If You Can Write,
You Can Make Computer Games

Jacqueline
AllThingsJacq.com
@isquiesque

Who *is* this person?
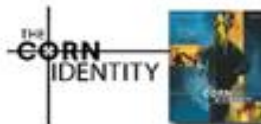
Who *is* this person?

The Fire Tower
A Virtual Summer Hike
Interactive Fiction by Jacqueline A. Lott
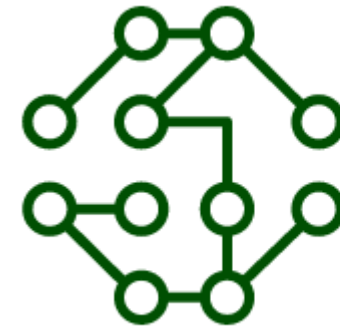
Who *is* this person?

What the heck *is* "interactive fiction"??

▶ IF is narrative-driven and interacts using text

That night...

(You dream you are the sheriff of a wild west town populated entirely by bird people. Your bird deputy scrutinizes you closely as you mosey along beneath the bright pink sky.)

DEPUTY: *(monotonously)* State your job title.

YOU: Sheriff.

DEPUTY: And what is the function of a sheriff?

- **To keep the law.**
- **To maintain order.**
- **To help people.**

Deputy

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```
.RUN ADV11

WELCOME TO ADVENTURE!!  WOULD YOU LIKE INSTRUCTIONS?

YES
SOMEWHERE NEARBY IS COLOSSAL CAVE, WHERE OTHERS HAVE FOUND
FORTUNES IN TREASURE AND GOLD, THOUGH IT IS RUMORED
THAT SOME WHO ENTER ARE NEVER SEEN AGAIN. MAGIC IS SAID
TO WORK IN THE CAVE.  I WILL BE YOUR EYES AND HANDS. DIRECT
ME WITH COMMANDS OF 1 OR 2 WORDS.
(ERRORS, SUGGESTIONS, COMPLAINTS TO CROWTHER)
(IF STUCK TYPE HELP FOR SOME HINTS)


YOU ARE STANDING AT THE END OF A ROAD BEFORE A SMALL BRICK
BUILDING . AROUND YOU IS A FOREST. A SMALL
STREAM FLOWS OUT OF THE BUILDING AND DOWN A GULLY.


GO IN
YOU ARE INSIDE A BUILDING, A WELL HOUSE FOR A LARGE SPRING.


THERE ARE SOME KEYS ON THE GROUND HERE.


THERE IS A SHINY BRASS LAMP NEARBY.


THERE IS FOOD HERE.


THERE IS A BOTTLE OF WATER HERE.
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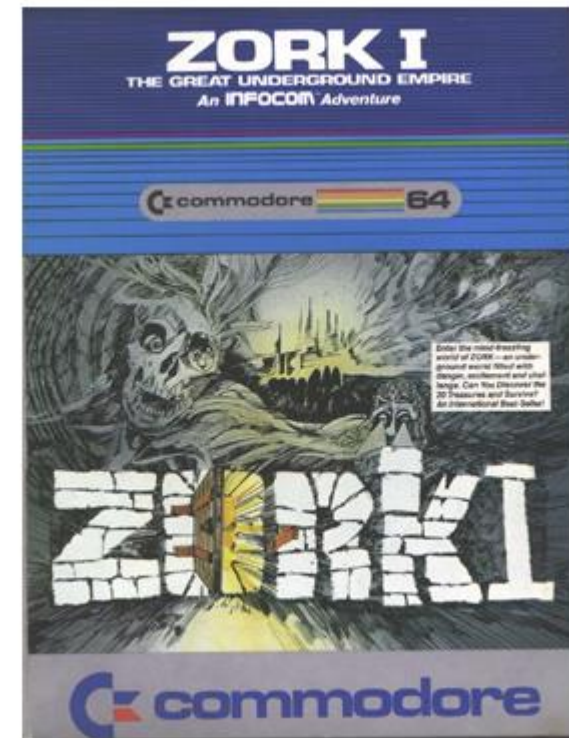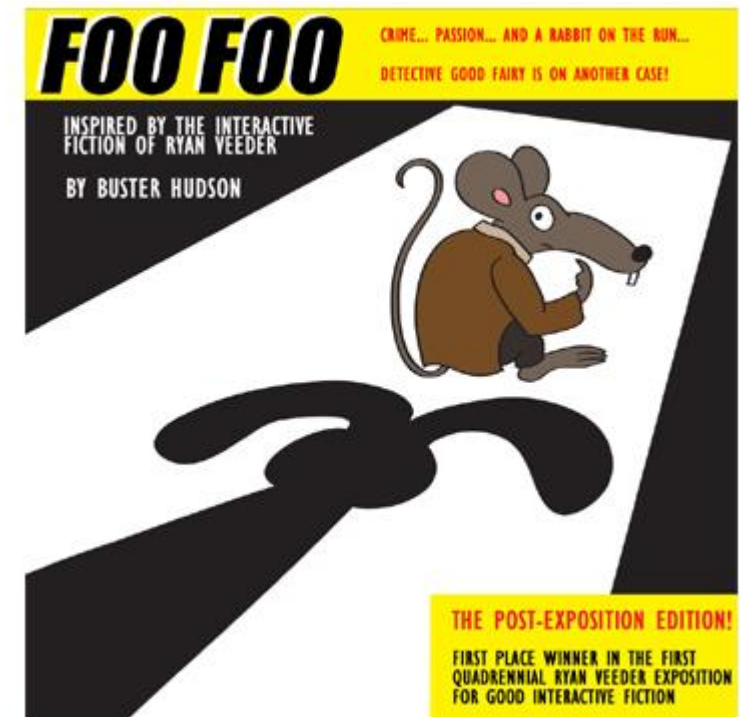
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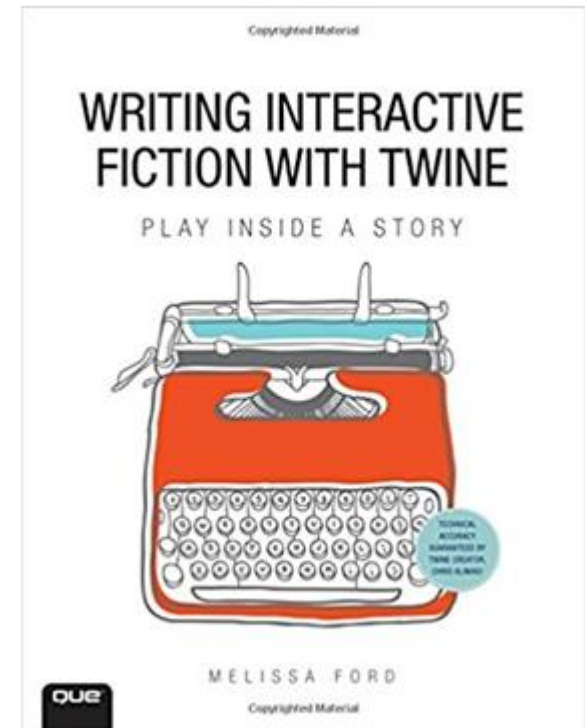- Became commercially popular in the 1980s

