

INDIE WRITERS REVIEW

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

WITH TONY FLOOD



PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF INTRODUCTION, INCLUDING YOUR NAME, THE GENRE(S) YOU WRITE IN, PREVIOUS WORK AND WHERE YOU ARE BASED.

My name is Tony Flood and I am a former journalist, having worked for the Sunday People and Sky Television where I was Controller of Information for Eurosport. I also appeared regularly on BBC Television as a sports analyst.

I have written in several genres as an author. My books include fantasy adventure The Secret Potion; My Life With The Stars, which is full of celebrity revelations and anecdotes, and spicy crime thriller Triple Tease, which has been endorsed by best selling author Peter James and actor Brian Capron who played a serial killer on Coronation Street. I am now living in Eastbourne, having previously resided in several different places in England, including Twickenham, Slough, Blackburn and Woolwich.

WHICH OF YOUR BOOKS / PIECES OF WRITING ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF, AND WHY?
My Life With The Stars probably gave me the most pleasure writing because it features revelations and anecdotes about Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Joan Collins, Bruce Forsyth, George Best, Muhammad Ali and a host of other showbiz and sports stars I have interviewed.

HOW LONG ON AVERAGE DOES IT TAKE YOU TO WRITE A BOOK?
It usually takes me a year to research and write a book, though My Life With the Stars took longer as there were a lot of interviews involved.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS?
Developing the sub plots to add extra interest, and developing various twists and turns. I benefit from sharing ideas with my wife and fellow author Heather Flood, who wrote the Mousey Mousey children's books, Giant Sticker Monster and fantasy adventure Purple Mist.

WHAT WAS YOUR HARDEST SCENE TO WRITE?

Probably the opening two scenes in my fantasy adventure The Secret Potion to ensure that they would appeal to both children and adults in the same way that Harry Potter books do. It was important to capture the right mix of tension, suspense and humour.

DO YOU READ YOUR BOOK REVIEWS? HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH BAD OR GOOD ONES?

Yes, I read them all. Fortunately most of them have been good, but I vividly recall one extremely critical one.

WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DO YOU DO, AND HOW LONG DO YOU SPEND RESEARCHING BEFORE BEGINNING A BOOK?

I like to thoroughly research subjects and spend several months doing so. For example, in my spicy crime thriller Triple Tease I sought the advice of police officers to ensure I got the police procedures correct.

WHAT DOES LITERARY SUCCESS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

Getting good reviews and endorsements from fellow authors is a good guide. I greatly appreciated those given to me by Peter James and another best selling author, Tamara McKinley, who also writes under 'Ellie Dean'. The excellent reviews from actors, including Brian Capron, Alan Baker, Jeffrey Holland and Patric Kearns, have also meant a great deal to me.

HOW MANY UNPUBLISHED AND HALF-FINISHED BOOKS DO YOU HAVE?

I am in the middle of two new books at present, including a follow up to Triple Tease and a second edition of My Life With The Stars.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE UNDER-APPRECIATED NOVEL?

It would be a film rather than a novel - the screenplay written by Dale Launer, Stanley Shapiro and Paul Henning for the excellent comedy Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, which did not receive the awards it deserved.

WHAT WAS THE BEST MONEY YOU EVER SPENT AS A WRITER? (E.G. SOFTWARE, SELF-HELP BOOKS, MARKETING BOOKS ETC.)

Attending courses and watching videos on marketing and paying for the design of my websites. Getting the design of your website right is vital. You might like to check out the results of mine on www.fantasyadventurebooks.com and www.celebritiesconfessions.com

DO YOU WANT EACH BOOK TO STAND ON ITS OWN, OR ARE YOU TRYING TO BUILD

A BODY OF WORK WITH CONNECTIONS BETWEEN EACH BOOK?

As my books are in different genres, I want them to stand on their own.

WHAT ARE COMMON TRAPS FOR ASPIRING WRITERS?

Not taking enough time to re-read and re-edit their own work before sending it to an agent or publisher.

WHAT'S THE MOST DIFFICULT THING ABOUT WRITING CHARACTERS FROM THE OPPOSITE SEX?

A sex scene in Triple Tease was from a police woman's point of view and it took a lot of time - and attempts - to ensure that I captured her feelings and passion during the love-making. It was equally important to bring out her anger after she discovered her lover had tricked and betrayed her.

