

Matt Twinley



Author Press Kit

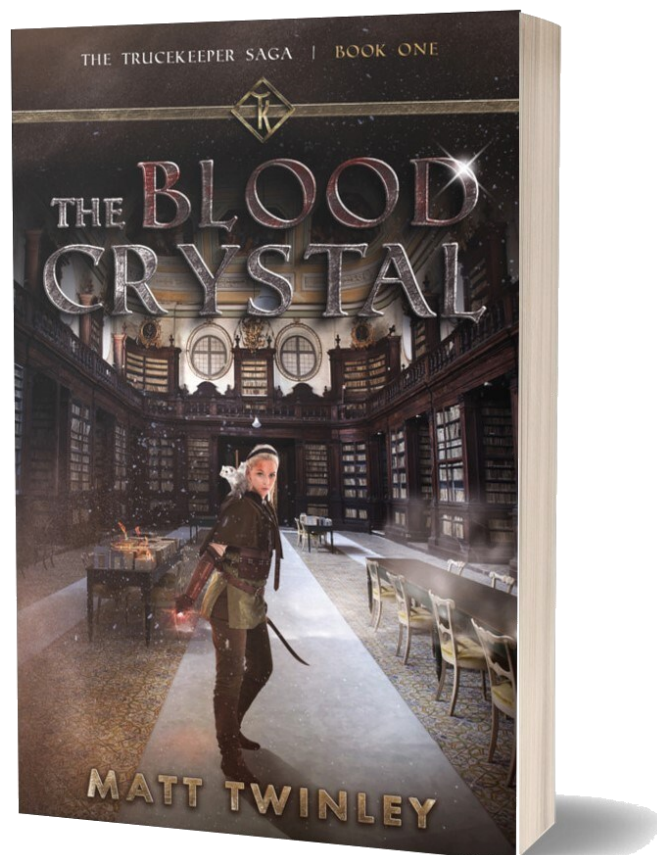
Includes:

Book Info

Author Bio

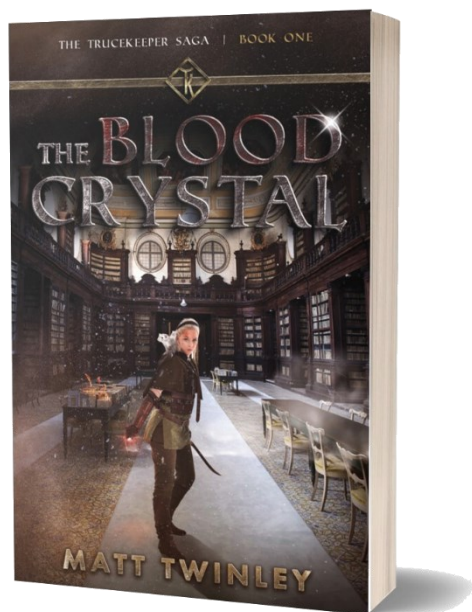
Interview Topics & FAQs

Book Excerpt



The Trucekeeper Saga: Book One

The Blood Crystal



Target audience

This book is suitable for readers aged 12+. With a female protagonist, there's more of a focus on female readers, although it is equally enjoyable for male readers.

Includes themes of belonging, diversity, coming of age, multiculturalism, disability and overcoming struggles.

Perfect for fans of *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson*, *Pokémon*, *The Summoner*, *Skulduggery Pleasant* and *The Hunger Games*.

Some secrets run deeper than blood...

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Daegan is a Trucekeeper—a fearless warrior with a dark past, sworn to keep the existence of mythical creatures a secret.

Their lives couldn't be more different... But everything changes when a magical blood crystal brings them together.

After Daegan saves Hannah from a vicious zburător, Hannah discovers the existence of Etheria, mythical creatures from all around the world, hidden by the Trucekeepers for centuries.

As Daegan trains her to become a Trucekeeper, Hannah rubs shoulders with Etheria, learns how to cast magic and finds somewhere she can finally call home... until she discovers that her mysterious past is the key to a war that could destroy the Trucekeepers and her new home forever.

About THE BLOOD CRYSTAL

AUTHOR: Matt Twinley

SERIES: The Trucekeeper Saga

978-1-7399856-0-8
(paperback)

GENRE: Fantasy/ Adventure

NUMBER IN SERIES: 1

978-1-7399856-2-2
(digital)

CATEGORY: Young Adult

About the Author

www.matttwinley.com

Matt Twinley is the author of *The Blood Crystal*, the first book in his young adult fantasy series *The Trucekeeper Saga*.

