



## Neil Gaiman

**Neverwhere**  
ISBN13: 9780380973637

***Neverwhere* is your first novel. Compared to your work in graphic novels, what were some of the challenges you experienced in writing your first work of narrative fiction?**

I think I was still working out ways to deal with things like narrative voice (who's telling this story? And what does he sound like?) and ways to compensate for not having pictures: I tend to stop and describe people and places — although I think that has as much to do with *Neverwhere* having begun life as a TV series with which I wasn't entirely satisfied. So I wanted everything to look like it did in my head, and the best way to get there was simply to tell the readers.

**The cast of characters in *Neverwhere* includes an angel, a beast, an orphaned lady with special powers, and an Amazonasque huntress. Were any of these characters figures you'd explored in other works, or were they completely new to this book?**

Everyone's new ... although when I was a very young man (I think I was about 18) I started my first book, about a teenage boy going to learn magic at a public school that taught that sort of thing, and Mr. Croup and Mr. Vandemar were in there. They were eating a dead puppy in sixteenth-century Venice. I never finished the schoolboy magic book (although in 1988 I brought some of it back in the *Books of Magic* graphic novel) but I always knew one day I'd find a home for Mr. Croup and Mr. Vandemar.

**Richard Mayhew is such a wonderful protagonist. His foibles — from his curiosity about this strange London Below he's encountered to his hatred of heights — make him extremely likable. Does he share any qualities with any of your other fictional protagonists?**

Well, he's not a typical hero, and he has that in common with all the others. Beyond that, I don't really know.

**Your account of London's abandoned Underground is captivating. Did many of the obsolete Tube stations you mention in your book really exist at one time? Have you seen them?**

Yes, they do and they did. I've been to several of the abandoned stations, although British Museum Station (closed, after a fire 70 years ago) has been completely lost.

**At what point in your manuscript did you realize that Richard would choose to remain in London Below. To your knowledge, how have your readers responded to this decision?**

I think I always knew. There were lots of things I didn't know, but I always knew that once he had gone back, he wouldn't be the same person who had wanted to go back.

**Is there any possibility of a sequel to *Neverwhere*? Richard's decision would seem to leave the door open to further adventures in London Below.**

Well, yes. It's just there are so many other stories to tell. But I do know the shape of the next story — it's called *The Seven Sisters*.