

ALEX

sci fi | starlight | human nature

PENLAND



Alex Penland is a former museum kid. They spent their childhood running rampant through the Smithsonian museums, which kicked off an early career as a child adventurer. Alex has worked in the field with NASA scientists, linguists, and acclaimed photographers.

Now twice a Pushcart-nominated author, Alex lives in Scotland while studying for a PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh. Prior adventures include founding a writing organization in Iowa, collaborating on micro-operas, diving with sharks, and volunteering with the Smithsonian for nearly a decade. Their work has been internationally published, appearing in *Interzone* and *Olney Magazine*; *Andrion* is their first novella.

Catch them on most social media as [@AlexPenname](#), and find more information on their website: www.AlexPenland.com.



sample Q&A

You mention occasionally that you grew up “underwater”. What does that mean? Pretty much exactly what it sounds like. I grew up snorkeling and swimming—and occasionally paddling—and got certified as a scuba diver for my twelfth birthday. A significant part of my childhood was spent exploring the ocean.

Your work has strong political themes. Aren't you afraid you'll scare off potential readers?

All work is political: either you're satisfied with the world and you write things as they are, or you want to change the world and write things as they could be. I've always wanted to change the world. My writing reflects that.

about

PRONOUNS

they/he

PAST

Alex was a volunteer with the Smithsonian Institution for a decade. They founded The Writers' Rooms in Iowa City in 2016.

PRESENT

Alex holds an MSc with Distinction from the University of Edinburgh in Creative Writing. They are currently a PhD student in the same track.

FUTURE

*Alex's current projects include a linguistic fantasy novel, the sequel to *Andrion*, and horror-romances about quantum physics.*

selected work

ANDRION

Knight Errant Press (2023)

WE YOU AND THE GALLERY

Metaphorosis (2023)

THREE ITERATIONS OF ODYSSEUS

Performed (2022)

Mahogany Opera

HIC INCIPIT PESTIS

Quaranzine (2020)

University of Cambridge

THE GREAT

Writers Resist (2018)

Honorary Mention, Writers' Digest Annual Contest (2017)

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