



LIVE WEBCHAT with authors *Roderick Gordon & Brian Williams*
Tuesday, 5th May 2009, 19:00 BST

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:00:17 - Don't ask any difficult questions, will you?!

Shaiki - 2009-05-05 19:00:31 - first first first first question! it's difficult! how many books?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:00:41 - 100

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:01:32 - 100? We won't live that long. Maybe six or seven books, possibly

BartlebyIsCool - 2009-05-05 19:01:18 - Brian - do you have a beard or a moustache or neither at the moment? and how many skull rings do you have now?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:01:50 - Huge moustache no hair on head and 12 rings

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:02:16 - 12 rings of Saturn?

GunWomanAuthor - 2009-05-05 19:03:43 - Ok do you enjoy writing your books... do you ever get hyper sometimes?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:03:53 - Both

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:04:34 - Very hyper. We act like two big kids. Maybe that's why it works?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:04:48 - true

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:05:13 - Sugar is good

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:05:31 - Two VERY big kids. Yes, the coffee helps too. I was worried a few months back I'd have to cut down on my consumption, but I didn't.

Sirius - 2009-05-05 19:06:02 - how many books will be in the series?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:06:26 - That's a very good question

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:08:39 - We think maybe six or seven books -

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:06:53 - Yes, Sirius is a star. We know each other. might be more. It's weird when you think you have a framework for a particular book, and other ideas always crop up, don't they Brian? And we have no idea where they come from.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:09:26 - I think we had receivers planted in our heads many years ago.

malee84 - 2009-05-05 19:10:31 - :) you say my name:) .. sorry im very excited.. hahaha well mmm.. what things inspired you to write tunnels? ... im lack of ideas sorry :P

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:11:14 - A deeply disturbed childhood with the greys

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:17:36 - Let me ask you all a question. Do you feel sympathy for Sarah in Deeper? Were her actions justified, do you think, or was she completely wrong - maybe unhinged by giving up her children and living Topsoil, always on the run?

Shaiki - 2009-05-05 19:19:10 - I love Sarah! Sarah rocks!

luthien - 2009-05-05 19:19:14 - Hi! I think her actions were justified

corbjop - 2009-05-05 19:19:35 - lol

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:19:48 - whats chatbox?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:19:50 - Thank you luthien - we hoped you'd feel that way

Shauki - 2009-05-05 19:20:07 - and the last part in deeper with sarah was lovely!

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:20:36 - haha

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:20:50 - We get very upset when we read that last chapter about her. Strange how your emotions become tied up with the books

luthien - 2009-05-05 19:21:00 - Oh, yes!

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:21:06 - Very much so.

Whirling_Dervish - 2009-05-05 19:21:12 - Sarah's actions were justified, as a mother she put her children first in trying to protect them and give them a future, away from the Styx. Even though her husband seemed to think very differently

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:21:22 - oooo, so sad...

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:21:45 - But we laugh a lot, too. All sorts of in jokes hidden away

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:21:49 - yes

CalMacaulay - 2009-05-05 19:21:52 - lol

corbjop - 2009-05-05 19:22:11 - no

CalMacaulay - 2009-05-05 19:22:12 - nop

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:22:24 - Yes, Whirling_Dervish, we don't have much time for Mr Jerome.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:22:26 - and lots of hidden references.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:23:01 - Brian, remeber "Far below the streets and houses" in Tunnels!

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:22:39 - how did you meet?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:23:05 - Across a crowded Uni bar.

Whirling_Dervish - 2009-05-05 19:23:33 - sounds familiar Rod!!

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:23:48 - Why did the chicken cross the Roadie?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:24:24 - To get to their house, wasn't it. But it started off as "why did the Styx cross the road"? What was the answer again?

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:24:25 - why?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:24:26 - to get to the other sideburn.

malee84 - 2009-05-05 19:24:37 - haha

Whirling_Dervish - 2009-05-05 19:24:41 - doh! ha ha

GunWomanAuthor - 2009-05-05 19:24:41 - pffft

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:24:47 - lol

CalMacaulay - 2009-05-05 19:24:56 - :D

LL42 - 2009-05-05 19:25:09 - hi!

