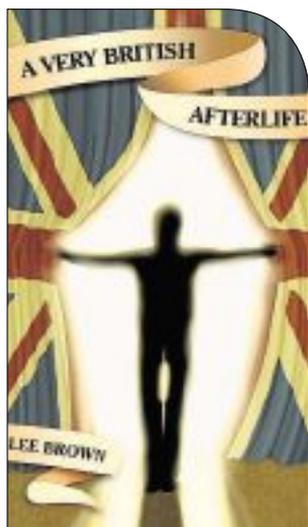


It's Lee's afterlife but not as we know it

Reporter LAWRENCE JOHN talks to Northampton author Lee Brown about his first novel entitled 'A Very British Afterlife'



A Northampton author who came within two tube stops of being blown up in the 7/7 suicide attacks in central London in 2005 has written his first novel.

Lee Brown who was in the capital the day the bombs went off and was two stops away on the tube from getting to work and possibly being a casualty of this now infamous terrorist act.

Lee was working a civil servant at the Department for Work and Pensions when he suffered this near death experience.

He said: "I took it as a sign and decided to get out of London. I applied for a number of jobs and one of those which came up was in Northampton and moved here in 2006."

The inspiration for Lee writing his novel 'A Very British Afterlife' came when he was 24/26 years old and was born out of death of his father.

He said: "These things when they happen show the world is not a very nice place.

"It is full of pain and suffering and I started to think if I found myself at the Pearly Gates I was going to have a few things to say to God for what he had done.

"The idea of someone complaining to God was something I turned into a half hour radio/comedy script which I wrote and then decided to take it further.

"It then became a book which I started writing in my head during the next three years before finishing it three years later.

"I tried to take what had happened in my life and replicate it in the afterlife."

While he was writing the book his mother died.

Lee said: "I've lost a lot of people in my life. I've been to an average of two funerals every year since I was 14. I wanted to write a book that gave hope to the people who have lost loved ones and appreciate the people that are around us at the moment.

"The book is almost biographical, but I wanted the lead character to be an 'everyman', someone many people could relate to in one way or another."

'A Very British Afterlife' is about Vincent Dabney who feels everything is finally falling into place.

Tragically, just as he is about to propose to his girlfriend, his life is cut short 30 years too soon. He finds himself within the Afterlife where he meets and promptly offends God.

Because of the insults and the fact

that there is no final tally of his good and bad deeds, he must prove himself and job shadow various Saints and Angels. Disgruntled about his early entry into the Afterlife and separated from his girlfriend Vincent won't take it lying down.

During his journey he finds out the answers to some deep philosophical questions such as the answers to life and death, should you have sympathy for the Devil, is Death really a Cockney called Harry and can God really hold a tune? This is the first book in the Holy Trilogy.

Lee said he allowed his girlfriend

and a number of close friends to read the book.

Some of them had recently lost someone and he said when they had read his novel they all said it had helped them with their grief.

This is the first novel in a trilogy which will be out in September.

His second book will be ready in September 2015 and his third a year later in 2106.

He added: "I have tried to bring the novel back to being a novel which is full of humour and which has a story which will touch you.

'A Very British Afterlife' by Lee Brown will be published on September 1.



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