



## TALKING BOOKS WITH TOM DOLBY

Published in February this year, *The Trouble Boy* is the debut novel for London-born writer Tom Dolby. Tom has written for a number of magazines including *The Village Voice* and *TimeOut New York*. He kindly found time to have a quick chat.

So Tom, give us a brief outline of the plot of *The Trouble Boy*.

*The Trouble Boy* is the story of Toby Griffin, a young man who is living the Manhattan party life after college while what he really wants is a boyfriend and success as a screenwriter. When he finds himself at the centre of a high-profile celebrity scandal, he is forced to question his values.

How many of your own life experiences found their way into the book?

The book is loosely inspired by some of the experiences that I had while living in New York after college. I was a nightlife writer, and I certainly had my share of romantic misadventures.

How tough was it to go from writing articles to writing a book?

I found the process of writing this novel to be quite natural; I've heard it said that many writers often have no idea how their first novel came into being. I think that comes from the intense desire to convey everything that one has learned about life and love into 260 pages.

One of the 'villains of the piece' Cameron Cole must be loosely based on someone you've encountered. Who was the inspiration for him?

Cameron is an entirely fictional creation, though as a gay film mogul in his mid-twenties, his character was inspired by the idea of the media wunderkind. There's a speech that Toby hears in the novel in which his ex-boss essentially says to him, "You don't want to peak when you're 25." That was an important lesson for me, both in life and in the novel.

What books are currently sat on your bedside table?

Among many on the stack are: *The Master*, by Colm Toibin; *Cloud Atlas*, by David Mitchell; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon; *Belmondo Style*, by Adam Berlin; and *The Artist's Way*, by Julia Cameron.



You are working on your second novel at the moment; can you give us a hint of what it's about?

My second novel is set at a boarding school in Massachusetts, and is about the manipulative and dangerous relationship that forms between a thirty-five year old female English teacher, her young male student, and his best friend, who is in the process of coming out.

*The Trouble Boy* is published by Kensington and is priced £9.99. For more information on Tom Dolby, visit [www.tomdolby.com](http://www.tomdolby.com)