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Captain Coherence

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Unquenched, now beacon.

Two nonfiction books, about 60 essays, and 35 poems published. Writing coach. Geologist. Semifinalist, University of New Orleans Press Lab fiction competition, 2020; Shortlist, Robert Graves Poetry Prize, 2018; Commendation, The Poetry Society (UK) National Poetry Competition, 2014 (top 10 out of more than 13,000 entries); Highly Commended, Bridport Poetry Prize, 2018; Silver REMI Award for dramatic screenplay, Houston International Film Festival, 2008, etc.

years experience: 30

This writer is looking for an agent

SKILLS

Writing, Ghost-writing, Copywriting, Technical writing, Fiction writing

GENRES & SPECIALTIES

General fiction, Fantasy/science fiction, Reference, Biography, History, Mind/body/spirit, Travel, Science, Literary Fiction, Essays, Poetry

BEST-KNOWN PROJECTS

"Enough Sky" -- <http://poetrysociety.org.uk/poems/enough-sky/>

"As If Hope Matters: A Critique of Modern Storytelling"

"Courageous Pulls Through"

Capsule Reviews of Original Work (CROW)

PROJECTS ON OFFER/ PROPOSALS AVAILABLE

MORTAL WEATHER. Contemporary, Book Club Fiction. 100,000 words.

When window washer Stanhope Ellis's smoking back hits the asphalt on a bleak October dawn, he's ready to join his wife Eva, who died two years before. But she pulls him back into the light. Among the living, her friend and mentor, Anshu, takes over, inspiring Stan to make a fresh start in San Diego. But Stan is caught between worlds — an insomniac stalking Pacific beaches and cliffs.

Stan finds himself absorbing the stories of quirky characters who have one thing in common: closeness to death. As he struggles with whether he's Death Man or a cosmic witness, he meets a wise nurse, Gayathri Das, who helps him navigate the emotional minefield. But will she die, like the others?

Mortal Weather is an existential adventure — a timely, playful consideration of life and death, with an against-the-odds love story at its core. The recurring themes read as a mystery, the characters are alive and memorable, and the writing is fluid and engaging. Here are all of our voices, asking all of our questions, insisting on essential experience.

(The third paragraph is paraphrased from editors and beta readers.)

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EDITOR (American woman, early 50s): "The narrative arc feels just right. The story aims big in a sense but is at home in details that are honest, 'real' but not mundane, there's a quirky sensibility to it that I loved. It is a real accomplishment to reach for the cosmic, to take aim for something large and keep it grounded in an accessible story line. I loved that about the book, and that is how we can all identify with Stan, in those things that 'just happen to us.' He takes it on with bravery, curiosity, even a sense of humor. I find Stan a character that both men and women will believe in and care about. And I think the novel's themes have a contemporary and youthful appeal. Who isn't right now searching ... tasked with growing even when we don't want to!"

READER (Canadian woman, mid 20s): "As part of my jobs as beta reader and editor, I have read many books, and over time, the stories fade, 9 times out 10, but I can tell, and feel, that I will remember these characters for a long time. I will continue to think about Stan and Gaya and Anshu and Pidge and the Spuds for a long time, and for me, that is the best outcome I could hope for from a book."