After graduating from the University of St. Andrews, Matt flitted from job to job, working as a wine merchant, audio transcriber and English teacher, all the while wanting to be a writer. He penned plays for schools, film reviews, blogs and several projects he swears will never see the light of day. It was only while daydreaming in class as a teaching assistant that he planned his first book...

Matt lives in Surrey, UK with his wife whose type 1 diabetes inspired the magic system featured in *The Trucekeeper Saga*. He can usually be found hiding indoors scribbling away at a new story, researching something bizarre or lost in a videogame, book or film. If you see him outside, he's either at a restaurant, bookshop or cinema—otherwise he's lost.



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10 Things You Might Not Know...

1. Hogwarts House: Hufflepuff
2. Favourite time of year: Autumn
3. Favourite coffee: Pumpkin Spice Latte
4. Comfort food: Pizza
5. Animal lover
6. I love geeky t-shirts
7. I collect Funko Pops
8. Favourite singer: David Bowie
9. Favourite genre: Adventure
10. Dream car: Aston Martin

Diabetes and Cultural Diversity Explored in Young Adult Fantasy Novel

New book by Matt Twinley explores widening diversity by creating a magic system based on type 1 diabetes and combining different cultures' mythologies together.

UK—October, 2021—Matt Twinley will be publishing the first book in his new Young Adult Fantasy series *The Trucekeeper Saga*. The book integrates aspects from various mythologies from around the world and uses type 1 diabetes as the inspiration for its magic system, with a diabetic teenager as a protagonist.

“Diversity has come a long way, but there’s still so much children are unaware of, whether it’s awareness of disabilities or different cultures and history.”

Cultural Diversity

The initial idea for the book came from the idea of wanting to write an adventurous fantasy novel that celebrated mythologies from around the world, representing the cultural hotpot and globalization seen in London where he lived at the time. Reluctant to focus in on just one mythology like the acclaimed Percy Jackson series, Matt Twinley instead decided to incorporate creatures from different mythologies and bring them together. The choice to aim the novel at children came during his tenure as an English teacher where he discovered children’s knowledge of mythology today is dying out. Keen to keep the love of cultural history alive, he targeted the novel to young adults.

“Only a handful had heard of King Arthur, Merlin, Excalibur and the Knights of the Round Table... if they don’t know one of the foundational myths of their own country, how are they expected to know myths from others?”

Diabetes

When considering how to use magic in the novel, Matt was inspired by his then-girlfriend, now-wife Sophie who has had type 1 diabetes since she was 2 years old. He watched as she pricked her thumb with a needle and applied some blood to a glucose monitor and decided to use her as the inspiration for not only the magic system but the main character.

“How many main characters are disabled? How many main characters have type 1 diabetes? I wanted to show young people that it’s okay to have diabetes, to be disabled – you can still be accepted, you can still be a hero. I wanted to share the experiences of type 1 diabetics and give them a role model to look up to. I wanted to empower them.”

The Trucekeeper Saga: The Blood Crystal is coming soon and will be available on paperback and ebook.

Excerpt #1

HUNTING werewolves is always a dangerous affair. Especially during a full moon.

The man was well aware of this as he listened intently for any sound that could help him decide his first move. He could hear nothing, save for the wind whipping his face, the waves crashing against the cliff walls, and the rapid beating of his heart.

He stepped back to examine the rough walls of the castle ruin, studying every crevice and point of access. After securing his wide-brimmed hat atop his head, he leapt and crawled up the wall, his hands and feet propelling him upwards as his dark brown trench coat flapped about him. He paused at the top, his hands gripping the ledge. There was only a distant shuffling far off in the ruin, and so he deemed it safe to crawl inside.

He took care to make as little noise as possible and withdrew a strange-looking weapon. It was like a dagger: a thin blade about ten inches long that flashed in the moonlight. A small hole the size of a pin lay above an ornate crystal embedded in the sapphire-coloured handle, a curious R etched onto its surface.

Clasping the weapon, he squeezed his thumb against the hole. A needle obediently leapt up and pierced his thumb, forcing a small drop of blood to crawl out as he pressed it against the crystal. It glowed dimly as it made contact with his blood. He flicked the weapon with a slight gesture and faint red footprints appeared on the floor, as though made by ultraviolet lights. They were terrifyingly large - at least twice the size of a man's. He touched his bloodied thumb to the crystal again. His whole figure darkened as he became one with the shadows.

A gust of sea air hit his face, and he paused. The sound of teeth gnashing on bones reached his ears. He took a moment to collect himself. His orders were to discover any information and eliminate any threat... That did *not* mean kill - he hoped.

