

Andorra
Pett



**Hello and welcome to the fourth 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.

In writing news, *Whatever Happened to Andorra Pett* is proceeding, slowly.

I've now got the majority of the timeline and what I think will be the major episodes settled. All I need to do now (?) is fill in the blanks.

That makes it sound simple. Obviously, I can't give too much away without spoiling the journey through the novels to get to the end of *Andorra Pett Meets Her Match*, which is where everything starts to set this novel's action in motion.

This story is being written in two distinct time periods, each with its own set of characters, as well as a mixture of points of view.

It all adds a layer of complication.

In reality, as I start to expand the plot points, I find more scenes to add. These tend to alter other parts of the story or sequence, which results in a constant revising of what I've already written.

But progress is definitely being made.



This month, I explore the setting for Andorra's second adventure. I figure that by now, some of you will have read the first story and might be wondering whether or not to continue the series.

There is a short excerpt from the first chapter of *Andorra Pett on Mars* at the end of the *Oort Cloud Café*. In it, Andorra hears some shocking news from Mars. Her friend, Maisie, is dead, and everyone thinks it was suicide. That doesn't sound right to Andorra; it's just so out of character for the girl she knew. In circumstances like that, what's a girl to do? She and Cy head to the red planet to investigate.

After a shuttle journey, with her ex, Trevor (it's complicated), she arrives at the fictional settlement of Tharsis. There, she finds herself involved in another mystery. This time, she's able to use the skills she gained on the space station to help her, both inside the settlement and outside on the planet's surface.

This book is probably my favourite of the series. After setting everything up in *The Oort Cloud Café*, Andorra was free to develop more as a character, as was Cy. Once I'd built the world, I had fun setting up the mystery, leaving clues and bringing it all together for a shocking finale.

All I needed was a place to site Tharsis and some sound science to make it all seem real.



Extra Content.

For this month's glimpse behind the scenes, here's a little more about how I came to choose the setting for the novel.

Researching the Red Planet.

When I was researching Martian geography for somewhere to put the first human colony, I discovered that there were caves, mostly the result of volcanic activity. I thought these would be a perfect place for a settlement, better than putting everyone in a structure out on the surface.

There are several reasons for this.

Caves provide protection from solar radiation in the absence of a magnetic field. Structures outside are also vulnerable to meteor strikes and dust storms.

Caves are comparatively easy to seal and pressurise, with airlocks, so you could go outside if you wanted. Once you had them sealed, construction work could proceed without people needing to wear suits. Solar panels located outside could provide enough electrical power to get you started.

Once you have an atmosphere, you could import soil, grow plants, and oxygenate the atmosphere. Next, you could set up a farm to supply food and methane gas for power generation. My research told me that there was water on Mars, which meant that another problem was solved. It wouldn't take much effort to build a self-sufficient colony. All you really need is time and the will.

I built the town in a cave system, on the Tharsis bulge, a real feature on Mars. I discovered Argyre Planitia, a crater 1100 kilometres across, surrounded by high cliffs. Situated on one side of the Tharsis bulge, it was the perfect setting for everything that happens in the stories.

I gave the settlement everything it needed. There was a farm, hotels, shops, and even a prison. Airlocks connected it to the surface, and there was a weekly flight to Earth or the space station.

Most of what I describe in the book about Tharsis isn't actually science fiction. It's perfectly possible now, with the technology that we possess. All we need to do is get to Mars and start work. Obviously, it's a big job and would take a while to complete. I think it's likely that we will end up doing something similar in the years ahead. I've just given you my version of what it might look like.

Outside, on the surface, I researched the topography to find features I could use as part of the plot. All I had to do then was build the story around it.

The original cover hinted at a much more serious story than the Oort Cloud Café. I think it might have put a few potential readers off. When I did a radical cover redesign, it became the more familiar image.

Events in this story lead us on to the next adventure in the series. In *Andorra Pett and her Sister*, Andorra heads to Earth to sort out the aftermath of what happened on Mars. While there, she gets involved in her sister's disastrous business affairs, and sees a face from her past.



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* and *Andorra Pett on Mars* 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.