

Interview Of Eoin Colfer – Writer of Artemis Fowl and The Supernaturalist



Allan : Before talking about the *Opal Deception*, which was published in January in France, I want to exchange about you ; what do you accept to say us about you, about your course ?

Eoin : I am a forty year old Irish man. I write about traditional Irish subjects, magic and fantasy, but I like to put a modern spin on things, and introduce technology into the mix.

Allan : United Kingdom manage to "export" easily their fantasy's authors whereas in France, we must have wait for the adaptation of *Lord of the ring* or *Harry Potter* to start speaking about this particular literature : what are for you reasons of this decalage ?

Eoin : I don't know why this is the case, there are I am sure many wonderful french language writers. I think the United States is very influential in these trends, and Irish and English books do not have to be translated.

Allan : Since I have make allusion to *Harry Potter*, what do you think of his success ?

Eoin : I think it is great. I am a fan of Harry's and JK Rowling has helped to convert millions of children to reading.

Allan : I do not want to compare your two characters as the story are totally different but I find that the success of *Artemis* is more interessant because you do not take profit of a massive publicity ; *Artemis* became famous gradually... When you take retreat, do you have preferred having a massive publicity or you find this way more interessant ?

Eoin : I am very happy with *Artemis* and the way he progressed. I think if the books had been overhyped at the beginning there might have been a backlash. This way my fans are loyal and stay with me from book to book.

Allan : You are the first English that I interview so I want to know if the press is as severe in England as she was in France where *Imaginary literatures* are percued as *under-literature* ?

Eoin : Some critics do not rate fantasy books, but generally some of the most revered books are in that genre, *Lord of the Rings* for example, so the general feeling is acceptance.

Allan : Do you read French authors ?

Eoin : I read Dumas of course, but only in the translated form. My French is not that good yet.

Allan : We are now going to speak about *Artemis*. The first think that surprise me is the aspect "bad boy" of the character : we are more used to see nice boy or girl as hero in children's literature... Do you want to break stereotype ?

Eoin : I wanted to try and be original, though there is a history of bad boys dating back to Tom Sawyer and even the Artful Dodger, but they are less plentiful than straightforward heroes.

Allan : The boy is particulary "intelligent" but us his talent to conceal or to increase his personal fortune : to be genius inevitably lead to bad acts ?

Eoin : I think that genius does not neccessarily have to be negative, as the books progress, *Artemis* moves on to more positive work.

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Allan : *I must recognize I have only read the last opus and I have not had problem to enter the story. Do you want to allow the readers understanding each story even if they have not read the firsts book ?*

Eoin : Yes, I wanted the books to be standalone adventures, though it is better to start at the beginning.

Allan : *I have been surprised to by the freedoms you have take with chararactéristiques of elves, dwarfs... Do you be aware that some addicts are chocked by this ?*

Eoin : Yes, I have had a few complaints from purists, but most fantasy fans are delighted to see a new interpretation of old favourites.

Allan : *Now, a question that is in all spirit : will you continue with Artemis Fowl ?*

Eoin : I think there will be 6 Artemis books, then he will hang up his book of evil plans.

Allan : *I know that you came in January in France : do you frequently come and what part do you grant to the contact with your readers ?*

Eoin : I come to France at least twice a year, once on holidays and once on business. When I am here, I like to visit bookstores and meet the readers and sometimes do readings.