

# THE DUMNONIAN COMPASS

S B POSTLEWHITE

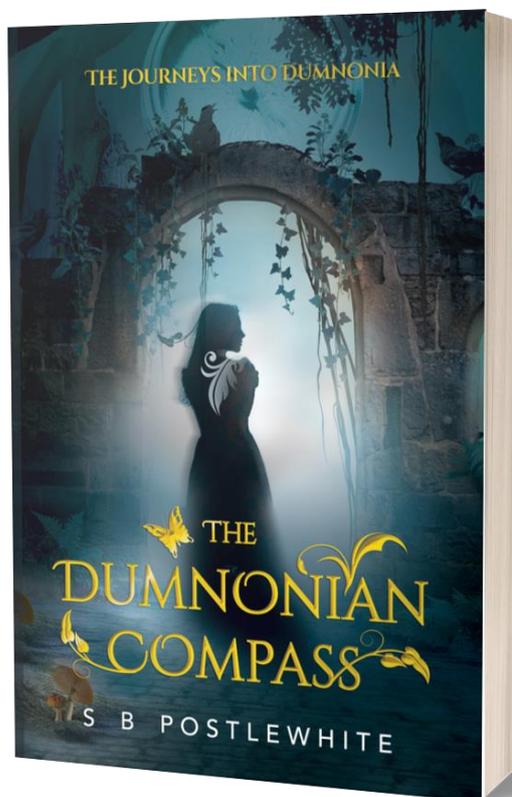
**Darcy Bennett just wants to be normal. Normal clothes, normal friends, a normal life...**

But between her parent's antics and the mysterious creatures that keep turning up, 'normal' is not happening for her.

Darcy is the daughter of two eccentric, and obsessive archaeologists, who are so work focussed, it often seems to her that they forget she exists. On a family holiday to Cornwall, Darcy discovers there is a task before her and it is hers alone; one that challenges her ideas about the world and more so, about herself.

Sent on a journey by a stranger, Darcy becomes trapped in an alternate world where the rules are vastly different from those she knows. Darcy begins to understand that being true to herself is more important than 'fitting in', and friends can be made in the most unlikely of places.

She realises her physical journey is to find a way back home; yet her emotional discovery is to value real love, true loss and the often-great cost of doing the 'right thing'; this will be the hardest path for Darcy to travel...



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*SB Postlewhite.*

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## A Conversation with SB Postlewhite

### Where do you get your information or ideas for your books?

I write with one foot in fantasy the other in history and legend. There are elements of mythological creatures and traditions in my writing that are particular to regional areas and cultures of the British Isles, where my stories are set. These are the springboard for my stories and give them depth and meaning.

### Do you like to create books for adults, kids, or a cause? Why?

I like to write for kids. They have an imagination that is still unrestrained by life and so you can go places you may not have travelled to if you were writing adult literature. Writing for older kids allows me to be grittier and rawer than if I were writing for much younger children.

### What are your plans for your future books?

I plan to finish a sequel to *The Dumnonian Compass* by mid next year. It will build on the first book, but the characters will have grown up and the writing will reflect that. The adventures of Darcy will continue.

### How did you decide on the characters for your book, 'The Dumnonian Compass'?

I love the writings of Jane Austen and created a girl that combines the pride of Mr Darcy with the prejudice of Elisabeth Bennett. I wanted to create sub characters that highlighted those traits and expanded on them. Darcy's reactions to the arrival of creatures she doesn't believe exist and the reactions of some of those sub characters to each other strengthens this concept. Overcoming these feelings is part of Darcy's journey and perhaps the main reason she needed to go through everything she does.

### What were your inspirations for writing this book, 'The Dumnonian Compass'?

When I started reading adventure stories as a child, I so often found that the main characters were more often than not, male. Girls didn't go off and have adventures, girls should only be homely and nurturing. I wanted to put those misconceptions right and I decided that one day I would write a book with a strong, independent female lead that could inspire girls to reach for their fullest potential. We now live in a different century than the one I grew up in, but some of those old stereo types and traditional role expectations still survive. Girls need to know they can be whatever they want to be, more than that, kids in general need to know there should be no boundaries to potential.

Darcy goes on a journey to fix something that was broken, gets lost in the process but eventually finds answers and her way home. I have always loved puzzles, mysteries that have an answer somewhere, however well it may be hidden. So, it was inevitable that I would write a mystery fantasy.

My story was written to spark the imagination of young people and to explore some of the darker aspects of humanity, such as prejudice and intolerance. That fear created by ignorance can be broken down by understanding and friendship. And that love trumps everything.

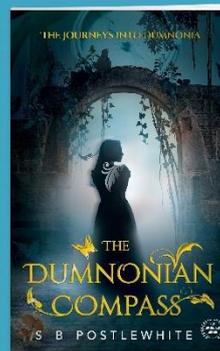
### What drew you to the subject matter or the characters?

I wanted to create a world of my own where people and creatures I loved could exist by rules I created. Although Dumnonia existed in ancient tribal Britain and is the region we know as Cornwall, Devon and parts of Somerset and Dorset today. It still left me so much scope to be as creative as I wanted to be.



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