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:25:11 - I shave my sideburns off last night. Pressure from my wife, Sophie. Nearly did my eyebrows - but I think you did that once didn't you Bri?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:25:26 - Rod, we need to go shopping.

GunWomanAuthor - 2009-05-05 19:25:33 - Rod do you play the game runescape?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:25:53 - erm...er..

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:26:15 - No, haven't tried it. CoD4 is my current obsession - spent far too much time on it

corbjop - 2009-05-05 19:26:03 - ok,what was the original idea for tunnells and how has it changed since your first idea. ps. you guys are awesome!

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:26:59 - Thanks corbjop.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:27:49 - Corbpop - we each had a bit of an idea and they came together one night by chance. Maybe we were even thinking of doing a short story at the time, but the whole thing just sort of took off.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:28:36 - Thats true. Some short story eh?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:28:41 - All started on a dark and stormy night in 2003 - September, Brian?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:29:12 - Yes, early hours, thunder and lightning..

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:29:37 - We'd just written rather a nasty film screenplay together called "second Face", and were wondering what to do next. We thought maybe a comedy?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:29:44 - We needed a plan to get out of the country fast...

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:29:54 - Any country

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:30:42 - I was rather drawn to Iceland.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:31:17 - Antarctica

luthien - 2009-05-05 19:33:07 - Do you have already think an ending ?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:33:08 - hi

Sirius - 2009-05-05 19:33:22 - good question

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:33:47 - Yes we know the ending...

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:34:00 - Tell me, all of you, how do you think the series is going to end? Will Will (oops) still be alive?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:34:50 - do you think he.ll be married with kids?

Imre - 2009-05-05 19:34:51 - You can't kill him. REALLY CAN'T... Kill everybody else in the world but him! (and Chester)

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:34:59 - Think we should have a vote. It's in your hands (this will upset Chicken House)

Baxterianism - 2009-05-05 19:35:03 - LOL

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:35:33 - Brian, what do you think, Chester lives??

Whirling_Dervish - 2009-05-05 19:35:37 - yes Will's a survivor, but chester, mmm not so sure he will be

Brainz - 2009-05-05 19:35:40 - Or die to save the world kinda thing.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:35:56 - Chester is a god.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:36:37 - But the Styx do have a good side - the Rebecca twins definitely want to save the enviroment?

rebelscum - 2009-05-05 19:36:52 - nah

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:36:58 - And that sense of humour...

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:37:21 - Yes, what a sense of humour. At least they go about things smiling

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:37:45 - and thats the most important thing
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:37:48 - But Dr Burrows can be very annoying. He annoys us.

rebelscum - 2009-05-05 19:37:54 - DONT KILL DR BURROWS plz

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:38:06 - Okay!!!!

luthien - 2009-05-05 19:38:10 - But he is mad!

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:38:46 - We mustn't kill people because they're mad.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:39:08 - Why, some of my best friends...

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:39:40 - We are mad people, quite mad. When Bri and I first map out a story and talk about it to Chicken House, it feels seriously loopy.

skarlax - 2009-05-05 19:39:40 - will you come to spain or latin america?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:40:20 - Both Spain and S America, we hope, but Paris in a couple of weeks

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:40:25 - Cool.

skarlax - 2009-05-05 19:41:41 - Are the coprolites peoples?

CalMacaulay - 2009-05-05 19:41:43 - i've got a friend that reminds me of them, but stupider

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:41:52 - I still keep in touch with some of my Coprolite friends.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:42:03 - Coprolites are very good people.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:42:19 - They're like dolphins.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:42:44 - yes, with legs

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:42:50 - In balance with their environment

skarlax - 2009-05-05 19:42:54 - Are the coprolites humans?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:43:14 - We can't tell you if they're humans, maybe not yet

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:43:20 - A fellow species

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:44:23 - We always figured that if you strip their dustsuits off, there'd be skinny little accountants inside in three-piece suits and with handlebar moustaches

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:44:50 - and charge accounts

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:46:03 - Tell me everyone, just how powerful do you think the Styx are. What do they actually control? Does their influence extend to other countries? And are they actually human?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:46:07 - Okay done.

Imre - 2009-05-05 19:46:38 - i think they are human, or maybe they used to be

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 19:46:39 - joke

corbjop - 2009-05-05 19:46:41 - i think there really weak but act really though the limiters are a different story...

