

Jag och min kompis åkte till Veberöd bibliotek den soliga tisdagen 8 april.
Intervjun är på engelska. De som inte kan engelska får skylla sig själv.
Nu kör vi!!
TMV är min kompis och mitt förlag.
Ni kan hitta oss i SÖDRA SANDBY, PER JÖNS VÄG 24.
Eller FLYINGEBY 871.
Vi är 10år, så förvänta inte så mycket om du vill köpa.
Nu kör vi på riktigt!!!

Why do you write about yourself as a character in the books?

Because it helps me to make the stories more believable! When I imagine that I am telling a story that happened to myself, even if it's made up, it feels real to me when I pretend it was really happening. And it helps to convince the reader that it really happened as well!

How old were you when you started writing?

I was writing from the age of 5 or 6 years old. It was just funny cards and little cartoons. I had a little book I liked to write in and draw in. So I was always doing it for fun and to make my friends and family laugh. They enjoyed it! When I was at school I made my teachers laugh. And when I became a teacher, I started making my student laugh with what I was writing. That is when I started becoming a more serious writer.

How did you meet Terry?

Do you want the true version or the not very true version?

The not very true version!

The not very true is much more entertaining, because that's when I ran away from home and stole a pedal boat and got lost at sea. Then I pedalled over to an island, but it was actually a little boy wearing emergency inflatable underpants. I rescued him and that was Terry!
But in real life a publisher put us together, because he thought we had a similar sense of humour. But that is not a very good story, so I have to make up another one.

Why did you start writing together?

Well, I had written a funny book and the publisher said that we would get this funny guy caller Terry Denton to illustrate it. When I saw what he drew I was really excited, because it was exactly what I would have drawn – if I had drawing skill! And I think he found the same with me, that I was able to write things that really excited him and that he couldn't do by himself. We have worked together ever since, for 25 years.

Which floor in the Treehouse do you like most?

I have favourite ones in all of the books, but I like the craziness in the exploding eyeball level, where your eyeballs explode. And I like the screeching balloon room, as you saw, I like making annoying noises with balloons. And Andy land!

Could you please tell me a little bit about how you work when you get an idea for a new story?

I often get often get an idea, it just comes to me and I will write it down. Then I tell it to Jill, "What do you think about this idea - Andy and Terry have to look after the grandchildren of Mr Big Nose?" If Jill likes it, then I will write a little description and then I go to Terry and say "Could you draw me some pictures of the grandchildren?" and we will do that. I then take that away and start thinking of all the things that will happen to the grandchildren. I think I need a whirlpool, so I go to Terry and say "Can you draw me a dangerous whirlpool?". That whirlpool will then give me new ideas. So we are all writing all the time together.

In a book you say that Terry is the genius, why?

I said he is a genius?

You at one place have an arrow pointing at you, saying “not so smart”, and one on a donkey saying “smarter than you think”, and one on Terry saying “genius.

Ah, I think that was a drawing that Terry did himself. We can't trust what Terry draws, because he once drew a picture made with a really small Brain and that was just him being mean to me. But I am mean to him, so I don't mind.

What kind of books do you like to read?

I like comedy books and I love true life adventure about African explorers. I have just read a good one about people exploring the jungle. And I like books about psychology and how people's brains work. A lot of stories!

How old are you in the book?

I don't know! I really don't, but somewhere about 8 and 9. Between 8 and 10! I would keep it vague!

Which of your books do you like the best and why?

I think I am coming to like whatever book we have just finished, it is usually my favourite, because it is all new. We try to make each book better than the last one. But if I have to pick one of the previous ones I think it is the 65-storey Treehouse, because of all the time travel. I love time travel stories!

I don't have any more questions. Thank you very much!

Pleasure!

Theo and I write books ourselves. Do you have any tips for young writers?

Yes, read lots of other people's books so that you get new ideas for your stories all the time. Write and draw as much as you can, but also rewrite it too! Go crazy in the first draft and then make a good copy where you are not too crazy. We do a lot of rewriting, we go “Blaaa, yeah, yeah, yeah” and then we write it over and over again, and we make it really good.

Thank you very much!