

When Pete Johnson was ten, he wrote a fan letter to Dodie Smith – author of *The Hundred and One Dalmatians*. She wrote back to him and the two began exchanging letters. “She was the first person to encourage me to become a writer,” says Pete, who began sending stories to publishers at the age of eleven.

Born in Winchester, Pete studied English at Birmingham University and went on to try a variety of jobs before teaching English and Drama at a secondary school in Buckinghamshire. It was there that he wrote his first novel for teenagers which became an immediate hit. He was a film critic for Radio One before becoming a full time writer.

Pete's novels have achieved global success and he is now published in 24 translations. He has visited Europe to meet his readers as well as schools and libraries all over the UK. Pete inspires a special loyalty among his readers.

Pete says: *'one of the best things an author can do is show the reader he, or she, is not on their own.'*