

SHORT BIO [56 words]

Peter J Merrigan was born and raised in Derry, Northern Ireland, and studied English and Writing at university in London. After nineteen years in England, Peter returned to Ireland where he now freelances as a content writer and continues to write his novels. His previous work includes crime novels *The Camel Trail*, and the *Rider* series.

MEDIUM BIO [150 words]

Peter J Merrigan was born in Derry, Northern Ireland, and learned to read at an early age. He was first published at the age of 17 in the Simon & Schuster anthology, *Children of the Troubles*, edited by Laurel Holliday, and was later published in numerous other short story anthologies. His first novel, *The Camel Trail*, was published in 2011. He went on to write the *Rider* series novels, blending crime with LGBT+ issues. Following a Bachelor of Arts in English and Writing at university in London, Peter remained in England for 19 years in a variety of jobs across marketing and advertising. He met his future husband within two weeks of returning to Ireland in the spring of 2016, and he now freelances as a marketing consultant and content writer based between Lifford and Derry. His latest novel, *Stone Heart*, is set in pre-Christian Ireland, some 2,300 years ago.

FULL BIO [328 words]

Peter J Merrigan was born in Derry, Northern Ireland, and learned to read at an early age. Inspired by the seminal works of Dr Seuss, he started writing poetry by the age of seven, and progressed to short stories in his early teens in the vein of Stephen King and Dean Koontz. He was first published at the age of 17 in the Simon & Schuster anthology, *Children of the Troubles*, edited by Laurel Holliday, writing about growing up in the crossfire of Northern Ireland's Troubles, and was later published in numerous short story anthologies.

Peter studied a Bachelor of Arts in English and Writing at university in London, and remained in England for 19 years. He worked in a variety of jobs across marketing and advertising in both London and Leeds, from marketing mailroom equipment, to representing a firm of patent attorneys.

His first novel, *The Camel Trail*, was published in 2011, a story about kidnap, loss and redemption, and he went on to write the *Rider* series novels, blending the crime genre with LGBT+ issues in an attempt to show gay men in non-stereotypical settings. His work has been described as 'thrillers with heart'.

Peter dropped out of the rat race in the spring of 2016 and returned to Ireland where he met his future husband within his first two weeks at home. They spend their time between Lifford and Derry where Peter now freelances as a marketing consultant and content writer.

His latest novel, *Stone Heart*, is set in pre-Christian Ireland, some 2,300 years ago, centred around the fictional formation of Ireland's first ever standing army at Grianán of Aileach in Co Donegal, and the legends and love that grow from it. Following two young boys from childhood to legendary warriors, the story pits gay love against the backdrop of invasion and war, drawing on aspects of Celtic warfare as well as mythology and druid lore.

When he isn't writing, he enjoys art and photography.