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- Accessible games for the visually impaired

Voice
Change the speed, pitch or volume of the current voice or choose a new voice

Select the speed of the voice:

Slow   Fast

Select the volume of the voice:

Quiet   Loud

Select the pitch of the voice:

Low   High

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- 1000s of free games at http://ifdb.tads.org
- Choice-based or parser-based…

New on IFDB   🔲 RSS Feed

MathBrush reviews *Crocodracula: What Happened to Calvin*: "The most Ryan Veeder game yet. A short mystery." *November 7, 2017*
⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ *"It's hard to conceive of a game that is more Ryan Veeder-y than this one. This is most likely due to the support from his Patreon, which…"* - See full review

Hannah Powell-Smith reviews *Sigil Reader (Field)*: "Dreamlike exploration of perception and memory" *November 7, 2017*
⭐⭐⭐☆☆ *"When I woke, it was high noon, and the air was dead. Sigil Reader (Field) is a fantasy exploration parser game made in Quixe. The PC is a..."* - See full review

A new listing for *Pixie's Quest*, by Quest Forum Questers *November 7, 2017*
Pixie's Quest by Dark Lizerd, XanMag, and K.V. You must acquire and use your programming powers to complete this Quester's Quest of all Quests. **NOTE FROM THE AUTHORS:** This game serves numerous purposes. 1....

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Cloud Dreaming

Jacqueline A. Lott

Restart

Bookmark

This story was created with
Twine and is powered by
TiddlyWiki

Yes, just like an alligator.

You rather like them. Most people are scared of alligators — and possibly you should possess a healthier fear of them — but you spent a pleasant weekend paddling a canoe around in Okefenokee Swamp once, and there were alligators everywhere. They hung out on logs or lazily paddled along, their powerful tails gently moving side to side. They never gave you a second look.

… but wait, no. The cloud's no longer an alligator. Now it's more of **an airplane**, or possibly **the space shuttle**.

Cloud Dreaming

Home page

> look at the alligator
Yes, that cloud looks just like an alligator.

You rather like them. Most people are scared of alligators - and possibly you should possess a healthier fear of them - but you spent a pleasant weekend paddling a canoe around in Okefenokee Swamp once, and there were alligators everywhere. They hung out on logs or lazily paddled along, their powerful tails gently moving side to side. They never gave you a second look.

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>

The cake is a lie.

First, you will be baked.

Then there will be cake.

And so is this talk.   Sorta.

Twine!

Inform 7!

The Big Questions

▶ What would I write?

▶ Who would I write it for?

▶ Will anybody play my game?

▶ But will anybody … *like* my game?
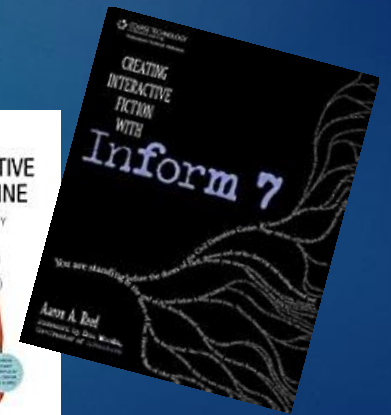
There are many authoring systems:
Twine, Inform 7, Ink (by Inkle), ChoiceScript, Undum, Texture

There are many online resources:
Language-specific websites, twinery.org, intfiction.org, ifmud.port4000.com

There are even *books* out there.
If you're into that quaint analog sort of experience.

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