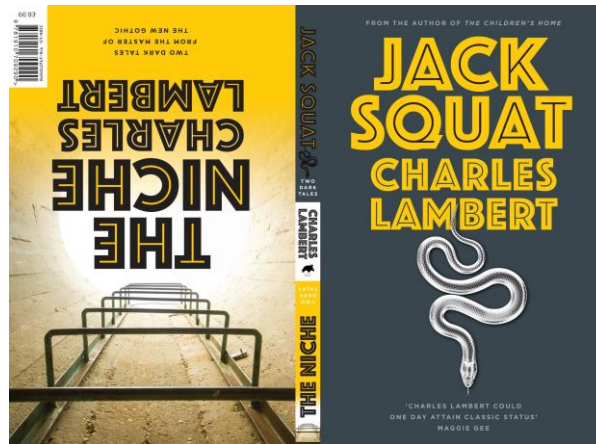## Q&A with Charles Lambert, author of
Two Dark Tales: Jack Squat and The Niche

Describe your book in one sentence

Beneath the surface of the earth, all holes are one.

Why did you write this book?

Because I had things I needed to get off my chest.

Where do you find inspiration?

For this book, in dreams and irrational fears.

Have you always written?

I have always told tales, initially to my sister at night. I started writing them down half a century ago.

Which writers do you admire?

Hundreds. Right now, MR James, Stephen King, Cormac McCarthy, Kent Haruf and Edward Carey. Always, Penelope Fitzgerald, Mary Renault, Georges Perec and Kafka

What are you doing when you're not writing?

Eating, sleeping, working, enjoying the company of my friends and husband. Thinking about writing.

The super power you wish you had

Invisibility. Failing that, immortality.

Describe your writing routine

Whenever I can, I write. Anywhere will do, and at any time of the day, although I'm brighter in the morning. Ideally, I like to do 1000 words a day, but I sometimes manage more. I also like to get things as right as I can first time. I'm not a multiple draft person.

What are you currently reading?

The Cadaver of Gideon Wyck by Alexander Laing, a relatively forgotten horror classic from the 1930s. I've just finished Patrick Modiano's *Occupation Trilogy*, which annoyed and occasionally impressed me, and I have a couple of Jean-Claude Izzo's Marseille novels waiting for me, which I'm looking forward to.

Name the book you've re-read the most

Books, rather than book, I'm afraid. *The Lord of the Rings* (at least five times over 50 years), *Ghost Stories of an Antiquarian* (dipped into over and over again), and Fitzgerald's *The Beginning of Spring*, regularly, because it's perfect. I'm also a Trollope recidivist.

Two Dark Tales: Jack Squat and The Niche **is published 16 October 2017 by Aardvark Bureau, price £8.99 in paperback original.**