

CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

'The world is better with all this beautiful work seen at last.' - A. Delf, author

**This week from
Clarendon House**



High Fantasy and Science Fiction Magazine Issue # 5

Featuring

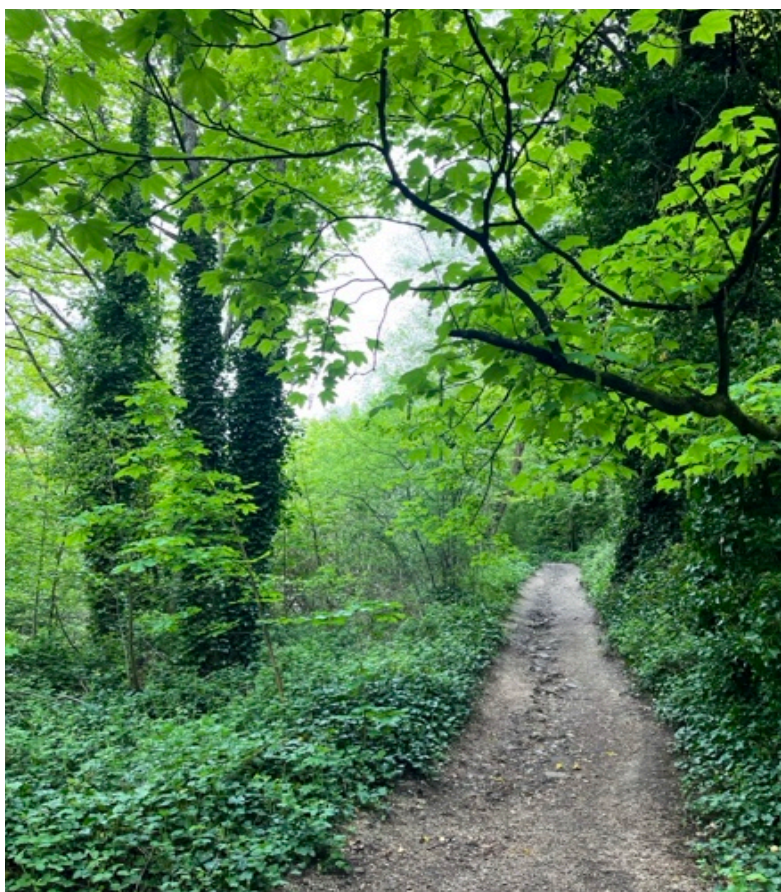
Still Alive
by Gary Bonn

Miss Starlight
and the Nega Wave
by Alexander Marshall

At The Back Of The North
Wind
by George MacDonald

A Window Into Middle-earth
by Grant P. Hudson

**COMPLETELY FREE TO
DOWNLOAD!**



Welcome!

Welcome to the Clarendon House Newsletter for week ending 8th May 2026!

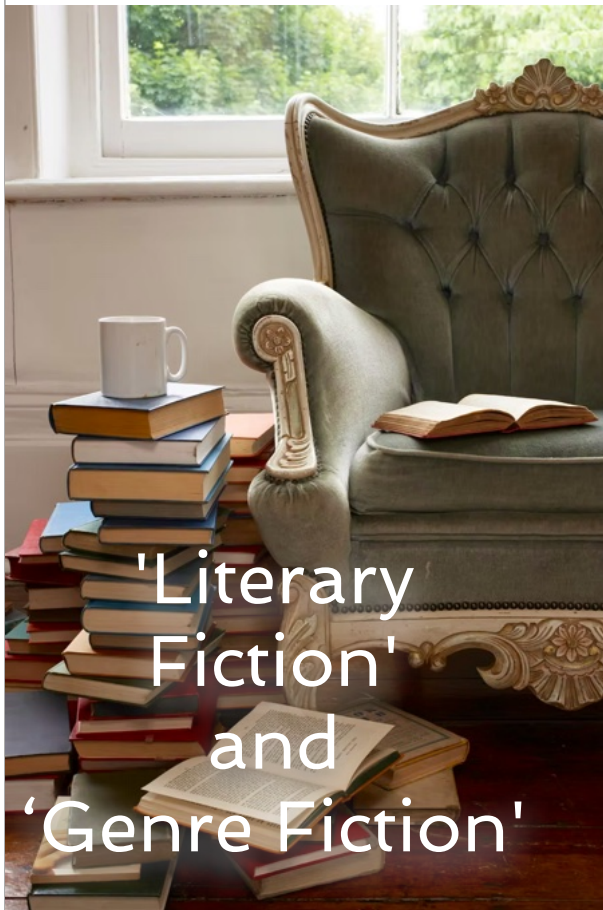
This week saw the release of the fifth issue of the *High Fantasy and Science Fiction Magazine* - completely free to download!

