

FAITH MORTIMER

A way with words

Top-selling author Faith Mortimer's own life story offers enough excitement in itself to inspire a novel

Many of us dream about writing a novel one day, but only a few actually get around to doing it and an even fewer prove successful.

Faith Mortimer has won a significant following for her two novels - 'The Crossing' and the more recent, Cyprus-set 'The Assassins' Village' – both written while raising a family, running a successful business and travelling around the world.

'The Assassins' Village' raced to the Top 10 in its Amazon.com category virtually overnight when it was released late last month.

Originally from Manchester and spending her childhood on Royal Air Force camps around the globe, Mortimer now calls Cyprus home and is happily settled in Dhoros, Limassol.

Speaking to The Cyprus Weekly, Mortimer revealed that she had always played around with words, but only had time to indulge her passion for writing fairly recently.

A nurse until she became a mother, and then the founder of an agency covering the administration for a collection of travel-related companies, Mortimer has always been busy.

"But by the time the children flew the nest I realised that my business was basically looking after itself and suddenly found that I had a lot more time to myself and so I did a Science degree with the Open University," she said, adding that all the places among her first choice of an English Arts degree were full.

"Realising that I had the stamina and determination to sit exams, I began to think about writing a novel," she said.

A dinner with friends proved to be the catalyst for Mortimer's first book, 'The Crossing' which was published in 2006 and is partly set during the Second World War.

"A good friend called Paul had come over and he started telling us about his father. After our friends left, I kept thinking about his story, I found it so interesting. So, I asked Paul if I could write about it. He was pleased about it and showed me his medals, photos and other war memorabilia," Mortimer said.

The novel was written while Mortimer and her husband Chris were yachting around the Caribbean, USA and Mediterranean.

"On board a boat can be a surprisingly good place to write, because there are periods when you have plenty of free time without interruption."

The author highly enjoyed researching the book and still considers following it up one day.

"I always thought the story warranted two books and the first was very well received and even won a good following here in Cyprus, which is where I consider home to be."

Inspiration for Mortimer's more recent second novel, currently only available in e-book form on Amazon.com but also due out in paperback sometime soon, came from Cyprus.

"I had been living in Vouni, a village in the mountains with just a few Cypriot residents left, but lots of expatriates and lots of gossip. I had such fun listening to it all I thought I could write something about events happening in a place like that. Of course, the eventual tale of murder and affairs is all made up."

Again, Mortimer spent time researching her new novel and enjoyed learning more about Cypriot ways, traditions and dances.

She was quick to remind readers that they do not necessarily require a Kindle or similar e-book reader to enjoy e-books from Amazon, but can also read them on their computers using free software from the Amazon website.

On her preferred way to write, Mortimer revealed that she prefers to put words on paper in complete silence.

"Once I start writing, the whole day flows by and sometimes Chris has to remind me to stop to have lunch."

The author finds herself at her best in the morning and usually sits down to work after completing a few household chores.

"More recently I have had the added responsibility of keeping up with my social networking websites; I have 1,000 followers on Twitter," Mortimer added.

She is also currently working on her third novel, which has a working title of 'Children of the Plantation.'

"It is set in 1950-60s Malaya, now Malaysia. I spent six years there as a child and loved the country and its people. I enjoy writing about exotic places; I find it more interesting to write about other countries although part of this will also be set in the UK. The book will probably be set out in parts and I have just finished the first part and am now working on the second."

For more on Mortimer and her work, visit www.faithmortimerauthor.com or her Facebook page.



Photos Steranos Kouratzis

