughter of the very wealthy banker Thomas Coutts - do you recognise the name? Yes the bank still lives on. Angela was known as "the richest heiress in England" After the banker left his entire fortune to her. But instead of spending this fortune on an ephemeral lifestyle, Angela put the money to do some great

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Clare Newton FRSA

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Celebrated photographic artist Clare Newton takes you on a visceral journey, weaving in between East London's industrial remnants combining stories with stunning City images.

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USA Podcaster Dr Shahnaz Ahmed Interviews Clare Newton



Social Entrepreneur and PhotoArtist Clare Newton, talks candidly to St. Louis, USA Podcaster and creator of Living A Life Through Books, Dr Shahnaz Ahmed, about writing and her favourite authors.

Shahnaz has interviewed great writers such as Samantha Robichaud's young adult novelist, Christian Sterling fantasy many more writers.

Shahnaz's podcasts are about the life-changing journey of starting, sustaining, and learning from the habit of reading.



Dr Shahnaz talks to Clare Newton from London. Clare is a social entrepreneur and writer cum artist. Of course, as the conversation progresses we learn some fascinating things about Clare. She is a playwright and made the Guinness Book of World Records. Those come up in part 2 and 3, but regardless. She's a fascinating woman and quite an inspiration. Looking for some motivation in your life? I know this is a book podcast but with this series we take a bit of a side step also. > [Click on the icons below](#) < to listen to her on Living A Life Through Books



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