Stay tuned for the approaching *Inner Circle Writers' Magazine*. It features the winners of the first round of the Great Clarendon House Writing Challenge - subscribe now so that you can follow the competition and see who gets a chance to win a book contract!

There are lots of exciting things to come from Clarendon House!

Feedback is welcome. Drop me a line at grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

Below is a popular blog item.



'Literary Fiction' and 'Genre Fiction'

From the Editor's Foreword of *Vortex: The Inner Circle Writers' Group Literary Anthology 2018*, available [here](#):

I've noticed a trend of questions recently in some writers' groups regarding the definitions of 'genre' and 'literary' fiction. Quite often, the starting point for such questions has been genre fiction, with science fiction, fantasy or romance writers and the like asking 'What is literary fiction?' Sometimes the answers have been misleading or a little shallow, so I wanted to give you a different perspective on this.

The word *genre* is a noun from the early 19th century, a French word meaning literally 'a kind'. We are used to seeing genres labelled in bookshops and on websites, ranging from fantasy to Westerns, from science fiction to crime thrillers, from erotica to spy drama, and everything in between. The whole idea of 'genre' is that it is of a type, and as such, comes with pre-packaged expectations, tropes, themes, templates and often clichés. Readers tend to like certain 'bundles' of these things; giant publishing firms and film studios like them because they tend to guarantee audiences of viable commercial sizes. Blending some

bundles in new ways can be exciting and successful (as seen, for example, in the blockbuster movie *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, which combined 'conspiracy thriller' with 'superheroes') or disappointing (as in the movie *Cowboys versus Aliens*, where the genre blend is all in the title).

In answer to the question 'What is literary fiction?' some have tried to categorise 'literary' as just another genre. 'It's fiction that is longer, with more focus on the words and deeper themes,' some have said. 'The pace tends to be slower; the emphasis is on human nature and character rather than action and plot,' they say. That might be true, but to try to define 'literary fiction' as a subset of 'genre fiction' is, I would assert, backwards.

Literary is an adjective, originating in the mid-17th century in the sense of 'relating to the letters of the alphabet'. It comes from the Latin *litterarius*, from *littera*, or 'letter'. It concerns, says the dictionary, the writing, study, or content of literature, especially of the kind valued for quality of form. What 'quality of form' is exactly the dictionary doesn't go on to say, but I would suggest that we flip literary fiction's relation to genre around and view genres as subsets of the literary.

Real literary fiction doesn't normally begin within genre and then burst out of its boundaries: literary fiction begins without any boundaries. If it contains tropes or templates, or any of the other trappings of genre fiction, it is because it is using them to create an effect upon the reader not necessarily within the pre-packaged set of effects usually associated with 'genres'.

Jane Austen, for example, probably didn't begin *Pride and Prejudice* by sitting down and collecting tropes for a romantic novel: she wrote a literary novel which was so successful it formed part of the foundation of the entire 'romantic fiction' genre. When J. R. R. Tolkien wrote *The Lord of the Rings* there was arguably no such thing as a 'fantasy genre', certainly not in its current form. His trilogy set the pattern for 'fantasy' for the next few decades - newcomers draw on its templates even when subverting them for their own ends.



How Stories Really Work

**Exploring
the Physics
of Fiction**

by Grant P. Hudson

*'I'm reading through **How Stories Really Work**. I've studied writing books for years but I've never seen anything like this! This book is **REVOLUTIONARY**. Everything is made so simple and precise that other methods of writing seem clumsy by comparison. It's not just a way of writing, but a way of seeing.'*

-A. P. (Author)

CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR ALEXANDER MARSHALL

Who is Miss Starlight?
And can her
tremendous powers
prevent the Nega Wave
from overwhelming
Earth?

Chicago, 1942: the
dawn of the Atomic
Age. Private
Investigator John
McLeod has to find out
what gangster moll
Carol Wyland's terribly
scarred arm has to do
with a Nazi conspiracy
to create superhumans
on American soil,
before it's too late.

What is the dreadful
mystery of the lonely
streaming station of
Kern, far out in space?

The Eye of Lyubov, a
mysterious artefact in
the heart of Siberia: will
Ursula Stone, uniquely
trained agent from the
British Museum's
Department of Select
Antiquities, be able to
obtain it before she
freezes to death?

Waking after two
million years of
quantum displacement,
will Senior Technician
O'Malley be able to
work out why the Red
Seven Ark has overshot
its target and is deep in
intergalactic space?

The 25th Century:
Earth rules over a
hundred worlds
assisted by the
superpowers of the
Enhanced Class. But is
there something
fundamentally rotten at
the core of the system?
A cosmic entity known
as the Challenger has
arrived with one
question: Who exactly
is responsible for the
death of the woman
without a name?

