

# TRT BOOK CLUB

THE OFFICIAL BOOK CLUB OF TEENSREADTOO.COM. FEATURING AUTHOR SPOTLIGHTS, INTERVIEWS, Q&A, GIVEAWAYS, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2010

## Visit with Frank Beddor



<http://www.lookingglasswars.com/> <http://www.cardsoldierwars.com/> Today we're visiting with the uber-talented Frank Beddor, author of THE LOOKING GLASS WARS trilogy and the HATTER M graphic novel series! The third book in THE LOOKING GLASS WARS trilogy, **ARCHENEMY**, was just released in paperback on 10/14/10 by Speak. And the third book in the HATTER M series, **THE NATURE OF WONDER**, was released on 9/22/10 by Automatic Pictures Publishing!



*The Heart Crystal's power has been depleted, and Imagination along with it. The people of Wonderland have all lost their creative drive, and most alarmingly, even Queen Alyss is without her powers. But at least the vicious Redd Heart seems to be similarly disabled. Amazingly, she is attempting to team up with her enemy, Alyss, in order to reclaim Wonderland from King Arch. Alyss might have no choice but to accept Redd's overtures, especially when she begins to receive alarming advice from the caterpillar oracles. . . .*



*In Volume 3, THE NATURE OF WONDER, Royal Bodyguard Hatter Madigan follows the Glow of the setting sun into America's wild west in search of Wonderland's lost princess. Hatter's adventures will include a shamanic vision quest in the Grand Canyon and tracking Black Imagination through San Francisco's Barbary Coast where he discovers an astounding clue to his own haunted past. \*\*I had the chance to ask Frank a few questions about his life and writing, and I really hope you enjoy his answers as much as I did!*

**If you could bring any character from one of your books to life, who would it be and why?** I would have to say Royal Bodyguard Hatter Madigan. I arrive at this conclusion after years spent studying his journals, travels and adventures which all lead me to know that from 1859 - 1872 a true hero moved among the mere mortals inhabiting this world. I would like to travel alongside Hatter and share his thoughts and company.

**Your own six-word memoir.** Crashed through the Carrollian Rabbit Hole.

**Twitter your newest or upcoming release in 140 characters or less.** In Volume 3 the Nature of Wonder, join Hatter Madigan on an odyssey of exploding airships, shamanic quests, hidden caves and a visit to a truly exclusive Hat Shop.

**You have the chance to spend the day with any character from one of your favorite books. Who would you choose and why?** An opportunity to spend a whole day with a literary character .....sunrise to sunset....who would it be? I go to my vast library of favorite books (after all – they are ALL my favorites!) and I let my eyes drift over the titles. Hmmm...Nel in

LITTLE WOMEN...no....poor Nell...well...no spoilers here....oh...yes....ROBINSON CRUSOE...definitely a favorite book. I would choose to spend the day with my favorite castaway on his beach....making bonfires and spearing fish.....cracking coconuts....eyes on the horizon...wishing the ship never comes and the day never ends.

**What was your favorite book growing up as a teen?** As a teenager I discovered ZEN AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE by Robert M. Pirsig. The book is kind of about Zen and kind of about keeping your motorcycle running but it is really more of a philosophy on life as a father and son travel cross country from Minnesota to California over a 17 day period. The son was about my age, I lived in Minnesota and I loved motorcycles so it all came together in my head. Great book.

**When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?** I wanted to keep my options open. I was one of those kids who worked out a deal with the genie in the bottle...when given three wishes I wished for 3 million more wishes. I wasn't greedy as much as I wanted options. So as a kid I had a lot of dreams of what I would do when I was 'big'. Skiing was top of the list. I didn't worry about how it was going to pay the bills...who cared! If you love doing something enough the means of support will appear. The secret is loving it and doing it with all your heart.

**Your favorite subject in high school – and your least favorite.** Hmm...high school? Lunch and gym were soooooo much fun. But truly my favorite class was English and creative writing and reading. Least favorite? HISTORY aka SOCIAL STUDIES. Where did they get this stuff? Wait...I'm just supposed to believe all this because it's in this textbook that smells like mold and is all marked up with un-smiley faces and the scribbles of other crazed text-vandals from previous years? The school labeled the past history but I preferred to call it a mystery...and I went looking for truth.

**The one book everyone in the world should read.** 'Should' is my all time least favorite word! It's this sort of guilt inducing, finger wagging word that we use to beat up ourselves and others. "Oh dear...I should read that book..." or "You should go visit that lonely old kook down the street." Both of these may be absolutely excellent and worthy things to do but not because you should...but because you really, really want to. The book will read much better and the old kook will totally appreciate the difference in your visitation vibe. Now...with all that being said....the title of a book that everyone in the world (wow! from Uganda to Iceland and back again.) might really, really enjoy reading....I can only coyly suggest the Hatter Madigan geo-geographic series since it takes readers around (and around!) the world. Something for everyone to relate to!

