

Meet the Author

Daniel Morden

I've always been a storyteller. When I was a child, I'd make up a story as I walked to school. If I hadn't finished the story when I reached the school gates, I'd wander around the playground talking to myself until I'd finished it!

There was a bully in my class. One day he asked me what I was going to be when I grew up. I said I was going to be a writer. He said, 'Tell me a story then.' So I did. I told him a tale I'd heard on the radio the day before. When I finished I realised he was staring at me. After a few moments he said, 'Yes, you will be a writer,' and he left me alone for the rest of the day.

I loved it when my parents read to me. Since then I've tried a lot of things, but nothing satisfies me as much as a really good story, whether it be from a movie, a play, a book or – best of all – a storyteller. I love those moments in stories when someone says, 'Whatever you do don't open that door', because we want to know immediately what is in the room beyond, and know that the door will be opened before the end of the story.

I've been lucky. I've been to lots of places, hearing and telling tales – I've heard stories of Raven in the snowy Arctic, Anansi in the sweltering Caribbean, Maui the trickster in magical Hawaii, and Babakut in busy Singapore. And I'm amazed to say, wherever I've been, people are telling stories about the same things. Stories unite the human race.

Books by Daniel Morden

The first three titles are also available in Welsh – see below:

Weird Tales from the Storyteller

£4.99 (Pont)

So Hungry £4.99 (also available as a Big Book £14.99) (Pont)

Dark Tales from the Woods £7.99 (Pont)

The Other Eye £7.99 (Pont)

Y Ffylliaid a Phethau Ffiadd Eraill

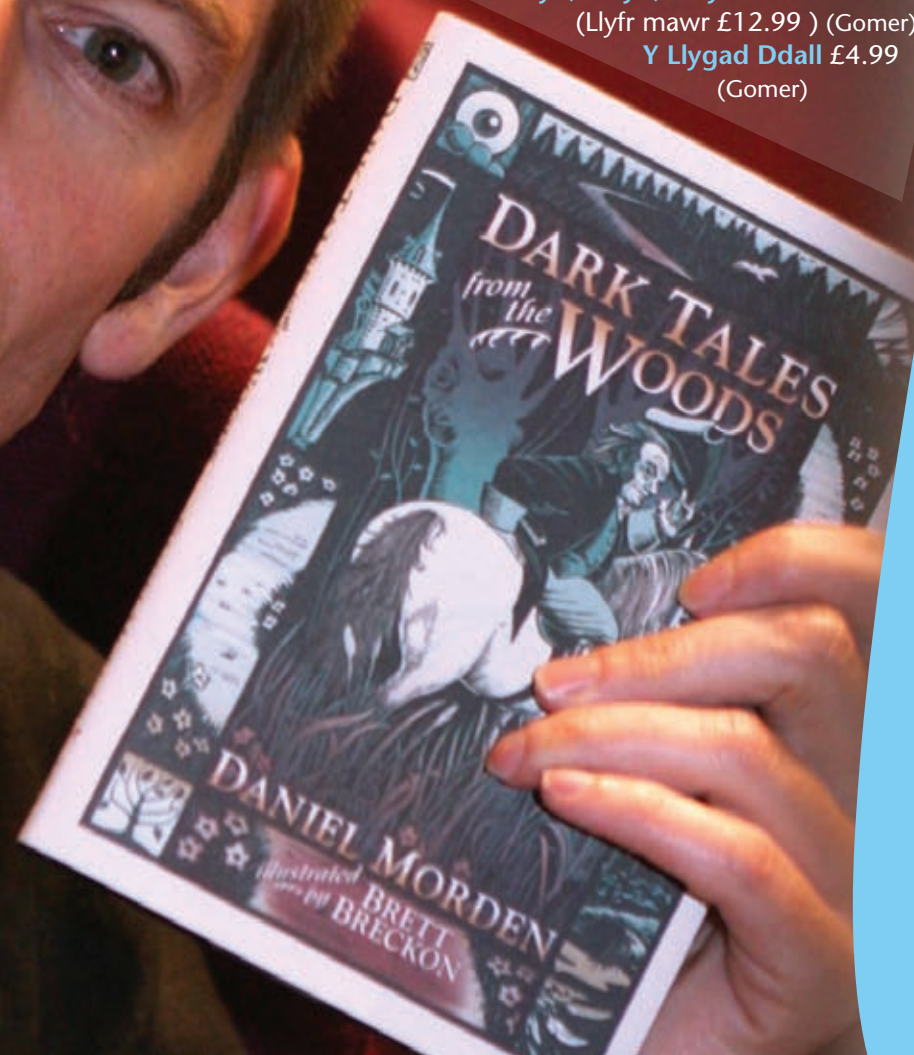
£2.25 (Gomer)

Bwyd, Bwyd, Bwyd £4.99

(Llyfr mawr £12.99) (Gomer)

Y Llygad Ddall £4.99

(Gomer)



Meet The Author Questionnaire

Daniel Morden

Date of Birth 30th July 1964

Where were you born and brought up? Cwmbrân, South Wales.

Where did you go to school? Llanyrafon and Croesyceiliog Schools.

What did you particularly like and dislike about school? I liked dreaming in the playground, writing poetry and stories. I wasn't very good at Maths, so I didn't enjoy it.

What did you want to be, as a child? A marine biologist, who goes down into the deepest, darkest part of the sea and observes the creatures there. Or a policeman.

What was your favourite book as a child? *When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth* – it had fantastic pictures, *Silly Verse for Kids* by Spike Milligan, *The Chronicles of Prydain* by Lloyd Alexander.

Do you have any hobbies? I like cooking, watching films and swimming, but not at the same time!

What makes you happy? My family, friends, Abergavenny Food Festival, the *Bagpuss* theme tune, hearing a good story, the sight of the Sugar Loaf emerging over the horizon when I'm driving home, music, swimming in the sea, seeing a heron.

What makes you angry? The streets of my home town are paved with dog excrement.

When did you start to write? I wrote and told myself very long stories when I was in primary school.

Which one was your first book? *Weird Tales from the Storyteller*.

Do you find it easy to write? It is hard to find the time, because most of the money from books comes after they're published.

Where do you write? I have an office.

From where do you get your ideas? They come from folklore. I find a story, or a moment from a story, and retell it in my own way.

Are there any themes/subjects that appeal to you especially? I like those stories where a hero/heroine has to go out into the world to get some impossible thing, like the nostril hairs of a giant. In one such story the hero is told, 'Go I know not where, and find I know not what,' which is what all of us must do in our lives.

What advice would you give someone who is starting to write? Tell the stories that excite you. If you enjoy the story, others will.

Are some of your characters based on yourself? All of them, which is a scary thought!

Which of your books is your favourite? They're like my children. I couldn't choose a favourite.

Which is your favourite character? Mary, in *Mary Maid of the Mill* from *Dark Tales*. She's an ordinary person in an extraordinary situation. Her enemies are stronger and more ruthless than her, but because she uses her brain she outwits them every time.

Is there something you would like to change about yourself? I'd like to be able to insert floppy discs into my head. If that's not possible, I'd settle for an extra head.

What is your favourite television programme? *The Simpsons*.

What is your favourite food? Curry.

What makes you laugh? *The Simpsons*. My kids. Tommy Cooper. An English storyteller called Michael Dacre.

