

AUTHOR DARRELL PITT

AUTHOR OF EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES FOR ORDINARY HEROES



Darrell Pitt is a versatile Australian author known for his ability to blend humour, mystery, and high-stakes adventure.

His diverse body of work includes the *Rosie Ryan* cozy mystery series, the *Steampunk Detective Adventures*, and critically acclaimed standalones like *The Boy from Earth* and *Balloon Girls*.

Darrell's stories often feature resilient underdogs, quirky supporting casts, and a deep sense of place—from the dusty rural towns of Victoria to the far

reaches of the galaxy.

When not writing, he can be found going for long walks or brainstorming his next mystery over a cup of tea. His work has been recognized by the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA).

His was first encouraged to write by an English teacher back in high school – and he has never stopped. Early inspirations were the Sherlock Holmes books and classic sci-fi from Isaac Asimov and Robert Heinlein.

He has several books that he is working on: a mystery novel set in 1960's Victoria, a time-travel thriller, another STEM book for middle-grade readers and a book about an AI gone made.



THE BOOKS

Darrell's books span a range of genres, from middle-grade novels like *The Boy from Earth*, STEM book *Balloon Girls*, Teen Superhero and Steampunk Detective mysteries and the cozy Rosie Ryan books set on the south coast of Victoria.

Teen Superheroes

A group of teenagers have their memories wiped and are chosen to become the next generation of superheroes. They must save the world, but can they do it when they're busy fighting each other?

Teen Superhero Bounty Hunters

This follow-up series focuses on Sally Tyler, a runaway teenager who is trying to find who murdered her parents. The offer to be given superhero powers doesn't make her life any easier. More people than ever want her dead!

The Steampunk Detective books

When Jack Mason and Scarlet Bell are chosen to assist the eccentric detective, Ignatius Doyle, they encounter a series of baffling adventures that are far from...elementary. Sharp-eyed readers will spot parallels between these books and the classic Sherlock Holmes novels.

Balloon Girls

When Ally and her friends enter a science contest, they are determined to win first prize – an all-expenses paid trip to the Smithsonian Museum. But they face unexpected challenges when they set out to prove the world is round. A book designed to get girls involved in STEM.

The Boy from Earth

Bobby Baxter is afraid of virtually everything, so when he's chosen as the first boy from Earth to attend the Galactic Space Academy, he has only one answer – no! There's only one problem. The powers that be won't take *no* for an answer.

Q & A WITH DARRELL PITT

Where do you get your ideas?

There's an ideas shop in Carlton that I drop into and pay the woman behind the counter—. No, scrap that. Actually, I've never had a problem getting ideas for my books. For me, ideas are easy. The constant work to produce and the book is the hard part.

Describe your writing process.

That's not actually a question, but who cares? When I'm writing a novel, I generally do about 1000 words a day. Once the first draft is done, I go back and edit. And edit. And edit. There's more time spent editing and improving the book than there is writing the first draft.

You've been both traditionally published and self-published. What do you prefer?

Both. Working with a great editor is a worthwhile experience as a writer. Having said that, traditional publishing comes with a price. You're working to someone else's schedule which may not suit you.

What do you like to read?

My reading tastes cover a broad spectrum from science fiction to crime to horror. If I had to pick my favourite general genre I'd describe it as quasi-twilight zone.

Who is your favourite author?

All of them. No, seriously, continuing on from my Twilight Zone comment, if I had to pick only one, I'd have to say Richard Matheson. Not only did he write for the Twilight Zone, but he also authored I Am Legend, The Incredible Shrinking Man, the script of Duel (Steven Spielberg's first film) and a host of other projects. Like Matheson, I like the idea of the lone protagonist against insurmountable odds.

And other authors?

Okay, since you asked...

Stephen King, Joe Hill, Michael Crichton, Ken Follett, and so many others that I can't possibly list them all. I like crime too, so Agatha Christie, Harlan Coben and anyone who can keep the pages turning.

Talking about turning pages, why is there non-stop action in many of your books?

Well, why not? My intention with writing Teen Superheroes and Steampunk Detective was to turn non-readers into readers. There are plenty of literary writers—and I'm not one of them. Becoming a keen reader opens doors later in life. Better to be a keen reader of anything than a non-reader of everything.

What do you see as being the most serious problem facing the world today?

Oh jeez. I thought all these questions would be light and fluffy. Okay, the most serious? Well, there's a lot of serious issues. World hunger, war, terrorism. Gosh. It's a really long list. One of my personal dislikes is misinformation and disinformation. People need to learn critical thinking and research skills. The internet and social media have made the world more dangerous than ever.

What writing advice would you give to a new writer?

Read widely and closely examine what you read. Work out why the story works. Or why it doesn't. Keep writing. Do it every day. You must produce a first draft so you can produce a second draft. After all, you can't edit nothing.

And be kind to yourself. It's a long, tough process. You need a thick skin and possibly an even thicker skull to be a writer. Do it because you love it. You'll get criticism from everywhere. The only real opinion that matters is that of the editor who says yes to publishing your book or the great mass of many readers who either like or dislike your novel. Hone your work to make it as good as possible.

Any advice about publishing?

Only that the public makes the final decision about whether the book is successful or not. Every day of the week, well written books are published and forgotten about immediately while poorly written ones sometimes become bestsellers. Writing what you like to read is the best way to write a successful novel. Then find a publisher who intimately understands your genre and where your book should be in the bookstore.