

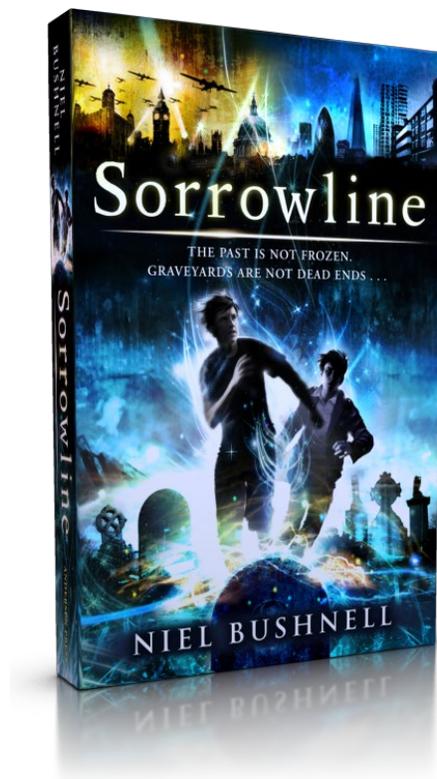
The Timesmith Chronicles

A series of time travel fantasy adventures written by Niel Bushnell

Welcome to the First World

There's a great secret that all but a few have forgotten. For within each gravestone rests a Sorrowline, a tunnel that leads back in time to the date of a person's death. Twelve-year-old Jack Morrow is about to discover a hidden world of adventure in the past...

Blending fantasy with folklore and Arthurian legend **Sorrowline** is the first of the **Timesmith Chronicles**, a series of books charting the life and adventures of Jack Morrow. Aimed at the older children's market, the stories mix adventure and mythology and complex characters.



Sorrowline

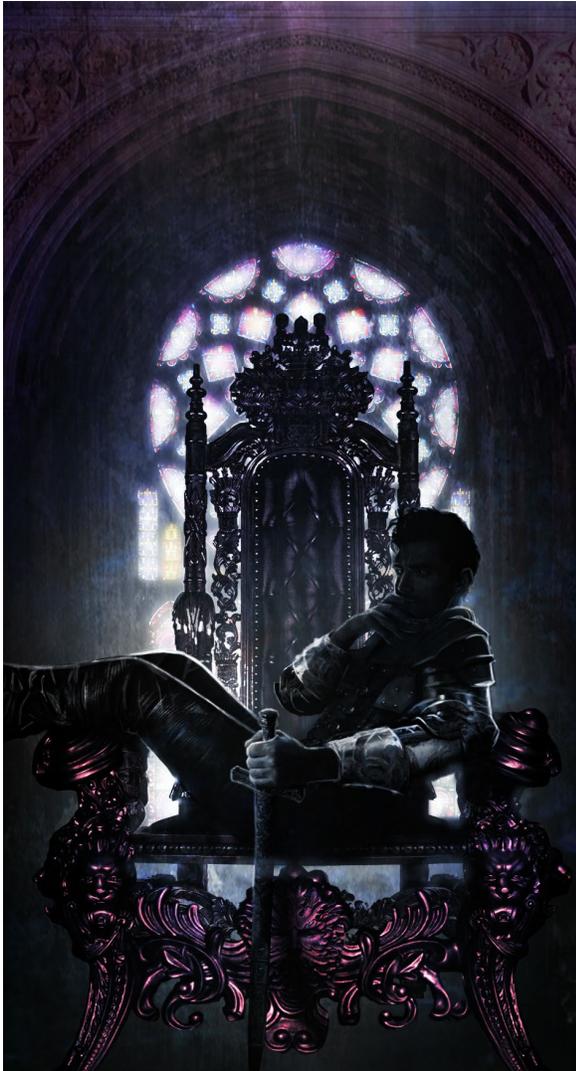
Twelve-year-old Jack Morrow is used to life being complicated. His mother died five years ago, and his father is now headed for prison. But then Jack discovers he's a Yard Boy – someone with the ability to travel through Sorrowlines, the channels that connect every gravestone with the date of the person's death – and he is quickly pulled into an adventure beyond anything he could have possibly imagined.

Finding himself in 1940s war-torn London, with his then-teenage grandfather, Davey, Jack soon realises that his arrival in the past has not gone unnoticed. The evil forces of a secret world are determined to find him – and to find out all he knows.

As Jack struggles to survive, he comes ever closer to unlocking the dark secret at the heart of his family, and to – just maybe – changing his own destiny . . .

Sorrowline - detailed synopsis

Jack Morrow is a 12-year-old boy with a troubled past: his mother died when he was seven and now his father is about to go to prison, forcing Jack to live with an aunt he hardly knows. Then, on his last visit to his mother's grave, something incredible happens; he accidentally discovers his ability to travel through **Sorrowlines**, channels that connect every gravestone with the date of the person's death.



Jack finds himself back in 2002. He instantly sees the opportunity to save his mother, but before he can do anything his grandfather **David** appears. He tells Jack he is a **Yard Boy**, his life is in danger and he must go back to 1940 to meet the younger Davey if he is to survive. Suddenly they are attacked by creatures called **Dustmen**. Jack barely escapes, finds a gravestone and follows the Sorrowline back to 1940.

Stumbling through war-torn London Jack eventually meets Davey. Together they try to uncover the truth behind Jack's past, and the secret of the mysterious **Rose of Annwn**, a supernatural artefact that is somehow linked to Jack's family. They are pursued by the **Paladin**, female undead knights seeking the Rose for their master, the immortal **Rouland**. They manage to escape to Piccadilly Circus where a secret portal, called a **Junction Chamber**, leads to a warren of underground tunnels. They flee deeper and deeper, but are eventually trapped by Rouland.

