**Niel Bushnell**



When he was ten years old, Niel Bushnell made a long list of things he hoped to achieve later in life. One of his main ambitions, lodged in between becoming an astronaut and drawing comics for a living, was to write a novel.

The plan was to do this before he turned thirteen, but it’s taken him a little bit longer than that. His early love of comic books eventually took him in a slightly different direction: a career in animation. He's worked as an animator on several feature films, computer games and television shows, and eventually established his own animation studio.

But Niel continued to write until his elusive first novel, Sorrowline, was completed, some decades after this thirteenth birthday. He'd like to take the credit for it, but he swears there is something living under the stairs that whispers secrets to him when no one else is around.

Niel lives in his native north-east England, where the voices under the stairs continue to influence his career path. He hopes that he might one day become an astronaut and set foot on Mars.