

2023

BRYN AND FRIENDS

Another Arbor

Catching the killer of a career criminal could be murder



Bryn Petersen

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	3
‘ANOTHER ARBOR’	5
DAVID HOWDEN	6
WHEN I AM GONE.....	7
BILLY NO MATES.....	8

FOREWORD

Bryn and Friends is a free to download magazine. The magazine is a forum to introduce readers to some very dear friends and fellow writers. Between us, we hope to delight, amuse and entertain with a selected poem, a piece of shorter fiction, our ‘take’ on stories making the news, forthcoming local events, imminent book launches or art exhibitions and a snapshot view of what is happening in ‘our’ world.

In this edition, I want to introduce you to another of my talented artistic friends, David Howden. David has created a wonderful book series for children entitled ‘The Tooth Bearer’. David’s children’s book series is unique: the author has written and illustrated the series (with a little help from his daughter).

As a parent, I can clearly recall the bedtime routine with my little ones. As they were fairly close in age, one would take on the task of distracting me while the other would be busy creating the reason to postpone bedtime – for just five more minutes! The one pleasure we all enjoyed was the story before turning on the night light. I would have given my right arm for a story series with short chapters and detailed illustrations we could discuss and dissect endlessly!

As previously, an illustration of my first novel appears on the front cover. I can announce – with equal amounts of pride and trepidation, ‘Another Arbor’ is available to buy through Amazon and Kindle. This is my first attempt at publishing, and it is entirely self-edited. There are certain to be one or two rookie mistakes, but I hope (since this is my first attempt) you, my readers, audience and supporters will forgive these minor slip-ups.

As always, I’ve included a sample short story, this time my own imagining. I do hope you like it.

Thank you for taking the time to download ‘Bryn and Friends’ issue three - I hope you enjoy reading it!

BP

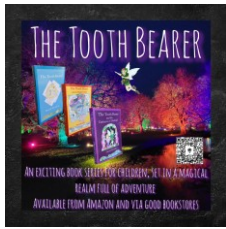
‘ANOTHER ARBOR’

The debut novel by Bryn Petersen is the first in the DI Hunter series.

DI Christopher Hunter is the new kid at South Thames CID. He knows he has drawn the short straw when a foul smell leads to the discovery of an old man in Upper Ellwood, a rural retirement village. Neighbours assume old age killed off the reclusive resident. DI Hunter’s curiosity leads him to question this assumption. He orders a PM, which throws up more questions than answers. Chris Hunter assembles a small team to investigate a tangled maze of evidence, photographs and records to get to the truth behind a bizarre string of historical crimes going back decades.

An excerpt from the novel is included on the website <https://brynpetersen.co.uk>, where you will also find a link to take you to where you can purchase your copy, either as a paperback or as an e-book.

Bryn is currently working on finalising the second book in the series, Beach Bombs, where DI Hunter and his team must navigate between the competing demands of a complex investigation into what has happened to a string of missing girls, and a Chief Constable seemingly intent on obstructing them at every turn.



DAVID HOWDEN

Author of 'The Tooth Bearer' series of illustrated children's

books explains his creative journey:



“I started writing the stories in 2018, originally as a bedtime read for my daughter as there weren't too many chapter books with short chapters available for easy reads. So I thought I would try and create one.



My daughter had also started asking questions about the Tooth Fairy and required answers, and this was a good medium in which I could explain my ideas.



She also helped draw some of the illustrations inside making it a real family affair.”

‘The Tooth Bearer’ series: an exciting, family, fantasy adventure series for children. Katelyn discovers by accident that she is a Tooth Bearer and must try to save the fairy realm from a powerful entity known as The Darkness of Disbelief. She soon enlists her friend's aid, however..... will it be enough, or is the fate of the fairy realm sealed as others wish to see her fail? The series features friendship, gremlins, pirates and fun for all children...

Available in paperback, ebook and on KU: <https://linktr.ee/toothbearer>

WHEN I AM GONE

Don't visit my grave when I am gone.
Unless you wish to remember
For I am not there, I am close by your side
In the fires last dying embers.

Don't visit my grave when I am gone
Unless to take me flowers.
For I am not there, but by your side
As you while away the hours.

