

Wintershelm Hits Shelves: An Enchanting New Dark Fantasy YA Novel by Dyslexic London Born Author Paul C. Sorrell

Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire - 26 February 2025 – Pegasus Publishers is thrilled to announce the release of *Wintershelm - A Tale of Love, Magic, and Legacy*, the highly anticipated new dark fantasy YA novel by author Paul C Sorrell. This compelling book is set to captivate readers with its gripping, story and unique aspect.

"When eighteen-year-old Samuel Blackwood is sent to Wintershelm to live with his estranged mother, he expects a dull and banal life. What he finds instead is a town drenched in mystery. The townsfolk seem to know him, though he has never been there. At the centre of it all are the Pendragon sisters – Elizabeth, Elsa and Paige – magical and charming, yet unsettlingly connected to the strange events surrounding Samuel. As the curious teenager digs deep into Wintershelm's past, he uncovers buried truths about his own family – a history tied to the village in ways he cannot escape. But Wintershelm has a way of holding onto its secrets – and its people. With danger closing in, Samuel must uncover the truth about the village, the Pendragons and the strange forces tied to his name. In Wintershelm, secrets have a way of finding you, even if you'd leave them behind."

"I wanted to create a story that not only sweeps readers into a world of wonder and intrigue but also speaks to the power of identity, choice, and resilience," says Paul C Sorrell. "Wintershelm is one of self-discovery and courage, and I hope it resonates with readers who have ever felt lost or uncertain about their place in the world."

Perfect for fans of Harry Potter, Twilight, Mortal Instruments, Shadow and Bone and Throne of Glass, *Wintershelm* delivers an immersive reading experience with its rich mythology, slow-burn romance, and pulse-pounding twists. Early reviewers are already praising the novel for its lush prose, compelling characters, and epic stakes.

Wintershelm will be available in hardcover, paperback, eBook, and audiobook formats at Waterstones, Amazon, WH Smiths, Barnes & Noble, and fans of fantasy literature are encouraged to embark on this unforgettable journey. For more information, review copies, or interview requests, please contact Nicola Fagan at info@quillweaver.co.uk.

Paul C Sorrell is a lifelong dreamer, storyteller, and lover of all things fantasy. Inspired by British folklore, astronomy, and the timeless battle between light and dark, Paul C Sorrell crafts stories that transport readers to extraordinary locations. When not writing, he can be found spending as much time with his family as he can.



Photography by Paige Sorrell © Paul C Sorrell



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“Dyslexia is not a disability but a different ability. It’s the unique lens through which some people view the world, turning challenges into extraordinary strengths.”

I was born in the summer of 1981, at Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield and spent my childhood living in different areas of North London, Enfield, Edmonton, and Tottenham.

My father who passed in 2013, worked for the Ministry of Defence in London, while my mother, was a barmaid throughout North London. My young family life was stable living in a council flat, with my two parents. I have a younger sister in her 30s. I had a younger brother who died after a long illness, he in some way is the reason for my love of some authors, if it weren’t for him, I would not have picked up their books.

So, when did I start writing...The simple answer is 14, halfway through secondary school, they realised I was dyslexic & also suffered from Dyspraxia. But back then they really didn’t know how to deal with me, so they just threw me into special needs class. It was there that really exacerbated my condition, leading to frustrating and bad behaviour. It wasn’t till i met a teacher, Mr Bunyan, who gave me one of the best pieces of advice that I have ever got!

“Start writing! let your subconscious thoughts flow it doesn’t matter what you write just write and give your thoughts an outlet.”

So, I did!

After I finished my education, I worked in a series of jobs around London’s night scene, I was very much a night owl. Many Bars I worked, and some of the music venues the London still has to offer clubs, including one job as backstage security for the band "Motorhead".

I conceived the idea of Wintershelm in March 2020, Covid had hit the country, and my daughters school had to close due to it, so while I was collecting them I started to map out the saga in my head I wrote mostly in longhand and gradually built up a mass of notes, many of which were scribbled on odd scraps of paper.

Over the next 18 months along with homeschooling my daughters and supporting my wife’s business, Wintershelm was born...

The book was first published by Pegasus Publishers in September 2025, under the name Paul C Sorrell.

The “C” stands for Clive, my fathers’ name. The one man that taught me the greatest lesson of my life...how to be a father!

What led you into writing?

“Imagine being told that the very thing you love—words—are your biggest obstacle.”

The short answer is 14. It was halfway through secondary school when I discovered I was dyslexic. Back then, there wasn't much support—they just placed you in a special needs class and left it at that. But it was there that I met a teacher, Mr. Bunyan, who gave me one of the most valuable pieces of advice I've ever received. He told me, “Just start writing. Let your subconscious thoughts flow. It doesn't matter what you write—just write and give your thoughts an outlet.” So, I did, and that simple advice changed everything.

Do your books have a message?

The message of the books revolves around the power of love and the complexities of human relationships, the importance of accepting people for who they are, encouraging curiosity and the pursuit of understanding. Overall, Wintershelm delivers a captivating message about the transformative power of love and the enduring strength of human connections, set against a backdrop of mystical intrigue and adventure.

Where do you see the Wintershelm Legacy going? How long will you write them?

Far into the future, I hope. I have five books planned for the legacy at present, I've laid them out very carefully and hope to be doing these books for a long time.

