



Justin Hulford

Personal Bio

I always enjoyed writing compositions at school and just carried on. This has led to an interesting journey that has seen me contribute to various in-print magazines, be the lead reviewer for a music magazine (over 1800 articles), and create the fanzine for a band. I have also published ten titles to date, three novels and six non-fiction, and a poetry collection.

My best advice to any aspiring writer is to write, write, write. The more you write the better you become. I also have a degree in Creative Writing, allowing my skills to catch up with my creativity.

Below you will find an interview about [The Book Was Passed To A Girl](#) followed by clickable links to his portfolio of three fiction titles, one poetry collection and six non-fiction titles.

An Interview with Justin Hulford

Open Shelf: Let's start simply. What sparked the idea for *The Book Was Passed to a Girl*?

Justin:

*It actually began life as a script for a TV series competition. Channel 4 (UK) had an open invite for scripts, with the programme to be a series and aimed at late teens to early twenties. They didn't want a copy of *Skins* but it was to go in that slot. I came up with the general outline that evening and had ten pages complete in a few days. It got through two rounds but fell short of the final round. And I felt the story still deserved to be heard.*

Open Shelf: The premise is wonderfully strange - a book that "sort of" predicts the future, a caravan holiday, and a reality that keeps slipping sideways. What drew you to that blend of the familiar and the fantastical?

Justin:

I have always liked epic fantasy, so wanted elements of fantasy without going too wild. I've also been fascinated with anything to do with time. So, I wanted to thread those elements with the mundane life of a teenager. It's certainly mundane at the very start.

Open Shelf: Emily is an interesting protagonist because she's not a chosen one - she's just a girl who happens to pick up the wrong (or right) book. What do you enjoy about writing characters who are out of their depth?

Justin:

Emily just isn't obvious. She wants a book, she gets a book. It could be argued that she is a chosen one – that the book chooses her. She isn't the first character of this type, but her discovery of the book and what it does, and the world behind it gives lots of options for Emily and the reader to share.

Open Shelf: The book weaves together multiple threads - Emily's journey, a murderous man hunting his own body parts, a would-be queen, a foppish dandy, and a detective tracking grisly murders. How did you balance those tones?

Justin:

Part of it is about deliberate chaos, echoing Emily's confusion as she encounters the disparate parts. But equally she is the common thread that ties it altogether. Some of the varied characters only encounter her, not each other, so Emily provides the consistency.

Open Shelf: Bran is a fan-favourite already - the loyal friend who grounds Emily. What role does she play in the story's emotional core?

Justin:

Bran is Emily's reality. Flawed, and less concerned with consequences. She checks Emily and allows her to flourish, all at once. She is the friend that doesn't judge, giving Emily freedom to act.

Open Shelf: Without spoilers, the villain's quest - recovering his own body parts - is one of the most unusual hooks in the book. Where did that idea come from?

Justin:

It just came from odd musings about organ transplant. We often hear from the families of the donors about how it feels to have their loved one live on. But what about the donor? Then he developed into a mix of driven focus and coldness.

Open Shelf: The detective subplot adds a crime-thriller edge. What made you want to include that perspective?

Justin:

The Detective is another character that joins together the parts. And even though he

runs a department looking into odd cases he is still grounded in the mundane world, showing how the mix of eccentric characters sit next to the real world.

Open Shelf: If you had to describe the book's vibe in one sentence, what would you say?

Justin:

An adventure where fate, fear and the bizarre collide.

Open Shelf: And finally - what do you hope readers take away from *The Book Was Passed to a Girl*?

Justin:

Emily is just a normal girl that goes on to encounter and overcome extraordinary things. We can all do that.

Books - Fiction



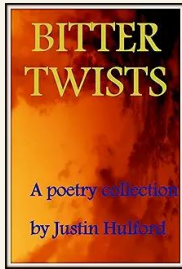
The Book Was Passed To A Girl – A teenage girl buys a mysterious book and is drawn into a world familiar and fantastical all at once, as rival groups try to obtain the book for their own plans.



My Father's Feet – A father and son spend time trying to reconcile, only to find that the town they have visited is at the heart of a centuries old ritual, as one chosen from four local families begins a ritual to assuage the floods of the blood moon.

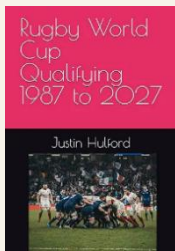


Tolosa Gold – A Roman treasure is lost and then hunted through the ages, the mystery resurfacing in the modern day and drawing a Professor into the quest once followed by the Pope and Holy Roman Emperor.



Bitter Twists – A collection of bitter-sweet poetry telling tales of revenge, lost hope, inevitability and more.

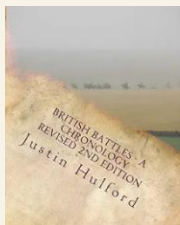
Books – Non-Fiction



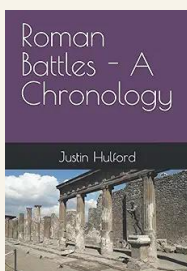
Rugby World Cup Qualifying 1987 to 2007 – A study of all the regional qualification tournaments linked to the men's rugby world cup, from its inception to the 2027 tournament.



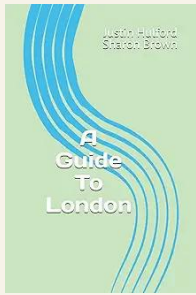
Rugby World Cup Finals (A Closer Look) 1987 to 2023 – A close look at the Finals, with a summary of the matches, head-to-head comparisons and then analysis of who is really the best.



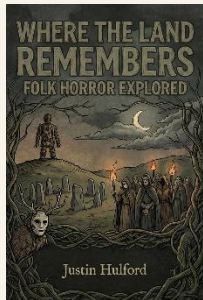
British Battles – A Chronology – From the first known battles on British soil to the last, this is an attempt to list every battle, skirmish and siege.



Roman Battles – A Chronology – A compendium of all known battles involving the Roman Kingdom, Republic, Empire.



A Guide To London (with Sharon Brown) – A tourist’s guide to London, delving into every aspect of a trip from airports to trains, hotels to museums and much more.



Where the Land Remembers - Folk Horror Explored – A close look at Folk Horror as an idea and how it has been presented in film and television.