

Andorra
Pett



Murder and mayhem,
in space.

Hello and welcome to the third newsletter of 2026 from the Andorraverse. Your support is appreciated.

I hope you'll enjoy reading Andorra's adventures as much as I've enjoyed writing them.



If this is your first newsletter, let me explain how it all works. If you'd heard it all before, my apologies.

In these letters, I'll tell you a bit more about Andorra, where I got the ideas from, and give you some behind-the-scenes content.

By the way, if you've enjoyed your free novel, I'd be grateful for a review, or a rating.

You don't need to have bought the ebook on Amazon to leave a review or rating there.

[Review on Amazon](#)

[Review on Goodreads](#)

If you're not happy doing that, just reply to this email and tell me what you thought of it.

If you missed previous letters, you can access them here.

[The Andorraverse, Newsletter Archive](#)

Now that's out of the way, it's time to get on with this month's letter.





Writing News.

Work on *Whatever Happened to Andorra Pett*, is proceeding. This story is proving quite hard to write, as it contains multiple timelines and points of view. I think it's the most complex of her adventures so far.

There are so many plot strands from her past, and I want them all to converge. It's becoming a logistical nightmare getting everyone in the right place, for the right reasons.

It's great to see just how far Andorra has come in the ten years or so since I started writing her adventures down. Not just her but all the supporting characters, too. In fact, there's almost enough to fill a set of spin-off novels.

Now that would be a project.



This month, I'm looking at why I put Andorra where I did for her first adventure. After all, a space station orbiting Saturn is not really the first place you'd think of for a dress designer to be living.

There are several reasons, and they might not be what you expect.

Firstly, I didn't want Andorra to be a female version of the male characters that I was writing. I was a fan of Miss Marple and Agatha Raisin, as well as the mysteries of Jonathon Creek, I wanted to write the same sort of thing.

If I were writing a crime mystery, these are typically set in a small town or community on Earth. As a sci-fi writer, I don't really have the background or experience in world-building to construct one in the present day, so I went with what I knew, a community in space.

After all, a space station is really just a small town in space. It has all the traits: everyone knows everyone, there's gossip, because of that, there are likely to be a few secrets.

I didn't want to make it too Sci-fi, so I set it in the not-too-distant future. There was no such thing as travelling faster than light. In the stories, it takes around eight days to get from Mars to Saturn at around one-percent of light speed, using a thing I invented called the centi-drive.

Of course, that varies with the relative positions of the planets. Plus, there wasn't the need to invent much high-tech gear. No light-sabres or beaming people anywhere. Most of the living arrangements on the space station are borrowed from stuff we already do, or could do.

I digress (I do that a lot). Next, I needed a reason for Andorra to be there. In a lot of stories, a person arrives in a small community because of a significant event in their lives. Death of a relative, divorce, cheating partner, all of these are good reasons for

getting away from it all. I figured that you couldn't get further away from it all than a space station orbiting Saturn.

Of course, being on the station made Andi a fish out of water. It's another good trait for an amateur detective. It gives you the ability to go anywhere and ask anything, but it also allows for unsavoury characters to play on your lack of knowledge and lead you in the wrong direction. And there are a lot of dangerous places for the unwary in space.



Extra Content.

For this month's glimpse behind the scenes, here's the conclusion of ***When Andi met Cy.***

Last month, Andi was meeting her friend Maisie in Putney when she bumped into Cy. He invited them both to the pub with his boyfriend, Duncan.

Now, read on,

When Andi met Cy, Part 2.

With Maisie behind me, I pushed the door open. The pub was crowded.

Cy and his friend had a table in the corner and were chatting to the people sitting around them. Cy saw me and waved us over.

“Take a seat,” he said. “Red or white?”

“White,” I said. He looked at Maisie, she nodded. He waved at the bar. “Service,” he shouted. “More wine for over here, please, we’ll have another, and a bottle of white for these two. A couple of glasses as well.” A minute later, it arrived. The girl smiled at Cy as she put the bottles down. “Here you are,” she winked. Cy thanked her, and she strolled away, beaming like she had just met a rock star.

“How do you do that?” I asked him. “They always ignore me in pubs like this.” And that was when I was standing right in front of them, dying of thirst.

“I know, said Daniel. “It makes me cringe, too, but he just gets away with it. They all fall over him.”

“You're gay,” said Maisie. Cy’s eyebrows rose.

“She's quick,” he said. “It took Andorra longer than that to work it out.”

“No, it didn’t,” I said.

“Whatever,” Cy laughed. He took a swig of his wine. “Cheers,” he said. “Oh, yeah, where are my manners. This is Daniel. Daniel, Andorra, the art and design student I told you about.”

What?

“Pleased to meet you, Andorra?” Daniel said. “Don’t worry, he only told me your name.”

“Call me Andi,” I said, liking him instantly. “This is Maisie Duncan. We’ve known each other forever. Maisie, Cy from college and his boyfriend, Daniel.”