He peered around the corner. Crouched on its hind legs next to a pile of bones was a creature feasting on a carcass. A gust of wind blew in through the window it faced; the man smiled. He had learned the hard way that it was best to approach a werewolf from downwind, his scent hidden.

The man crept into the room, his breath caught in his throat as his boot landed on a bone. The werewolf looked up, sniffing frantically. Its face was long and thin, with razor-like teeth stained with blood. Fierce yellow eyes searched for the intruder. But even with its night-vision, there was little chance of spotting him hidden in the shadows.

Still, the man had to hurry. Piercing his thumb and pressing it to the crystal once more, he waved his weapon towards the far corner of the room. A brick rose a couple of feet and clapped back down, making a sound that drew the werewolf.

It jumped into the corner, sharp claws madly scraping against the wall. The man raised his

weapon again and a spark of fire shot like a bullet, striking the wall just inches from the werewolf's face. It slowly turned and gave a low, fierce growl. The man kept his weapon raised.

Beneath the brim of the man's hat, the werewolf could make out a layer of dark stubble and greasy long dark hair. His eyes narrowed as he recognised him.

Excerpt #2

HANNAH carefully maneuverer herself into the same stance and cracked her knuckles. As soon as she raised her telum, Daegan quickly cast a spell. Hannah flew back, thudding to the ground in a cloud of dust.

She knew Daegan wouldn't miss the opportunity, so rolled out of the way, narrowly avoiding his boot as it crashed into the ground.

Crouching on the balls of her feet, she swiped at his legs with her own. He crashed to the ground as well, firing a spell as he did. It hit her in the face and pushed her onto her back. She wasted no time in rolling to her feet, just in time to dodge a fist.

Hannah pierced her thumb on her telum, but it was too late. With a flash of light, he stunned her, senses only returning when she felt a thump in her stomach. She fell to her knees, disappointment surging through her veins. *I lost!*

'That would have been it,' he growled, his telum against her throat. 'Dead.'

'Not if you're gloating,' she hissed through gritted teeth as she flicked her left hand down and the shield slid into place.

She swiped his telum away with her shield and leapt up, launching a kick that hit its mark. Then a punch, slap and throw in one smooth motion.

Daegan jumped back up.

'That's more like it,' he told her, a smile breaking out. 'Let's crank this up a notch.' He pressed his thumb to his crystal. A sword formed in one hand and, on the other, his own shield clicked into position.

Well, that's not fair.

His sword crashed down, and a tremor shook the arena. Hannah fought for her balance, only just managing to dodge as he swiped with his sword. Ignoring the hair band falling from her head, she raised her arm as his sword crashed against her shield. She grunted against the thud, unable to see his other hand punch her face.

She tasted blood and spit it out. *Time to fight dirty.*

Interview Topics

- *The Blood Crystal* book and *The Trucekeeper Saga* series
- Young adult and fantasy genres
- Inspirations of *The Blood Crystal*
- My journey self-publishing *The Blood Crystal*
- Teaching English
- Diabetes in *The Blood Crystal*

FAQs

1. Where are you from and where do you live now?

I'm English through and through. Born, raised and educated in the south of England. Despite a stint in Scotland for university and London for a couple of years to work, I've settled in Surrey – for now.

2. How long have you been writing?

Since I could hold a pen. When my parents bought me my first computer, the first thing I did was write a story (it was about a lion escaping the zoo – a work of pure genius). I've gone through more notebooks than I can count with countless ideas, although few of them become stories. There are several projects hidden away in drawers and folders just waiting to be developed.

3. How do you go about writing?

I live by Bond creator Ian Fleming's words... "I always make it a rule never to look back. Otherwise, I'd ask myself how I could write such piffle and live with myself, day after day." I develop the initial idea and research till I'm blue in the face. With a beginning, middle and end in place, I plan out each plot-point before developing characters and how they change.

4. Where do your inspirations come from?

From all around me. Books, films, history, people I know... there's a lot of me in my characters as well as others I know. Be careful what you say if you meet me!

5. What do you do for fun?

Read – obviously. I'm also a enormous film fan and an avid gamer.

6. Do you still teach?

With a heavy heart, I took a step back from teaching for now, but do still visit schools to talk about the joys of writing to inspire the authors of tomorrow!

*The Trucekeeper Saga:
Book One*

The Blood Crystal

*Some secrets run
deeper than blood...*



BOOK INFO

ISBN (paperback): 978-1-7399856-0-8

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Genre: Young Adult Fantasy

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