Don't visit my grave when I am gone,
as it's set in a place full of gloom.
For I am not there but by your side
as you read by the light in your room.

Don't visit my grave when I am gone
For my being is not yet done
I am by your side watching you smile
And telling you life must go on.

Do not be sad at the end of the day
that you did not visit my grave.
For I am not there but close by your side
watching you being so brave.

LORRAINE BUXTON

BILLY NO MATES

The can rattled across the tarmac till it chinked up against the curb edge. A few yards behind, a young lad sauntered, hands stuffed in his pockets, whistling tunelessly.

A half dozen curtains twitched inside the row of two-up, two-downs; all save one, where the current incumbent buried his hands deep in compost as he proceeded to pot up cuttings.

Wiping the soil from his hands on a workman's apron, Bert Bennett studied the lone youth. He'd heard from several places about Billy Sayers. Don, who had the corner shop delivered his verdict the boy was not worth his time. He'd caught him trying to shoplift and given him an ear-full. Hassan who ran the local pound shop described a similar experience.

What interested Bert was exactly what young Bill was trying to steal: ladies socks, a hot water bottle with a fluffy cover, mint humbugs and hair grips. None of it seemed the sort of fare to interest a young lad?

Bert lent on his garden fork. The last time he'd clapped eyes on Billy Sayers, he'd been larking about with other kids his age. They'd been laughing and enjoying themselves, just as young kids should. It wasn't natural for a kid his age to dump his friends and take up unsavoury habits out of the blue. Question was – why?

Bert banged his palm on the fork handle: he was going to darn well find out and do something about it! First, though, he'd need his spies!

Sylvia from the post office brought him his first lead. He considered what she told him and made copious notes on his homemade information board. A newspaper article caught his eye. He clipped it from the page and stuck it in place. By the time he'd gone down the line of shops and toured the market, he reckoned to have all he needed.

Every day for a full fortnight! The ping of the tin can tumbling and criss-crossing the road heralded the reluctant Billy down the street. He gave the can a lacklustre kick and it ricocheted off the curb. Billy glanced to find where it rested. His eyes widened as he noted the worn leather boot trapping the can.

“I want a word with you!”

The boy ogled Bert Bennett, surprised by the unexpected adult intervention.

Silently he followed Bert in through the gate and up the garden path. As they neared the house, Billy slowed, wary of going inside with a completely strange adult. Teachers at school warned about talking to strangers. Still, he knew all the occupants of this particular street had lived there for years.

“I need you to help me out with these cuttings, see?”

Billy watched Bert pot up the cuttings. He showed Billy how to care for them and where to place them in the greenhouse for maximum benefit. Every day over the next month, Bert showed Billy how to do the various jobs in the garden, how to change light bulbs, fix leaky taps and even got him to make a cold frame.

One day, Bert could see Billy had something on his mind. Instead of pressing him, he showed him how to care for the more delicate plants and how to prune the different types of shrubs and bushes. As he was leaving, Billy asked:

“Can I bring a friend tomorrow?”

Bert nodded as Billy skipped off for his evening meal.

The next afternoon, a little later than usual, Billy opened the garden gate, propping it open with a stick. Carefully he pushed the chair so the wheels remained on the path, avoiding jarring and bumping the occupant.

“See, Mr Bennett – I want you to meet my mum!”

THE FINAL WORD

I hope you've enjoyed reading this issue. I hope we're continuing to give you a taste and flavour of all Bryn and Friends have to offer.

In today's money-grabbing climate, where there is a drive to monetise every possible aspect of everything, we hope to bring you some glimmer of hope not everyone is so greedy.

As a child, my wonderfully wise father used to tell me to never make a God of money. I often questioned his meaning because I never understood what he was driving at. Now I'm older, and hopefully I've gained some wisdom, I think I understand what he meant.

If money is the God you worship, it becomes what you live for, aspire to and chase after. If you let money so control you it becomes all you see, you'll miss out on seeing the buttercups in the meadow, hearing the birds' beautiful songs and sharing in the love and companionship of your fellow humans and creatures of this bountiful place called Earth. Be careful what you wish for – because it may just come true. Take care and be careful, friends,

BP

THE END