

Greetings Club Member

After mentioning airports in last month's newsletter, a club member sent me a striking statistic: solo travellers now account for 70% of adventure travel bookings – people craving independence and discovery. Intrigued, I dug a little deeper to discover these explorers consistently report back that their most meaningful experiences weren't landscapes, summits or close calls. They were unexpected human connections.

Sound familiar? Like your favourite action-adventure protagonist perhaps?

At the start of the story, they set out on a mission. They're not seeking human connection. They don't want it. May even resist it. But the author keeps delivering it anyway – and we sit back and watch them fight it. Then gradually yield to it. Until by the closing chapters, the protagonist's most profound discoveries aren't about courage or survival, but about relationships with other people.

Like our solo traveller, they set out seeking adventure and find something more valuable.

And speaking of discovery, I'm deep into editing the third McGavell novel, working through my editor's notes and refining the manuscript. I've also had the first glimpse of the draft cover. A mushroom cloud erupting over an empty ocean, juxtaposed against the imposing architecture of St Basil Cathedral. And in the centre are our two leads – Letterman McGavell and Regan Coleman. I think it's looking sharp.

I've uploaded all my newsletters to my website. You can find them here:  
<https://www.colingrieve.com/newsletters/>

'til next time.

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