

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Sheila grew up in Leeds, studied engineering in Newcastle upon Tyne and wrote software in Wales, before coming to La Palma a week before Christmas, 1990 to work at the observatory. At the time she planned to stay in the Canaries for three years, and then go home and marry her long-term boyfriend.

There's an old joke. How do you make God laugh? Tell him your plans.

Sheila fell in love with the island somewhere between the plane and the arrivals hall. A year later, she broke up with her English boyfriend and fell in love with a local man she met in the Isaac Newton Telescope, under the stars in the heart-shaped island. By the time she was made redundant from the observatory after nearly twelve years, she'd married the local and produced a son, and was busy living happily ever after. So she stayed on La Palma and trained first as an English teacher, and then as a Starlight Guide. These days she regularly shows groups around the telescopes she used to work in. And after twenty-one years, Sheila still looks at the night sky and thinks, "Wow. I don't have to go home on Saturday. I live here!"

Sheila has sold over 40 short stories. She blogs about the island of La Palma at <http://lapalma-island.com> and about its skies at <http://starisland.co.uk>. She's also the author of the quirky science fiction anthology, "The Dodo Dragon and other stories" which you can buy from Amazon or Dragon Tree Publishing at <http://dragontree.sheilacrosby.com>. She hasn't decided what her next project will be.



The author filling the cryostats of the IDS instrument at the Isaac Newton Telescope in 2003, complete with protective clothing.