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[www.thelostbook.net](http://www.thelostbook.net)

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Friday, 06 March 2009

## COLLABORATIVE STORYTELLING IN ACTION ONLINE

[www.thelostbook.net](http://www.thelostbook.net)

Episode 2 of interactive online animated whodunit, *The Lost Book*, is launched today - with a story written by visitors to the project's website during February 2009. The first of five episodes to be written by the public, it sees intrepid Scottish journalist Aileen Adler and her dog Watson travelling to Iowa City in search of a stolen book and a secret society of bibliophiles.

**The Lost Book encourages people to read and tell stories.** It is a partner project to the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust's 2009 reading campaign, The Lost World Read 2009, which is using free books, online resources and events to get people reading *The Lost World* by Arthur Conan Doyle. The Lost World Read is the largest collaborative reading project ever seen in the UK.

The Lost Book writing team, which anyone can join simply by visiting the website, includes people of all ages, all around the world. They've been discussing ideas for everything from character names (bookseller Lyn was named by "Kiwi"), to the character's feelings (a poll decided that Aileen has a secret soft spot for police officer Kyle), to the motivations for the book theft (the Lost Book community suspects the involvement of a corporation linked to a mysterious logo).

**Where the story goes next remains in the hands of the public**, who can suggest plot developments by visiting [www.thelostbook.net](http://www.thelostbook.net) now. Each month between now

and July the storylines will be pulled together into the next episode, animated and published online.

Although written by the public, **the animation was produced by award-winning animation company Binary Fable and the accompanying soundtrack was commissioned and performed by musicians of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.** Composer Blair Mowat wrote the music for episode 2. Blair is a recent graduate from the Masters in Film Music course at the University of Bristol. In 2008 Blair was short listed for a prestigious 4Talent award in the “Production Music” category, placing him in the top 5 young composers for media in the UK.

**The Lost Book website includes “making of...” blog posts about all aspects of the production, allowing the audience to go behind the scenes.** This week Blair has been talking about his inspiration and intentions for the music. He says, “When Aileen goes to Iowa she travels a long distance, racing against the clock to free her mother from prison and clear her name of any involvement with the theft. I wanted the music to reflect the size of her journey and the potential hazards she may face ahead.”

**Director of Binary Fable and animator, Helen Jackson, said today:** “I’ve been delighted by the creativity that has been shown by our worldwide writing team. It’s been brilliant to draw together so many great ideas from so many people. We’ve had hundreds of responses and the level of enthusiasm has been fantastic.”

People around the globe have also been entering a microstory competition which asks the audience to create “The Lost Book” - the book that has been stolen. Internationally-renowned novelist Jasper Fforde has created the characters and background for “a tale of ancient legend, modern greed and good old-fashioned adventure.” Each week, entrants contribute the next 100 words to tell the story of a perilous expedition into the Interior of Southern Venezuela. Winners so far have come from Germany, California, and Edinburgh. **Jasper Fforde describes the microstory competition as “The most interesting collaborative book-writing experiment of the decade”.**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

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## WHAT IS THE LOST BOOK?

The Lost Book is a collaborative adventure in storytelling. It's taking place online and it's open to anyone. At its heart is an animated web series that people can get involved with: becoming part of the storywriting team.

The Lost Book is a partner project to reading campaign The Lost World Read 2009, giving both reluctant and enthusiastic readers a different way of engaging with the themes of *The Lost World*. It uses animation and the internet's capacity for discussion to encourage people to get involved with telling stories as well as reading and watching stories.

## THE LOST BOOK WEB SERIES

The web series follows the adventures of investigative journalist Aileen Adler and her dog Watson. A priceless book has been stolen and... and what?! We don't yet know - it will be up to the audience to decide where the story goes. Episodes one and two are jam-packed with clues to help people join the investigation.

Episode one - 30 January 2009.

Episode two - 06 March 2009.

Episode three - 09 April 2009.

Episode four - 15 May 2009.

Episode five - 19 June 2009.

Episode six - 24 July 2009.

## THE LOST BOOK MICROSTORY COMPETITION

We're also asking the audience to create the book that has been stolen, week by week. Top novelist Jasper Fforde has written a prologue that introduces "a tale of

ancient legend, modern greed and good old-fashioned adventure.” Each week, entrants are invited to contribute the next 100 words and tell the story of a perilous expedition into the Interior of Southern Venezuela.

## **THE LOST BOOK WEBSITE**

[www.thelostbook.net](http://www.thelostbook.net)

The Lost Book website encourages interaction between the audience and the project team:

- Anyone can make suggestions for the web series, simply by leaving a comment on the website.
- People can vote on others’ suggestions in the sidebar polls.
- The microstory competition and a soundtrack competition can be entered.
- Schools resources allowing classes to create their own animation and soundtrack can be downloaded.
- “Making of...” information keeps everyone up-to-date during production.
- “One Minute Interviews” introduce the project team to the audience.

## **BINARY FABLE**

The Lost Book was developed by animators Binary Fable. Binary Fable Limited is an award-winning young company founded by Helen Jackson and Adam Brewster in 2007 and based in Edinburgh.

Binary Fable’s last project, About Here, is an animated series for mobile phone telling place-based stories, funded by Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Screen and NESTA. Each film is humorous and accessible, providing stories and characters that people can engage with. Episode 1, About Culross Abbey, was selected as “Best Animation” at the Mobifest Toronto 08 film festival.

## **SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

A particularly exciting part of The Lost Book is the partnership with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO). The SCO have commissioned three composers to score the web series: each will write the music for two episodes. Players from the SCO will participate in six recording sessions to produce an original soundtrack for every episode.

## **THE LOST WORLD READ**

The Lost World Read 2009 is the largest ever UK collaborative reading campaign. It brings together existing initiatives such as the Glasgow City Read, One Book - One Edinburgh and the Bristol Great Reading Adventure. At least 250,000 people are expected to participate in the cities and regions, by reading books, participating in debates and using the project website. Further information about the reading campaign can be found at [www.cityofliterature.com](http://www.cityofliterature.com) and [www.lostworldread.com](http://www.lostworldread.com).

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