We all said hello and drank more wine. It was time to find out a bit more about Cy’s friend.

“So, what are you doing, Daniel?” I asked.

“Me,” he said. “I work for a company called OLC.”

“I’ve heard of them,” said Maisie. “They’re the farms in space, aren’t they?”

“That’s us,” he said. “We’ve got four at the moment, and we’re looking to put one in the Saturn mining space station that’s being built. Of course, that won’t be ours. The platform is owned by a mining company. The staff will need feeding, and they don’t have the expertise to do it.”

That was impressive, even I’d heard of OLC. They’ve been going for quite a few years now, taking food production out into space, leaving the land for people, and also, it cut down on the methane pollution. I wasn’t really interested, though Daniel was clearly excited by it. You could tell by the way his eyes shone as he spoke.

“Have you been into space, Daniel?” I asked him.

“Not yet,” he said. “I’m working ground support, but I’d like to hitch a round trip up there on a transport. We can do that.”

The idea of being in space, especially way out there orbiting Saturn, wasn't high on my list of priorities. It might be the future, but it didn't feel like it was mine.

“What are you doing, Maisie?” he asked.

“Health and social care at college,” she said.

“Why's that?” said Cy. “Do you want to help people or just see lots of naked men?”
He leaned forward, as if expecting a confidential and juicy reply.

“Or women,” said Daniel. “Pardon his gender typing.”

“Very original,” Maisie said. “I've seen that on a t-shirt. I'm doing it because I want to be a nurse.”

“I notice you're not denying it, though,” he said, grinning.

Maisie shook her head. “Naked bodies will be a bonus, as long as they're not too ill. So far, it's all classroom stuff, and a bit boring.”

“What are you doing at college, Cy?” asked Maisie. “Art and design like Andi?”

He shook his head, “Not me, tailoring and pattern-cutting. I want to make clothes for the stars.”

“He wants an excuse to measure inside legs, more like,” muttered Daniel.

Cy punched his shoulder, “He knows me so well,” he said.

“I’ll tell you what, Andi,” said Daniel. “You should team up with Cy. Design, make and sell your own range of clothes. Set up a fashion label.”

Where did that come from? I had no such ambitions. I certainly hadn’t thought three years ahead. Then I remembered something I wanted to ask Cy.

“How did you know about the convent?”

“Never you mind,” he replied.

“But you said you’d tell me if I came in here for a drink.”

He shrugged. “I lied.” He topped my glass up and Maisie’s. “But I will tell you this. My dad met your father once, in Andorra, as it happens. He’d been robbed, and your dad helped mine get sorted out and get home.”

My father had been the Ambassador in Andorra. It was where I’d got my name from, same as him being in Argentina was the reason for my sister being called Argentina. I hadn’t told him, I hadn’t told anyone. I didn’t want people to think I was a posh bird.

“And you think that’s to do with me?”

“Well, it’s not much of a stretch, is it?” he said. “I mean, he was called Pett, and my Dad met him in Andorra. You’re called Andorra Pett. It sort of adds up, doesn’t it?”

“Fair enough,” I said. “You’re right. But how do you know about the convent?”

“Oh, that was just gossip. After all, you don't look or act like a convent girl.”

“Convent girls,” said Maisie. “We were there together. And my dad worked with Andorra's dad. He was on his staff.”

“Attaché,” I said.

“Bless you,” said Cy, as quick as you like. Daniel roared with laughter.

After that, it all got a bit confusing. There was wine and talk and more wine. When Maisie and I finally left, it seemed that Cy was just getting into his stride. Daniel was gazing blankly at the empty bottles on the table and shaking his head.

“Do you have to go?” Cy asked.

“I do,” I said. “Sorry and all that, but I have things I need to do.”

“So do I,” said Maisie, “But it was lovely meeting you both.”

“We'll have to do this again,” he said. “See you on Monday, Andorra Pett.”

Next month, I'll be talking more about Tharsis, the colony on Mars that features in Andorra's second adventure.

Look out for it on April 16th.



A bit more about me.

I spent my working life connected with ships. Either sailing the world on them or piloting them on the River Thames.

Since I retired from full-time work, as well as writing, I read, cook and walk along the coast near my home in South Devon.

It's a beautiful part of the country.

In case you're interested, as well as Andorra Pett, I also write Science Fiction, Steampunk and Psychological Thrillers. You can find more about them by clicking the button.

[Novels by Richard Dee](#)

In case you didn't know, audio versions of the first two Andorra Pett books are also available via Audible.

You can hear chapter one of Andorra Pett and the Oort Cloud Café here.

[Audiobooks.](#)

I hope you enjoyed that. Next month, I'll be back with more news and extra content. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or just want to chat about Andorra and her world, reply to this email. I'm always happy to hear from you.

Happy Reading.

Richard.

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