

Darling interview with new local author Antonia Cridland

THE INSPIRATION

I've been a Wimbledon resident for ten years now and a cake and sandwich supplier to the lovely shops and offices in the village. I started writing at the age of eleven. Then, at seventeen, I saw a snippet of a movie in which a handsome young man was strolling along a beach looking at the surfers out at sea. I imagined he fell in love with one of them, wrote a short story, and then actually lost the manuscript! Twenty years later I found it again, and I was immediately inspired by the ideas I needed to turn it into a novel. At last 'Nathan and Alex' sprang into my head, almost in its entirety.

THE BOOK

It's the story of two young men falling in love, charting their emotional and physical journey together. They live near to each other on a hill not unlike the hill in Marryat Road, and with very similar views over the suburbs. It was a joy to write, and I hope it encourages young gay men to feel safe with their feelings and very hopeful for the future.

'Nathan and Alex' has received 5 star review ratings on Goodreads and Amazon, and is currently 'flying off the shelves' at Prowler



in Soho. It was tremendously well received at this year's London Book Fair, leading to my author interview for YouTube and Vimeo, and an invitation to do a reading for Paul Burston from Polari/TimeOut at the South Bank on June 26th. It's roaring off the ebook launch pad that is Kindle and making me a myriad of wonderful new friends from the gay community, one of whom recently described it as a "first novel masterpiece". Such is the positive feedback that

I am set to begin a worldwide signing tour toward the end of the summer. From Kazbar in Clapham and Legends in Brighton we head up to Manchester and on to L.A., Barcelona and Australia. 'Nathan and Alex' is available via Kindle, Amazon, Prowler in Soho, on order at Waterstones, and followed on Twitter and Facebook. I hope it brings everyone who reads it the greatest of joy.