



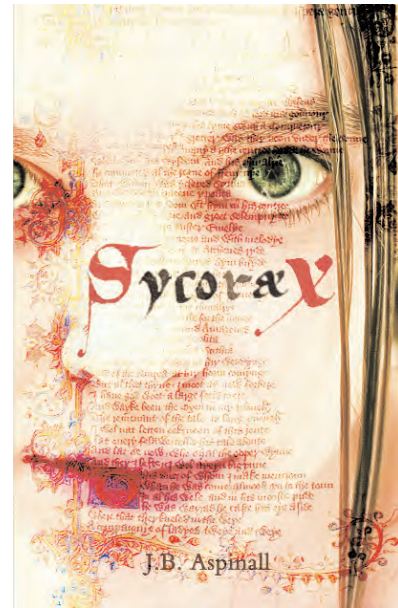
Sycorax

J.B. Aspinall

FICTION

65,000 WORDS

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WORLD**



In the credulous squalor of medieval Yorkshire a peasant girl is accused of being a sorceress.

The suffering inflicted upon her by male superstition sparks a spectacular and terrifying retort which initiates the legend of Sycorax.

Many years later, the story is recounted for us by Edmund, a flawed monk at Byland Abbey, who undertakes to write a history of the witch as a penance for lascivious fantasies. In the process, Edmund uncovers a brutal and eerie tale in which he becomes fatally involved.

More than a just another supernatural thriller or historical novel, this convincing 'translation' of the tale of Sycorax reveals that many of the compulsions and delusions of the Middle Ages are still with us today.

Praise for J.B. Aspinall's previous books:

Gringo Soup

'Darkly comic . . . a brisk, entertaining tale' – Daily Mail

'Highly amusing . . . A lively debut' – Big Issue

'Entertaining, informative and laugh-out-loud funny, this is an ambitious, well-written novel.'

– Marie Claire

'Darkly funny' – Mirror

'Immensely vivacious . . . very, very funny indeed' – Open Book, BBC Radio 4

Sparrow Hall

'Pleasingly sly' – Guardian

'Like a darker Tom Sharpe . . . also touches of John Irving' – OK Magazine

J.B. Aspinall read History at Balliol College, Oxford. He taught literature in city comprehensive before becoming a full-time writer in 1990. He has had numerous poems published in magazines and has published two novels: *Gringo Soup* (Sceptre, 2001) and *Sparrow Hall* (Sceptre, 2003).

He currently lives in France.