**The book you wish you had written.** Strange....why would I wish to have written another writer's book? And yet...it is a worthy question. Is there a book I wish I had written? Once again...let me peruse my towering library shelves. What do I see...the JUNGLE BOOK....cool...AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS...DUNE....ALICE IN WONDERLAND....no.....hmmmm....oh yes....OF COURSE! I wish I had written the 1936 revised

edition of *Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases* (author Peter Mark Roget/revisions by Samuel Romilly Roget) because....I would have the most amazing vocabulary and knowledge of words on the planet! Highly recommended!

**Your five favorite reads from 2010 (books you read during the year; they do not have to have been published during 2010).** I love a great mystery/thriller as much as anyone and it seems much of the world has spent 2010 reading the Stieg Larrson trilogy... THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO...THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE and THE GIRL WHO KICKED A HORNET'S NEST. I read all three as fast as I could...not moving from my couch except to fetch more bags of cookies and of course, brush my teeth. I also read THE SWARM or as it is known in German, DER SCHWARM (by author Frank Schätzing)...almost 800 pages of environmental thriller that had me wondering if it was real or it was Memorex because so much of what was happening in the book...was also happening on our own troubled planet. Intense! And number 5....British author Terry Pratchett's THUD...for its genius whimsy and wordplay and insights. Any time you need to feel the humanity of humanity...read Terry Pratchett!

**If your mom wrote the author profile for the jacket of your next book, what would she write?** She did write it! Go check it out, Volume 3, THE NATURE OF WONDER. She also writes my name on labels and sews them into all my clothes. Mothers!!

**You have the chance to go back and change a scene from one of your previous releases. What book would you choose, what scene would you change, and how would you alter it?** Thank you JLW for providing this forum in which to clear up one of the GREAT MYSTERIES of Hatter Madigan's quest. When I wrote THE LOOKING GLASS WARS (the first book in the LGW prose trilogy) I had not yet begun my exhaustive study of Hatter's private search for Princess Alyss. The earlier evidence provided by the LGW deck of playing cards had indicated that Hatter Madigan had been shot and wounded by a guard at Buckingham Palace which resulted in his returning to Wonderland without having met with Alyss. Not true! From Hatter's journals I now know that Hatter did indeed meet with Alyss as she awaited her wedding day cloistered within Buckingham Palace. He scaled the walls and entered her private chamber but when he bowed to her as the Queen of Wonderland she refused to believe in the truth of her identity. When Hatter insisted it was the truth she turned the logic of the truth against him and ordered Hatter, as her loyal subject, to leave her in peace as Alice Liddell. And so he was forced to obey and thus suffered 'the great wound' not to his body but to his heart as he returned to Wonderland alone after his 13 year search to gather the support he would need to bring Alyss home. The full story will finally be told in the 5th and final volume of the Hatter M geo-graphic series coming in 2012.

**You've invented a new national holiday. What is it called, and what does it celebrate? (Plus, would we get the day off of school and work??)** STAY HOME AND READ A BOOK DAY! And given the amazing success of this holiday we will be adding STAY IN BED AND READ A BOOK WEEKEND!

**Using the letters J L W (my initials!), create the title of your next bestseller. (For example, *Jumping Love Walrus.*)** Well...not to tip any hats or anything...but 2011's fourth volume of the Hatter M series may just have a sub-title something like this: *The Japanese Love Wonderland*



**What is your astrological sign? How closely does it match your personality?** I am Leo! Hear me roar. And laugh and shout and occasionally, when I forget my higher nature, order others about as though I were a King. But I am not a King. I am merely an author who writes of Kings and Queens and lost Princesses and Men in Hats. But being a Leo and having this sense of royalty and grandiosity as my birth right...ha....gives me a window on the world of such minds and mentalities. I may not be a Royal Heart but at my astrological core...I have a royal heart.

Thanks so much to Frank for visiting with us today! Be sure to visit either of his websites listed above, or you can also find him at his **Blog**, on **Facebook**, at **MySpace**, on **Twitter**, or email him directly at **info@lookingglasswars.com**. Frank was so kind that he sent me an entire box filled with awesome goodies, so here's what we're going to do today: three lucky posters will be chosen at random to receive a variety of cool stuff; books, stickers, bookmarks, etc. So be sure to leave any comments or questions you have for Mr. Beddor in the comments section!

POSTED BY JEN WARDRIP AT 5:26 AM