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STORIES FROM VOICES PAST

DEAD MEN'S TEETH

Jamie Rhodes illustrated by Christa Leask

FEAST YOURSELF ON DEAD MEN'S TEETH...

Human beings are fascinating creatures and to write good characters, you have to observe the small but beautiful details of real lives. This collection has been inspired by British Library's memoir archive collections. *You can hold the original reports from a ship's surgeon from two hundred years ago and see how his pen wobbled as the ship swayed with the sea, and his writing style change during an outbreak of disease; smell the pages of long unopened journals and diaries; some might even have an accidental thumb mark, or slight grease spot perhaps from food being eaten by the author as he or she wrote; see personal letters between friends, and note the crossings out and rephrasing as newly literate ordinary men and women of the past tried to show off their language skills, often in a seemingly competitive way.*

The collection, funded by the Arts Council and written with the collaboration of the British Library is a work of fiction. Some stories utilise details more exactly than others, and Jamie Rhodes has not been shy to employ a fanciful approach to explore ideas that the memoirs raise for the twenty-first century reader.

My aim in this fiction is to entertain and to spread a little light on the wealth of material in the British Library archives and to explore how my craft as a writer can bring alive a not altogether impossible re-imagining of our past.

After graduating from Manchester Metropolitan University with a degree in philosophy in 2008, Jamie trained as a script reader. He teaches creative writing and screenwriting workshops nationwide.

In 2011 he founded The Homeless Film Festival, helping homeless people to develop stories and write short films. He is a committee member of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, London & South-East branch.

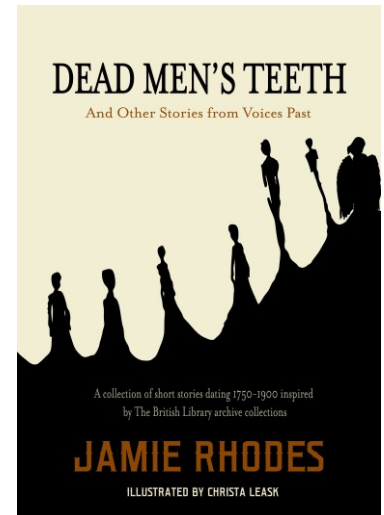
As an avid folklore enthusiast he has collected folk tales from all over the world. His writing is often inspired by unusual stories.

In 2014 he received a grant from the Arts Council to write and publish this book.

Christa Leask studied Textiles & Fashion at Manchester School of Art, graduating with a collection of interactive sculptures. Her collection exhibited at 'Preserve Your Instinct' exhibition at London's Sloan Square Joseph Store.

She worked at iconic British Fashion Label Pretty Green Ltd for three years as a menswear designer for print and embroidery, accessories and footwear, outerwear and tailoring.

In 2013, she set up Pierrot Doll Design Studio, working as a freelance illustrator, sculptor, and materials designer. She also works at 'THE UNSEEN' as The Anatomist, creating sculptures, and developing materials and concepts.



In the tradition of Dickens and other pamphleteers, I offer this book not just as a whole collection in eBook and hard copy but also each story individually in pamphlet form as eBooks.

***BLOATED AND
GANGRENOUS, OUR
FRIGATE WALLOWED IN
THE MURKY WATER LIKE
A CORPSE WAITING FOR
ROT OR REDEMPTION.***

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