



Awdur Bet Jones: Sut Ysgrifennais i Y Nant / How I wrote Y Nant

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Mae Bet Jones wedi ysgrifennu llawer o nofelau, gan gynnwys **Beti Bwt**, **Gadael Lennon** ac **Y Nant**, ac ennillod hi Wobr Goffa Daniel Owen am **Craciau** yn yr Eisteddfod Genedalaethol 2013. Mae'r Nant yn nofel ddictectif wreiddiol sy wedi cael eu osod yn Nant Gwrtheyrn, dros benwythnos dysgwyr. Yma, mae hi'n esbonio sut gwnaeth hi greu'r llyfr...

Bet Jones has written lots of novels, including **Beti Bwt**, **Gadael Lennon** and **Y Nant**, and she won the Daniel Owen Memorial Prize in the National Eisteddfod 2013 for **Craciau**. The Nant is an original detective novel that is set in Nant Gwrtheyrn, over a Welsh learners weekend. Here, she explains how she created the book...

Dwi'n hoff iawn o ffilmiau a nofelau whodunit ac roeddwn eisiau ysgrifennu stori yn y genre yma ers tro. Roedd syniad Agatha Christie yn llawer o'i storïau o gael nifer fach o bobl wedi eu cadw'n gaeth yn rhywle pan mae llofruddiaeth yn digwydd yn apelio yn fawr ataf.

Y peth cyntaf a wnes cyn mynd ati i ysgrifennu oedd dewis lleoliad. Roeddwn eisiau rhywle y buasai'r cymeriadau yn gallu cael eu cau i mewn yno. Roedd gen i ddau le mewn golwg- **Ynys Enlli** a **Nant Gwrtheyrn**.

Fy newis i yn y diwedd oedd Nant Gwrtheyrn a hynny am nifer o resymau:

I have always been very fond of whodunnit novels and films and I had wanted to have a go at writing a story in this genre for some time. Agatha Christie's plots involving small groups of people being cut off from the outside world appealed greatly to me.

My first task was to choose a location. Some place where my characters would find themselves marooned with no means of leaving. Two places immediately came to mind- **Ynys Enlli** and **Nant Gwrtheyrn**.

I opted for Nant Gwrtheyrn for several reasons:
- I was born and brought up in Trefor, a village on the other side of the

- Cefais fy ngeni a'm magu ym mhentref Trefor yr ochr arall i'r mynydd ac felly yn gyfarwydd â'r lle a'i hanes.
- Mae'r Nant yn le hardd iawn ac yn blesar i geisio ei ddisgrifio, er nad wyf yn honni i mi allu gwneud cyflawnder â'r lle!
- Mae lleoliad pentref bach Porth y Nant (pentref Nant Gwrtheyrn) wedi ei leoli ar waelod allt serth iawn a buasai'n hawdd dychmygu cael eich cau i mewn yno gydag eira.
- Does dim derbyniad radio na theledu ac mae'n anodd cael signal ffonau symudol yno.

Mae Nant Gwrtheyrn yn gyrchfan i ddysgwyr sy'n dod yno i ddilyn cyrsiau dysgu Cymraeg. Roedd hyn yn rhoi rheswm parod i mi pam y buasai criw o bobl a oedd ar y wyneb yn edrych fel nad oedd unrhyw gysylltiad rhyngddynt yn dod at ei gilydd i dreulio pen wythnos yn y lle.

Ar ôl dewis lleoliad, rhaid oedd dewis cymeriadau. Mae naw prif gymeriad yn y nofel- saith dysgwr, tiwtor a gofalwr. Adeiladais broffil manwl o'r cymeriadau- eu hedrychiad, oed, gwaith, diddordebau a'u cefndiroedd a.y.b.

Yna, penderfynais pwy oedd yn mynd i gael ei lofruddio ac adeiladu perthynas rhwng y person hwnnw â'r cymeriadau eraill fel bod gan bob un ohonynt reswm i'w ladd. Doeddwn i ddim wedi penderfynu yn iawn pwy oedd y llofrudd hyd at ddiwedd yr ail ddrafft- roeddwn yn newid fy meddwl o hyd ac o hyd!

Ers i mi ysgrifennu y Nant rwyf wedi bod i Nant Gwrtheyrn sawl tro i siarad gyda grwpiau o ddysgwyr ac mae hynny yn brofiad rhyfedd- bod yn yr union leoliad rwyf wedi ei ddisgrifio yn y llyfr!

mountain and the Nant and its history were familiar to me.

- The Nant is a stunningly beautiful place and it was a pleasure trying to describe it in my book although I don't for a minute assume that I did it justice!
- The tiny village of Porth y Nant (the village in Nant Gwrtheyrn) is situated at the foot of a very steep hill and one could easily imagine being snowed in there.
- There is no radio or television reception there and mobile phone signal is almost non-existent.

Since Welsh learners come to Nant Gwrtheyrn to follow language courses, I had a plausible reason why a group of strangers would be willing to spend a weekend together there.

After choosing the location, my next task was to create the characters. There are nine main characters in the book – seven learners, a tutor and a caretaker. I built a detailed profile for each – their appearances, ages, occupations, interests, backgrounds etc.

My next task was to decide which one was to be murdered and then to create a connection between the victim and the rest of the characters so that each of them could have a motive for murder. I did not finally decide who the actual murderer was going to be until I finished my second draft, as I constantly changed my mind!

Since I have written Y Nant, I have been to talk to groups of learners in Nant Gwrtheyrn on several occasions. This has proved to be a strange experience- being in the actual location I have described in the book!

Mae'r Nant ar gael o'r Lolfa / **Y Nant** is available from Y Lolfa:

