

SAFFRON-BUN CHAPEL

Alan M. Kent

It is 1900 – and the bright dawn of a new century. Far, far from home, two migrant Cornish brothers are traipsing through the dark woods and high fells of Copper Mountain on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The virgin forest offers this pair of “Cousin Jacks” a profitable stake, and so they found a mining and Methodist community there. But as this new world develops, into the picture mozeys disruptive and dangerous magic. What results is an industrial fairy tale, a story about geographical displacement and exilic consciousness: a magical-realist novel about Cornwall but paradoxically, one not set there.

Sometime in the future – in an Age which neither brother could ever contemplate – a stranger from a distant place walks those same gulleys, observing the abandoned spaces of a post-industrial world, finding something remarkable: ‘Saffron-Bun Chapel’. Full of aroma and spice, this was no ordinary place of worship, but a direct line to the Divine. In Alan M. Kent’s fearless new eco-critical novel – written fully in Cornu-English – this extraordinary chapel becomes the centrepiece of the fundamental need for us all to meditate upon good and evil, life and death; combining the earthy and everyday, with the spiritual and strange.

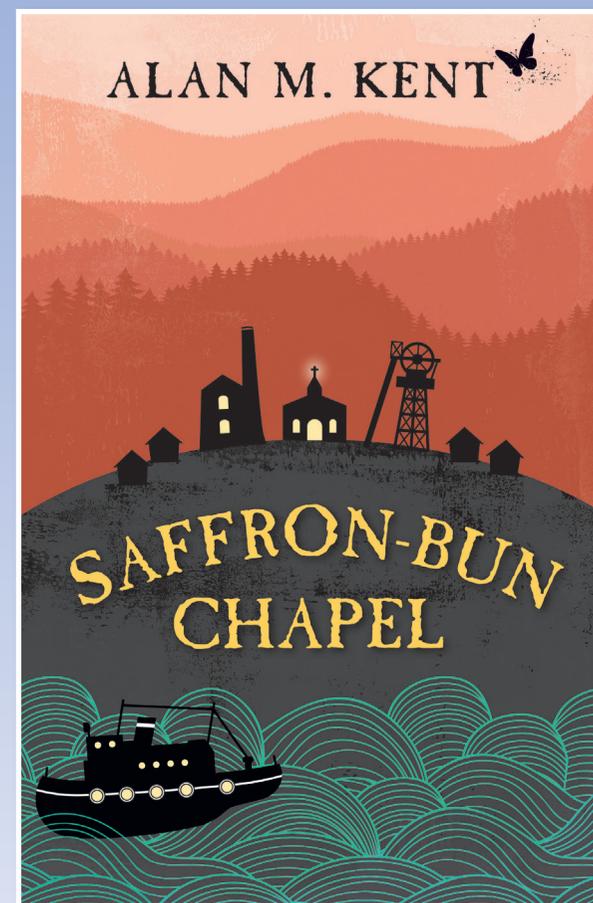
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan M. Kent was born in the industrial china-clay mining region of Cornwall, and graduated from the universities of Cardiff and Exeter. He is a novelist, dramatist, poet and a literary scholar. His novel *Dan Daddow’s Cornish Comicalities* won the Holyer an Gof Prize for Fiction. He has published a number of prize-winning plays and acclaimed volumes of poetry, the latest being *Mouth of Truth*. He has been the recipient of a European Union Scriptwriting Award, the Charles Lee Prize and an Open Season Playwriting Award. His stage adaptation of the children’s picture book, *The Mousehole Cat* has toured internationally. As well as his non-fiction writing, he has edited several collections of Cornish and Anglo-Cornish Literature. He is the series editor of *Lesser Used Languages of Europe*, and joint series editor of *Cornish and Celtic Alternatives* and *Corpus Textuum Cornicorum*.

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