



Awdures Dana Edwards: Sut es i ati i ysgrifennu Am Newid / Author Dana Edwards: How I Wrote Am Newid

Published on 19/12/2017 — in Articles/Intermediate

Mae Dana Edwards newydd ryddhau ei hail lyfr yn y Gymraeg, **Am Newid**. Mae'n nofel boblogaidd, ffres a chyfoes sy'n hawdd ei darllen sydd yn ceisio mynd i'r afael â'n hagweddau at bobl sydd ddim yn cydymffurfio â'n syniad ni o'r hyn sy'n draddodiadol. Yma, mae hi'n esbonio mwy am sut gwnaeth hi greu'r llyfr...

Dana Edwards has recently released her second book in Welsh, **Am Newid**. It is a contemporary, easy-to-read novel which aims at getting to grips with our attitudes towards those who do not conform with our ideas of what is traditional. Here, she explains more about how she created the book...

Adre, yn yr ystafell fyw mae gen i jestodrôrs bach, bach - 12" x 10". Darn prentis ydyw. Roedd prentisiaid saer yn y 19ganrif yn ymarfer drwy greu darnau bach cyn cael gweithio dodrefn go iawn. Mae'n anffodus nad yw awduron yn medru cael yr un hyfforddiant!

Beth sy'n bosib i awduron wrth gwrs yw ymuno â dosbarth ysgrifennu creadigol er mwyn cael arweiniad tiwtor ac adborth myfyrwyr eraill. A dyna wnes cyn bwrw ati i ysgrifennu fy nofel gyntaf - **The Other Half** (2014). Wedyn cyhoeddwyd fy nofel Gymraeg gyntaf, **Pam?** yn 2016, ond ro'n ni'n dal i deimlo fel prentis - ddim yn siŵr a oedd y gwaith yn ddigon da mewn gwirionedd.

Felly, cyn cyhoeddi nofel arall fe benderfynais ei hanfon i

In my living room I have a small chest of drawers - 12 "x 10". It is an apprentice piece. Nineteenth-century carpenter apprentices practised by creating small pieces before being allowed to create full size furniture. It is unfortunate that authors cannot get the same training!

What is possible for writers is to join a creative writing class and avail themselves of the guidance of a tutor and feedback from an interested group of co-students. And that's what I did before I started writing my first novel - **The Other Half** (2014). My first novel in Welsh, **Pam?**, was published in 2016, but I still felt like an apprentice - I wasn't sure if the work was really good enough.

So before publishing another novel I decided to send the work to the

gystadleuaeth Y Fedal Ryddiaith yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol er mwyn cael barn tri arbenigwr ar waith di-enw. Ni enillais y Fedal ond fe ddaeth fy ymgais yn agos i'r brig ac fe ddywedwyd ei bod yn werth ei chyhoeddi. A dyna sut y welodd Am Newid olau dydd.

Mae Am Newid yn trafod profiad Ceri sy'n gadael Llanfihangel yn fachgen 18 oed, ond sy'n dychwelyd i fyw yno yn fenyw 47 oed. Ro'n i am ysgrifennu am fywyd menyw Trans a hynny am i mi gael fy ysbrydoli gan ffrind sydd wedi byw'r profiad. A ro'n i am roi cefndir Cymreig i'r nofel, a pha ffordd yn well i wneud hynny na plotio bod y cymeriad yn ymuno â *Merched y Wawr*? Roedd hyn yn rhoi'r cyfle i fi wedyn gynnwys ymateb gwahanol aelodau'r grŵp i Ceri a chreu tensiwn a drama, sy'n hanfodol mewn nofel.

Y cyngor wrth gwrs yw un ai ysgrifennu am rywbeth ry'ch chi'n gyfarwydd ag ef, neu wneud eich ymchwil yn drylwyr. Nawr dwi i'n mwynhau ymchwilio. Dyma fy nghefn dir. Wrth wneud fy nhraethawd PhD gorfu i fy nniwtor fynnu mod i'n rhoi taw ar yr ymchwilio a dechrau ysgrifennu (ac roedd hynny ar ôl tua 3 mlynedd!) Ers hynny rwy wedi gweithio fel ymchwilydd ar raglenni dogfen. Ydy, mae ymchwilio'n bleser. Ac fe wnes lawer o ymchwil ar gyfer y nofel hon - drwy siarad â phobl, darllen profiadau pobl Trans ar wahanol wefannau ayb.

Er taw yn y Saesneg oedd fy nofel gyntaf (oherwydd taw dyna oedd iaith y dosbarth ysgrifennu creadigol yr oeddwn yn aelod ohono), Cymraeg yw iaith fy mreuddwydion, ac yn y Gymraeg y byddaf yn ysgrifennu'n bennaf a rhwyddaf.

Dosbarth ysgrifennu creadigol roddodd yr hyder i fi ysgrifennu a baswn i'n argymhell y llwybr hwn i unrhyw gyw-awduri arall. Yn ogystal â rhoi rhywun ar ben ffordd mae'n ffordd ffantastig o gwrdd â phobl greadigol a difyr iawn.

Prose Medal competition at the National Eisteddfod to get the views of three experts on the anonymous work. I did not win the Medal but my attempt came close to the top and it was said to be worthy of publication. And that's how Am Newid saw the light of day.

The main character in Am Newid is Ceri who leaves Llanfihangel as an 18-year-old boy, but returns as a 47-year-old woman. I wanted to write about a Trans woman after being inspired by a friend who has lived the experience. And I wanted to give the novel a Welsh background, and what better way to do so than by plotting that Ceri seeks to join *Merched y Wawr*? This gave me the opportunity to record the reaction of different members of the group to Ceri and to create tension and drama, which is essential in a novel.

The advice of course is either write about something that's familiar, or do your research thoroughly. Now I enjoy researching. This is my background. Whilst doing my PhD my tutor eventually insisted that I stop researching and started writing (and that was after about 3 years!) Since then I have worked as a researcher on documentaries. Yes, researching is a pleasure. And I did a lot of research for this novel - by talking to people, reading the experiences of Trans people on different websites, etc.

Although my first novel was in English (because that was the language of the creative writing class I was attending), Welsh is the language of my dreams, and I write mostly in Welsh and certainly find it easier to do so.

A creative writing class gave me the confidence to seek publication and I would recommend this path to any prospective author. As well as offering practical guidance it's a fantastic way to meet creative and entertaining people.

Mae'r nofelau *Am Newid* a *Pam?* ar gael o'r Lolfa / The novels *Am Newid* and *Pam?* are available from Y Lolfa:

