

“Ideas are all around me all the time”



Following our interview with JANE PROWSE last summer when her first novel was published, **HATTORI HACHI: THE REVENGE OF PRAYING MANTIS**, we invited the author to tell us about where she gets her inspiration.



Where do you get your ideas for stories?

“Ideas are all around me all the time. Hattori Hachi was inspired by a slim book entitled ‘All you need to know about ninjutsu’. As I leafed through, I was immediately hooked. This great discipline pre-dates every action hero we know and inspired me to write a Zen philosophy, kick-ass action story with a 15 year-old female lead.

“Camden was the obvious home for Hattori Hachi – since it’s where I live and I know and love it so well. But when Piccadilly Press asked me for a second in the series, I knew I wanted to locate the story in a remote forest where the evil ninjutsu warriors – the Katakai – would be training up for a terrible crime. My husband led me to Kielder in Northumberland – a place of great natural beauty with the largest man-made lake in Europe. The perfect inspiration..”

What gives you real inspiration?

“With book two – *HATTORI HACHI: STALKING THE ENEMY* – due out in June, I’m now writing book three. If my half-Japanese heroine was to understand anything at all about her ancestry on her mother’s side, then she had to go to Japan.



And therefore so must I!

“The inspiration has been flooding in from an illuminating week in Tokyo, Kyoto and Nagasaki – with a side trip to a ninja theme park!

“It would have been impossible

for me to write about Japan without visiting. It’s like no other country I’ve ever experienced. I want to set the third book partly in Nagasaki so there’s a very real reminder of the consequence of war alongside the mighty ninja battle that will inevitably take place.

The Zen philosophy of the Japanese people, their willingness to strive for the better of the community and their enormous ability to be able to forgive and move on went against everything I’d ever heard about the Japanese, especially their behaviour during the Second World War.

“My trip was enlightening and inspiring – even the theme park gave me an insight into how this impressive country has evolved. I’m grateful to that slim volume – “All you need to know about ninjutsu”. It has inspired me to learn so much more than its cover suggested and sent me off in all kinds of directions that have brought me their own inspiration that has helped shape and form my heroine *Hattori Hachi*.”



You can find out more about Hattori Hachi at www.hattorihachi.com where you can also read about Jane’s school visits, where she talks about novel writing as well as screenwriting and directing in theatre and television.

To arrange a school visit email Jane Prowse at info@hattorihachi.com

The educational possibilities of aviation are endless

You may have seen in the previous edition of “**Teachers Post**”, an article about a 48 minute documentary celebrating the first flight of a British aviator over British soil. “A Dream Of Flight” follows the exploits of Lord Brabazon of Tara and his associates at the Royal Aero Club at Leysdown on the Isle Of Sheppey in 1909.

This poignant and informative film celebrates the centenary of flight and has been warmly received by aviation enthusiasts and historians alike. The

makers have also had some very positive feedback from teachers who have found the film a useful aid in the instruction of pupils who have been engaged in various projects and competitions celebrating 100 years of flight.

Aviation and its environs can be applied to subjects across the curriculum from reading the stimulating accounts of pioneering flights in English lessons, to looking at 2 & 3D shapes and symmetry of aircraft in mathematics.

In design and technology it offers pupils a chance to explore structures and mechanisms, the educational possibilities are endless.

With budgets coming under severe pressure, the producers are pleased to respond by offering this DVD at an educational discount price of just £10.00 saving over 30% on the original cost.

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