

Tip Sheet – Q&A

Alfheim

Question: Tell us about Alfheim?

Answer: At its heart, Alfheim is about a young man who is dealing with a miserable life through bullying, romantic rejection, an abusive uncle, and what he thinks is ADHD. His mother died a few months before the opening of the book, and he's suffering from the loss of her above all else. In the early chapters, he's driven to the point of suicide.

Question: How did you come to this idea for a story?

Answer: Quite frankly, it comes from the impact of a dream I had when I was 9 or 10 years old. I remember two female characters, one who resembled a classmate of mine, I'll never know why my dream chose her, who came and took me to an otherworldly place. They looked like us, but I knew they were more like leprechauns or some other fae type creature. I have no recollection of what the place was like, but they left me in the front hall of my house just after sunrise and were about to return to where they came from. I woke up from the dream and I was wildly desperate to go back into the dream because I didn't want to stay there, I wanted them to take me back with them. That scenario was burned into my brain for decades.

Question: So, what got you started writing Alfheim?

Answer: Even though I had written my first novel, Flashback, which is Science Fiction, I somehow felt that to be a serious writer, I needed to be more literary and deal with meaningful topics. Then I happened upon *The Hunger Games* and even more importantly, the *Twilight Series*. Here were two highly successful franchises, and I felt I'd suddenly been given permission to let go and write about something on the fantastic side. I felt I finally had permission to pull the remnants of that dream out and see how it would work.

Question: What are some of your thematic elements in the story?

Answer: Themes relating to the effect of bullying and depression were put on stage. Timothy is dealing with these, he's a flawed character, but through him, we learn that the strength to overcome, to achieve something positive comes from within. It comes with some help, but unless that strength is there to begin with, all the help in the world won't do any good. Overall, I think Timothy's story is a great reminder to us all to seek that inner strength when things are tough.

Question: How much of you is in the character of Timothy?

Answer: More than I'd care to think about. I did experience a certain amount of bullying and romantic rejection in my late pre-teen years. I certainly became familiar with suicide ideation as an adult. To make something of myself, I did have to dig deep and find ways of coping and adjusting. My reward has been a long-lasting relationship with someone amazing, and I was given the tools and the ability to infuse those feelings and experiences into my storytelling.

Question: What is the first big reveal in *Alfheim*?

Answer: We discover early on that Timothy isn't a normal young man, he's actually an elf. That was the fun part, like Harry Potter is a wizard and lives in a world of castles, and magic, and dragons, the story is still about a young boy coming of age and dealing with issues of bullying, how to adapt to adults, betrayal, and let's face it - puberty. It's easy to look at Timothy being an elf as simply another form of creature subject to racism. Secondly, he's saved and protected by Aenya, who is a fairy creature who sees him for who and what he is.

Question: Is *Alfheim* a stand-alone novel?

Answer: No, a good many Young Adult stories are told through a series of books. I felt that my overall story arc for Timothy, and the realm he's brought into almost forcibly, would best be handled over three books. The second book, *Alfheim Resurrections*, was released in March 2026, and I'm working on the third and final book *Alfheim Revealed*.