

THE REBEL READING SOCIETY

Author Spotlight



Patrick Gallagher

When did you decide that you wanted to become an author?

I always loved writing stories and drawing comics but it was when I was in secondary school that I realised writing stories was a talent of mine, and decided to study creative writing at university.



Did you read lots as a child - if you did, where did you mainly read? If you didn't, what was the reason?

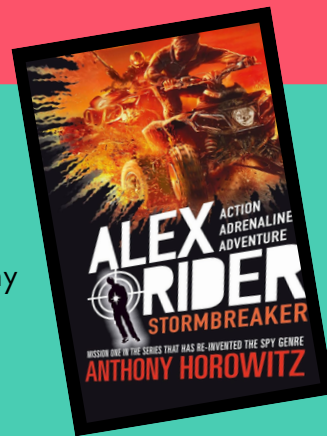
I did read lots and was lucky enough to have a lovely library across the road as well as a few others nearby. My mum took us most weekends and we would spend hours there!

What was your favourite book as a child and why?

I loved the *Alex Rider* books by Anthony Horowitz, and still do! My favourite was either *Stormbreaker*, *Skeleton Key* or *Eagle Strike*. I don't think I could decide!

How does it feel to see your books in shops and being sold?

It's always a joy to see my books alongside so many other great children's books and I do love popping in whenever I pass a bookshop to see them on the shelf.



What is the best part about being an author?

My favourite part will always be sitting down and writing for hours and hours but, other than that, I love travelling around the country visiting schools and bookshops and all the lovely people I meet there!

What are the 'not so fun bits' in being an author?

Remembering to update my social media!

Art by: Teo Skaffa

Why do you think it is important for children to read?

It's so important because it is such a good hobby and can bring so much pleasure. All it takes is a little concentration but it is so important to stick with it as the rewards are endless!



What is the inspiration for your books and writing?

The books I read when I was a child are some of my biggest inspirations, such as the *Alex Rider*, *Darren Shan* and *Harry Potter* books but also my favourite show, *Doctor Who*, and my favourite comic, *Spider-Man*!

Who gives you feedback on your drafts and how do you act on the feedback?

My amazing agent, Kemi, and the fantastic editors at the publishing house always give me incredible feedback. I will always take it all into account but I think it is important to only act on the feedback you agree with yourself. At the end of the day, it's your story!

Join us!



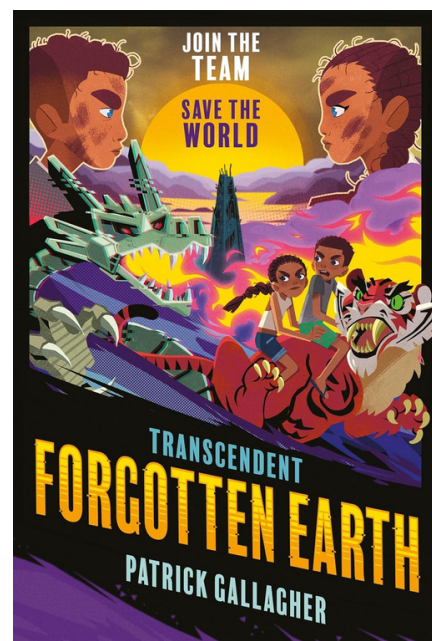
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Finally, if you could read for an hour, on your own, anywhere in the world - where would it be?

It's boring but I love reading on my sofa with my hamster, Buddy, running around in her ball and a few moves on *Chess.com* between chapters!



Art by: Teo Skaffa