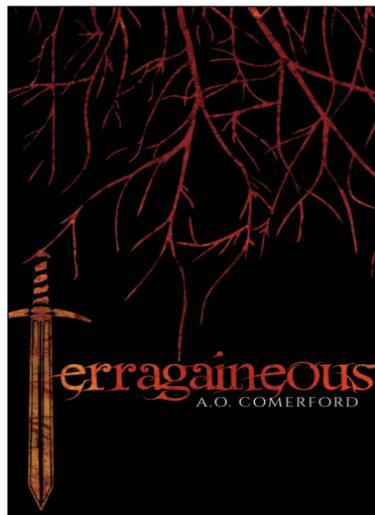




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TERRAGINEOUS

A.O. Comerford's new children's fantasy adventure novel sees three ordinary kids plunged into a world of magic, danger and deceit...

"As a kid I played under a scrawny old ash tree that grew on the side of a hill on our farm. Its exposed roots crawled in all directions, clinging desperately to the hillside for support. I used to imagine they were tunnels and that inside, a bustling society of tiny people went about their daily lives," says A.O. Comerford, whose childhood experiences of growing up on a farm in rural Ireland have inspired his new children's book *Terragaineous*. It's a fantasy adventure novel revolving around a hilltop forest and the miniature ancient civilisation that lives beneath it.

This civilisation is discovered by Callum, whose world falls apart when his mother unexpectedly dies on his fifteenth birthday, leaving his heart bursting with hurt and anger. When he himself is mysteriously rescued from almost certain death just weeks later, the events of the hours that follow convince him that grief has driven him insane.

His rescuer is a tiny homeless man who claims to come from an ancient subterranean civilisation and tells fantastical stories of a magical underground world where his people live in harmony with nature, insulated from the constant turmoil of human life. Callum, desperate for distraction from his loss, convinces his friends to befriend the strange little creature and help him to return home. But nothing can prepare them for where their kindness and curiosity will lead them...

"Terragaineous gives us a glimpse into a foreign and interesting world that will delight young readers. The plot twists keep readers going until the surprising end." *The Children's Book Review*

"When I returned to that tree years later, it was gone, and with it all trace of the original Terragaineous. But I told the story to my kids and it evolved from there, until eventually I had no choice but to tie it down and fix it in print," says A.O. Comerford, who lives on the Isle of Man, and whose two children have inspired his passion for storytelling.



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PRESS PACK

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