

Each month we will focus on an inspiring author based in or writing about Wales! You'll have an introduction to their latest book, what inspires them to write, and any advice they have for young writers!

# Get to know

## Daniel Morden



Since 1989, Daniel Morden has made his living telling stories: folktales, fairytales, myths, legends - and fibs! He has travelled the world sharing stories, from Swansea to Sydney, from the Arctic to the Pacific to the Caribbean. His stories range from awful jokes to magical adventures and haunting myths. His books have twice won the Books Council of Wales' Tir Na n-Og Prize and he was awarded the Hay Festival Medal in 2017. Daniel lives in Monmouthshire.



### Summary:

Bears, wolves and weird tangles of fate, these nine *Strange Tales* for 9-12s from master storyteller Daniel Morden have it all. In these pages you will meet travellers, tricksters, unlikely heroes, and animals who may not be what they seem...

*Strange Tales* is published 28th September by Firefly Press.

### Congratulations Daniel on the publication of *Strange Tales*, tell us more about the book...

I have been a storyteller for over 30 years. When I tell a story, without meaning to, I change it. A little idea occurs to me, and I put it in, and next time I tell the story that new idea grows ...so my versions of stories have changed over time. *Strange Tales* is a collection of my favourite stories, told in my own way. The book is written to be read aloud.

In the book, two sisters are changed into animals, a magic ointment that enables you to see hidden things, a boy who doesn't know what fear is, a journey to Hell - *Strange Tales*!

### How did you know you wanted to be a storyteller/ writer and when?

When my Dad read to us as children the bedroom vanished, and we were in Narnia, or WW2 Poland etc. It was like a spell! I didn't travel to these other worlds via a beanstalk or a wardrobe, but thanks to a voice and words.

### What would be some advice you would give to your younger self?

It is quicker if you start! Don't wait until you feel ready, because you never will.

### In what way have libraries influenced you during your lifetime?

Cwmbran Library was like a treasure trove for me - huge, and filled with wonders.

### Do you have suggestions of how to encourage children and young people to read more for pleasure?

I don't have any game changers. I would like the Westminster government to value libraries, so that they can stay open longer, organise more events and buy more new books. Libraries are needed more now than at any time in my life.



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