BartlebyIsCool - 2009-05-05 19:46:45 - not aliens with crystal skulls again i hope

Baxterianism - 2009-05-05 19:46:53 - Erm.. very powerful, more than we can know.. but only the UK because of some reason I can't think of

Whirling_Dervish - 2009-05-05 19:46:55 - not human - part human, crossed DNA with other species

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:47:06 - We have great affection for Tunnels, but I think we've grown up since then, and usually the favourite book is always the one we haven't written

GunWomanAuthor - 2009-05-05 19:47:46 - i love the freefall cover though...

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:48:15 - We love it too.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:48:35 - Deeper was a tough book to write - as though we lost chunks of ourselves while we were working on it, if that makes sense?

CalMacaulay - 2009-05-05 19:49:12 - people call me styx at school. zombie styx to be precise :)

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:49:27 - Excellent!

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:49:40 - CalMacaulay - well, they'd better watch out then.

Brainz - 2009-05-05 19:49:46 - Do you need to get into some sort of zone when you write or are you the type of person who likes to write whenever they can?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:50:46 - We write all the time. Notebooks etc. The Zone is in our heads.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:51:20 - Brainz - I need iTunes playing and lotsa coffee. Actually have certain writing playlists that I know so well I don't really notice the songs anymore. Got one with loads of Smashing Pumpkins and Billy Corgan.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:52:13 - The Fall, Rammstien Atari Teenage Riot for me,,,

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:52:48 - Currently listening to Death Cab for Cutie tracks

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:53:32 - Check out 'Stud Spider' by Tony Joe White.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:53:58 - Will Burrows and the Tunnels Quartet playing Styx dance favourites

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:54:23 - "Loving you has made me bananas"

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:55:31 - Br Burrows on xylophone (an old one, very rusty), Chester on spoons, Elliott on very loud explosive percussion, and Rebecca on Fender?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:55:32 - And an accordion

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:55:53 - Tam on accordion?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:56:02 - Yes

Baxterianism - 2009-05-05 19:56:13 - Will on spade ;-)

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:56:16 - Mouthorgan and vocals

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:56:23 - Will plays the shovel with a violin bow?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:56:44 - a la Jimmy Page

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:56:57 - Bartleby on trumpet (without an instrument) Oooooer.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:57:01 - Yes

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:57:22 - Which end does he use to blow?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:57:44 - You guys are the best!

Baxterianism - 2009-05-05 19:58:01 - Whirling_Dervish: Did you have a favourite character or series that you followed when you were children?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 19:58:15 - I loved Lost in Space, Twilight Zone, The Prisoner when it was first broadcast, UFO, and loads of TV.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 19:58:32 - Twilight Zone.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:01:06 - Someone asked about favourite covers - I think now they've all been "refreshed" by Chicken House, Tunnels is my favourite one. Looks so good - don't know when it's in the shops

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:02:07 - We get that from the backs of cerial packets
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:02:50 - Freefall, again, picks up where bk 2 left off (going to cause the film makers a real headache as all the books happen over a relatively short period of time), but you've really just got to read it and let us know what you think. Another reveal in it
BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:03:14 - Careful Rod...
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:03:39 - Opps, Brian just kicked me under the table, from 100 mies away.
BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:03:42 - ooh matron!
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:04:40 - I'm sure the two screenwriters will reshape it - can't wait to see what they've done. Maybe they'll let us write the one for Deeper, Brian?

skarlax - 2009-05-05 20:04:56 - Is the will's mother important in the next book?
malee84 - 2009-05-05 20:04:58 - .

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:05:08 - Thanks, Baxterianism, you've done a great job.
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:05:27 - skarlax - she could be!
BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:05:34 - I think it'll be a cold day in hell when hollywood lets an author anywhere n a script.ear

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:06:02 - I think I'm breaking up on re-entry
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:06:15 - Maybe we can just bully our way into the studios and take over the director's chair?

BartlebyIsCool - 2009-05-05 20:06:50 - mrs Burrows is my favourite - she will be Drake's ally - I hope
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:07:26 - BartlebyIsCool - I think the two of them might get on well.