How would you describe your writing style?

Fluid and dark. I grew up watching a lot of old hammer horror reruns and was fascinated by how the characters could exist amidst the tragedy and horror around them. Life is a mix of fun, friendship, and tragedy, sometimes all at once. Ironically, this blend made it hard for me to get published. Publishers used to prefer one-dimensional books. They didn't know what to do with my work.

What is it about the supernatural & Fantasy genres that you love?

Blood, guts, goats, ghosts. Everything., the only limitation I have is my imagination. I can do anything and go anyplace. I love the freedom of it all.

Which Wintershelm character is most near and dear to your heart and why?

Well to be honest, all of them. Choosing between them would be like choosing between my children. They all hold my heart, and they all make me crazy.

Where do you get your ideas?

Family, Life, Everywhere, they sometimes fall out of the sky. Really.

Do you have favourite books or authors?

H.P Lovecraft, Mary Shelly, Tolkien and JK are just some of my favourite authors.

How do you stay focused?

Listening to loud heavy symphonic rock music while writing helps me stay focused and organize my thoughts.

What is the first thing you ever wrote?

A short story only a couple of thousand words at the age of 14, it was bad, Die Hard meets Zombies, I still got it somewhere...

Do you feel like your work has had a positive influence on readers?

That's for the reader to judge. I hope I can say yes. That's all I genuinely want. Books gave me so much all throughout my life. They gave me hope when I needed it. Most of all, they provided an escape from that which I couldn't face. I can't thank those writers enough for being here when I needed them. That's what I hope other readers take from my books. I want to touch their emotions and give them a warm feeling when they put one of my books down or think about one of my characters.

Who has influenced your writing?

The answer is simple. None. I've never tried to mimic anything about other authors or let them enter my subconscious I continue on my own terms by doing things, right or wrong, but my way.

When did you first realise you wanted to be a writer?

Writing has been a constant in my life, something I never let go of no matter what job I had. Whether I was working a day job or exploring other interests, I found myself continually drawn back to the page. It was more than just a hobby; it was a part of who I am. So, in a way, I didn't have a single moment of realization—writing has always been there, quietly guiding me, reminding me that this is what I'm meant to do.

How important is it to be organised when writing?

Being organized is incredibly important when writing. It allows you to focus on creativity without getting bogged down by the chaos of ideas, notes, and drafts scattered everywhere. A well-organized approach helps you keep track of your plot, characters, research, and deadlines, making the entire process more efficient. It also reduces stress, as you can easily find what you need and have a clear plan for your work. While creativity is the heart of writing, organization is the backbone that supports and sustains it, ensuring you can bring your ideas to life effectively.

Do you like background noise when you write?

I do. I find that background noise helps me focus my thoughts and calms my mind. Music plays a significant role in this. I often listen to symphonic rock, heavy metal, and even the occasional show tune while I write. The right soundtrack creates a sort of rhythm that keeps me in the zone, allowing my ideas to flow more freely. It's almost like the music becomes part of the creative process, helping me tap into the mood or energy I need for whatever I'm working on.

Do you snack while you write?

I used to snack on peanuts while I wrote, but when my eldest daughter was diagnosed with a peanut allergy, the peanuts were promptly tossed in the bin. Since then, I've moved on to Cheetos. They do the job—there's something about having a snack that keeps my fingers busy and my mind active. It's not just about the taste; it's the rhythm of snacking that helps me stay focused and keep the ideas flowing.

Dose your fandom ever influences your writing?

No, my fandom doesn't influence my writing. I have the story that I want to tell, and that's what I focus on. While I appreciate the support and enthusiasm from my readers, I believe it's important to stay true to the story that's in my heart, rather than trying to cater to outside expectations. It's about telling the story that I feel needs to be told, not the one others might expect or want from me.

What is the hardest part about being a writer?

The hardest part about being a writer is wearing many hats, while obviously writing. Beyond crafting the story, you must juggle a lot of separate roles—editing, marketing, sometimes even managing social media or doing promotional work. It can be challenging to switch between these tasks, especially when all you want to do is focus on the creative process. Balancing the artistic side with the business side of writing is one of the toughest aspects of the job.

What's the most useful advice you could give to an aspiring author?

Avoid measuring your success against others—publishing is unpredictable, and each of us is on our own journey. Every writer has a unique voice and story to share, so there's no competition, only community. Celebrate your fellow authors while embracing your own victories, no matter how small—they all matter.

How hard is it to kill off characters?

Yeah, it definitely has an impact. Some of these characters have been on this journey with me for a long time, so killing them off is difficult. You grow attached to them, and it's tough to let them go, especially when they've played such a key role in the story. But sometimes, it's necessary for the narrative to move forward or for other characters to evolve. Even though it's hard, I always try to make sure that their deaths serve a purpose and resonate with the readers.

Are you ever influenced by reviews?

No, not really. As I mentioned, I have a story that I'm committed to telling, and reviews are always subjective—just like Marmite, you either love it or hate it. While I appreciate feedback, I try not to let reviews sway me too much. My focus is on staying true to the story I want to tell and creating something that resonates with me and my vision.

WINTERSHELM
PAUL C. SORRELL

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About the book

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With danger closing in, Samuel must uncover the truth about the village, the Pendragons and the strange forces tied to his name. In Wintershelm, secrets have a way of finding you, even if you'd leave them behind.

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