

Funny, engaging and a little bit steamy – literature comes to the laboratory.

Crime, Lit Fic, Steampunk, Chick Lit; just when you think that you know all the genres, a new one comes along. Introducing Lab Lit and the leading pseudonymous light of the oeuvre; A Professor.

So what, we hear you grumble, is Lab Lit? An easy-to-read fictional base set broadly within the field of medical research... Not quite Bridget Jones with test tubes, but not that far off either.

Born from a wish to further engage the indifferent public with the important issues in the scientific world, the work of A Professor is the antithesis of the belief that it is OK to 'not get' science, maths and the other chewy school days subjects. However, rather than lecturing, hectoring and taking readers by force, the Professor series employs the greatest of stealth.

Quirky characters, believable settings and scenarios which will have been familiar to many of us at one time or another, lend an instant readability, cleverly distracting the wary booklover from the scary science being played out upon the page. As our anonymous author would have it; 'one does not need to be able to pronounce or spell technical terms in order to appreciate their function and significance.' In a metaphorical nutshell; while the ultimate aim is to educate, one first must entertain.

Discussing many of the burning topical issues of today – university funding, the role of women in male dominated sectors, how to engage children in education without smothering their natural curiosity – the Professor novels track their characters over the course of decades, drawing the reader into an engaging world where they're always wondering what might happen next.

Innominate though our author may be, we do know a little of A Professor's personal credentials. A highly respected British university professor with more than 400 published articles to their name, they are married with children, fondly remember their student days and parts of the novels hold autobiographical content... Although we're not at liberty to tell you which bits! Fictional writing for friend AP is not so much a calling as a means to an end – to foster appreciation of the fact that there is more to scientific research than learning the periodic table by rote; it can be 'both fun and iconoclastic.' Exhilarating and liberating, the field of science opens more doors than anyone could ever conceive of – into the world, in to the future, into the imagination. But it also helps with the making of decisions in everyday life – should my child be vaccinated against MMR?

Despite the fact that some of the most important scientific discoveries in the course of history have been made by women – Marie Curie's unforgettable (and deadly) work on radioactivity, Barbara McClintock's discovery of genetic transposition and Gertrude Belle Elion's groundbreaking research into the treatment of leukaemia, herpes, malaria, AIDS, and organ transplants – men still outnumber women in this field by three to one.

*A Professors Tale, Through the Glass Ceiling*, has this prickly problem very much at its heart.

Following three very different women from the excitement of Fresher's Week into the uncharted waters of their early careers and beyond, the novel highlights the decisions faced by 'working woman'. As the story unravels we watch our three protagonists, Emma, Amanda and Vicky, deal with the questions that all modern western women face. Can you have children and a career? How

can work and life keep a healthy equilibrium? Do men feel threatened by intelligent women? And is it possible to advance in competitive fields without the approved genitalia?

Intelligent, entertaining, thought-provoking and incredibly accessible; A Professor fictionalises science without losing any of the facts.

*A Professors Tale, Through the Glass Ceiling* by A Professor is available in ebook format from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).