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# Meet the Author

The latest author in our British & Irish Writing Community is:

## CAMERON JOHNSTON

1. Tell us about yourself, such as your writing CV, your biggest achievements etc:

Hi, I'm Cameron Johnston, author of the grimdark(ish) fantasy *The Traitor God* and its upcoming sequel, *God of Broken Things*. I've had short stories published in *Deep Magic*, *Grimdark Magazine*, *The Lovecraft eZine* and co-edited the *Thirty Years of Rain* anthology. I like to play with swords and I am currently dabbling in blacksmithing. It's all for research purposes, right? So is the ale...

2. Tell us about the birth of your debut novel, '*Traitor God*'.

In the early-mid 2000s I decided to write and actually finish a novel. This is not it. Then I did another one. This is also not it. I learned a lot from those two novels (including that they were not publishable), and then decided to up my game and practice my skills on short stories for a few years. One of those short stories really caught my imagination – a noirish sword and sorcery character and setting, and *The Traitor God* grew out of that.

3. What's inspired you to write in the way you do?

I think my writing stems from classic swords and sorcery fantasy: Elric, Corum, Conan etc mixed with the cosmic horror of HP Lovecraft.

4. "Planner or Pantser?" Do you structure your novel or dive in to see where it goes?

More Pantser than Planner, but with a scaffold structure of beginning, end, and a few important points I want to hit on the journey. The exploration keeps me interested and if I over-plan it kills the joy of writing the story.

5. Writing is a never-ending journey of discovery. What have you learned on your journey?

I think the biggest thing I have learned is to actually sit down and write and get it finished, edited and polished up – everything else is secondary. The one thing all published authors have in common is perseverance. Writing is not about instant gratification.

6. Are you traditional or self-published? Why?

Traditionally published. I was a library kid coming out with armfuls of books, and among other reasons, I love knowing that my book is now also on those shelves.



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7. Tell us more about your world building. Its inspirations etc.

I got bored with reading so much low-fantasy, so I set out to create a high magic setting. I like big magic and bigger monsters, mysterious forgotten temples and the creeping corrupting doom that magic brings the unprepared. The Traitor God is set on the mean streets of a vast noirish city, the crumbling heart of a dying empire with alchemics, mageblood, and illicit magic bought and sold in dingy basements. Families of noble magic users rule the empire, and don't have much time for the lowly peasants. The main character is from peasant stock, granting him a unique perspective, and he boasts the reviled magical Gift to manipulate the human mind. It's all very swords and sorcery with a darker and more monstrous edge.

8. Where can we find your work? How much is it? What can we expect from it? Where can we find you on social media or anywhere else authors hang out?

You can find the paperback in many big bookshops, and the paperback and ebook all the usual online places like Amazon, Book Depository etc and also directly from The Angry Robot website. It's currently half-price on Kindle but who knows what the gods of publishing have in store... You can find me on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CamJohnston>, on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/cameronjohnston13> or on Reddit r/fantasy.

Thanks for the opportunity to interview you Cameron!