Jack awakes in a suite of the Carlton Hotel where Rouland tells him of the legend of the Rose, of how he travelled to the realm of **Otherworld** and picked the Rose from its shore. He was banished and the Rose was lost. Rouland has lived for an eternity since glimpsing Otherworld, and the

Rose holds the secret to him returning there as its ruler. He will do anything to find the Rose again and believes that Jack has touched it.

Jack refuses to help Rouland and escapes with Davey through another Junction Chamber. As they recover they meet **Eloise**, a former Paladin who rebelled against Rouland and has been imprisoned for over a hundred years. The unlikely trio embark upon an epic journey that takes

them from 1940 to 1813 in search of a secret book that once belonged to Rouland and contains information about the Rose. Jack realises that Rouland is hunting for the Rose and his mother, and the only way he can save her is to go back to 2002.

Jack, Davey and Eloise travel forwards in time to find Jack's mother, but they are not the only ones converging on her: Rouland and his agents are also on their way. Jack's mother is an **Operator**, someone with immense mental potential, who can manipulate others thoughts. When Jack was born he was very ill and would have died. She stole the Rose and used part of its power to heal Jack.

Suddenly the figure of older David attacks Jack's mother – he has been working for Rouland all along. Older David battles with Jack's mother, a battle that culminates over St. Paul's Cathedral, where Rouland and his Paladin are also waiting.

Jack manages to find his way to the rooftop, but is confronted by older David, battered and burnt from his battle with his mother. All seems lost until his mother appears, still holding onto life. She battles with old David, killing him with a massive burst of energy, but not before Jack is thrown into the air. He lands on the ground below, his body broken and dying.



Jack falls out of consciousness, feeling himself drifting away from life, creating his own Sorrowline. Then his mother uses the power of the Rose within her to heal Jack, sacrificing her own life to save her son. When Jack recovers he confronts Rouland in the crypt. Jack can feel the power of the Rose inside him, shutting his thoughts off from Rouland. Jack leaps forward, dragging Rouland with him into the Sorrowline of Horatio Nelson - whose sarcophagus sits at the centre of the crypt - back to 1805.

Rouland is drained and confused by his journey, giving Jack the opportunity to complete his plan. He plunges a Paladin sword deep into Rouland's heart, paralysing him forever. He cannot die, but he will be contained.

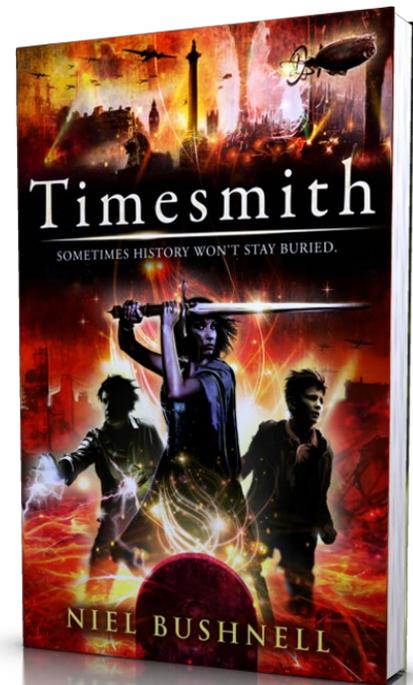
Jack returns to the present day, his father is now in prison and Jack is presumed to be a runaway, missing in London. He writes a letter to his father then returns to 1940, where Eloise and Davey – and new adventures - await him.

Book 2 - Timesmith

Thirteen -year-old Jack Morrow is haunted by the past.

For Jack is a Timesmith, someone with the ability to travel into the past through Sorrowlines, the channels that connect every gravestone with the date of the person's death.

Desperate to help his family, Jack finds himself in a secret world deep under the streets of 1940's London. Hunted by the undead knights of the Paladin Jack must find the fabled lost sword of Durendal before it can be used to resurrect the Paladin's evil master, Rouland. Jack's future, and that of his entire family, depend upon him stopping Rouland's return. But will time be on his side?



Book 3 - Otherworlder



"The Rose of Annwn must be returned to Otherworld, or all life is lost."

14-year-old Jack Morrow is lost in time. Gifted with the ability to traverse Sorrowlines – the pathways that connect every gravestone to the date of a person's death – Jack is desperate to return to his friends in 1940s London, but he's hundreds of years adrift.

Deep within him rests a great power stolen from another realm which must be returned. But there are others who would take it from him, including the burned and disfigured Rouland.

So begins Otherworlder, the third tale in the Timesmith Chronicles. With his friends in different time periods Jack must first return to London during the 1940s to be reunited with Davey and Hilda. But someone is hunting him down, a former friend and Paladin – Eloise.

About Niel Bushnell

When he was ten years old Niel Bushnell made a long list of things he hoped to achieve later in life. One of his main ambitions, lodged in between becoming an astronaut and drawing comics for a living, was to write a novel.

The plan was to do this before he turned thirteen, but it's taken him a little bit longer than that. His early love of comic books eventually took him in a slightly different direction: a career in animation. He's worked as an animator on several feature films, computer games and television shows, and eventually established his own animation studio.

But Niel continued to write until his elusive first novel, *Sorrowline*, was completed, some decades after this thirteenth birthday. He'd like to take the credit for it, but he swears there is something living under the stairs that whispers secrets to him when no one else is around.

Niel lives in his native north-east England, where the voices under the stairs continue to influence his career path. He hopes that he might one day become an astronaut and set foot on Mars.

SORROWLINE and its sequel, *TIMESMITH*, are both published in the UK by Andersen Press. Rights to both have also been sold in Germany, Brazil and Thailand. Niel is currently working on the third book in the series.



Contact

Niel Bushnell
niel@nielbushnell.com
0770 208 3070