Imre - 2009-05-05 20:07:38 - don't let them make the worst film ever from a great book just as they did with twilight :D
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:08:58 - Imre - yes, that's the fear we both have. But they're going to keep it quite dark (Will maybe be 16), and they're going to set it in London, which was a relief to Brian and me.

LL42 - 2009-05-05 20:07:56 - why did you start witting tunnels serie?
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:10:32 - LL42 - I'm really not sure why we started the series - it's still a mystery to us. It just took over our lives, and at a time when I should have been trying to get a job
BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:11:20 - And I should have been getting up earlier.
RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:12:34 - I like getting up later - dawns are so depressing
BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:12:56 - Absolutely right!!!!

Brainz - 2009-05-05 20:15:32 - I hear Barry Cunningham is a madman, but still a genius. How is he to work with?
BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:16:13 - Barry is a human dynamo. He's fantastic to hang out

with

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:16:54 - He's mummified beneath my bed.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:17:11 - Barry is an inspiration.

BartlebyIsCool - 2009-05-05 20:17:03 - did you make a video about a scene in freefall? like you did in trafalgar square for deeper, and down williamson tunnels for tunnels??

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:17:30 - There will be more films.

corbjop - 2009-05-05 20:18:13 - it would be hard to make deeper into a book because you would just stare at a black screen for a long time

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:19:13 - corbjop - you are right - we laughed when we were writing the chapters were Will is lost in the lava tubes, wondering how they will film those scenes!

Imre - 2009-05-05 20:19:52 - I want to see Bartleby on screen...

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:20:35 - Imre - as long as he's not like Jar Jar Binks!

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:20:53 - Definitely!!!

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:20:58 - Never likee Jar Jar

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:21:27 - Must kill Jar Jar

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:21:37 - I hope he's more like a shaved Chewbacca?

Brainz - 2009-05-05 20:21:42 - Critics say Tunnels will be the next Harry Potter, of course you can't compare the 2.(Tunnels is a better read). In all honesty, would you agree?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:22:27 - Never compare, different genre.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:23:30 - Brainz - good question - we never made any comparisons because JKR's work wasn't an influence and because we thought our styles and content were so different. But she's done such an incredible thing, creating a world that so many people love, and if we can do that, but in our own way, then we'll be very happy.

Anah_Master - 2009-05-05 20:26:52 - Brian, Roderick...what about the released manga of Tunnels?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:27:56 - Anah_Master -we've been given some copies of the manga (Tunnels has been divided into three) and it's mind blowing to see how they've portrayed the characters

Sirius - 2009-05-05 20:28:03 - Tam was awesome...is he really dead?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:28:38 - I reckon Tam lives on, in his way.

Baxterianism - 2009-05-05 20:28:35 - Gabriel Martineau had two daughters, does this relate in any way to the twins in the books and how they are seen by the other Styx?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:30:13 - Baxterianism - good point, but no direct connection (until you've mentioned it!) Styx are a technologically advanced lot. so maybe they've being dabbling in eugenics. I wouldn't put it past them.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:30:43 - Careful Rod...

corbjop - 2009-05-05 20:31:04 - ooo, i just thought of a question! how did you come up with the names of the chracters? do you know anyone with the same names?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:33:16 - corbpop - we just played with different names until they fitted. Only one bears a resemblance to someone real.

skarlux - 2009-05-05 20:31:22 - Are Drake and Tam big friends?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:32:02 - skarlux - no, but Drake knew of Tam's reputation in the Colony.

Sirius - 2009-05-05 20:34:47 - are both rebeccas bad?? because I have a theory that one could be more...kindly?

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:35:58 - Sirius - gd question

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:37:39 - Thanks - better go and get myself some coffee. Also driving to London tonight. And thank you for joining us everyone. We should do this again in a few weeks after you've all had a chance to look at Freefall?

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:39:42 - Yes I echo that. I too have to sign off for I have promises to keep...and miles to go Thanks to you all and keep in touch.

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:39:49 - Bye everyone - been great fun. And I hope we get to meet you all for real in future

RoderickGordon - 2009-05-05 20:40:25 - TTFN! As in Tigger.

BrianWilliams - 2009-05-05 20:40:29 - >:-D