All these questions and
many more are
addressed in this
unique collection of
superpowered tales
from the author of *The
Sword Sundergost*, *The
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Hyperean Wars and
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Sword
SUNDERGOST

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ADVENTURE

Annua is devastated when her lover Castagath is stolen from her by the pirate chieftain Harabund -devastated because she didn't realise just how vulnerable love had made her...

When Harabund sends her on a quest to the edge of the world in search of a fabulous jewel from the ancient world, she discovers that others are also emotionally tormented on the journey: Zard wants to use the jewel for revenge against Athbar, the would-be Emperor of Turgal, but Zamatar, of the Order of the Serpent, seeks the same gem to find salvation...

Why does the mysterious Jewel seem to have chosen her?

And what other age-old secrets await on the enchanted atoll of Ubatar, last of the Twisted Isles?

QUEEN OF
THE TWISTED
ISLES



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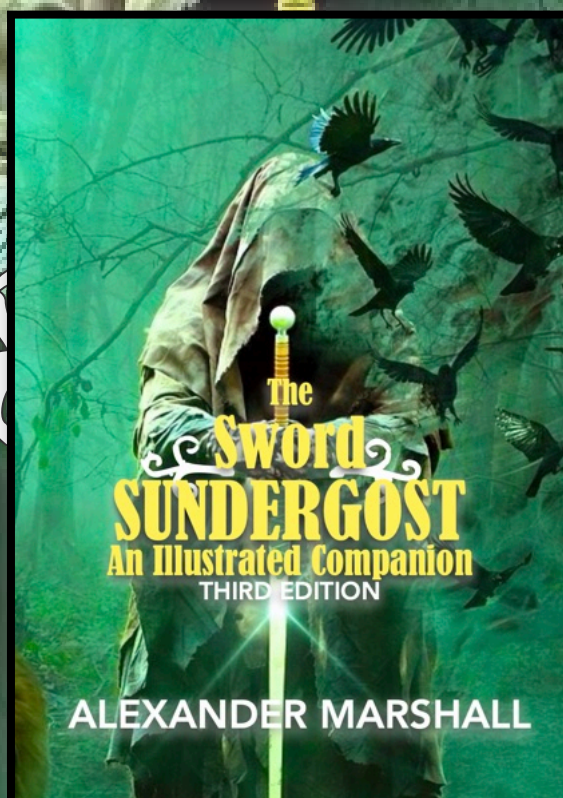
For lovers of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Ursula K. Le Guin and epic fantasy on a grand scale...

And now, for FREE, comes this lavishly illustrated e-book to give you a glimpse into the wide world of Gandria - from the mighty mountains of the Penning to the deserts of Turgal; from the heroic and tragic Valkurn to the twisted and burned Dare-kor; from ancient and powerful gemstones to the Sword Sundergost itself, herein are many windows into the imagination of Alexander Marshall.

THIRD EDITION: now with updates to include *The Phantom Sword of Rondar* and *Queen of the Twisted Isles!*

The SWORD SUNDERGOST

An Illustrated Companion
REVISED AND EXPANDED



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CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR

GARETH MACREADY



THE BONES OF MY UNIVERSE

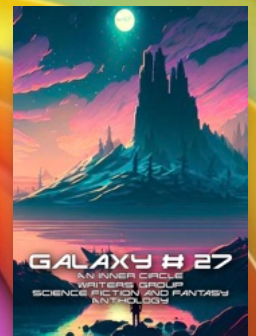
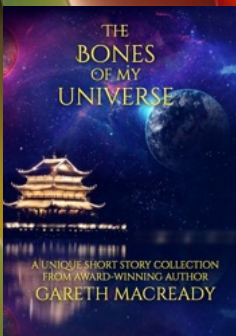


In this unique collection of short stories, Gareth Macready demonstrates both tremendous skills as a writer and an extraordinary understanding of both the Australian and Japanese cultures, blending them together to create science fiction like nothing else you will have ever read, including Dragon Tech, alien police procedures and dramatic martial arts, as well as a fine sensitivity for the human condition.

Gareth Macready lived in Japan, working as a variety act, and built a small studio theatre there. He received the Key to the City from Osaka City Council and collaborated with Japan's biggest comedy company, advising the council on the city's inaugural PerformaFest. Ten of his short stories have been published in Galaxy anthologies. One of his short stories received an Honourable Mention from The LRH Writers of the Future Competition. His short film script, Frank Sees Grandpa, won the Best Screenplay Short at the Ardélion Awards Gala 2025.

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CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS 2026 so far!



Stay tuned for much more in 2026!
www.clarendonhousebooks.com

CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

Over seven years ago, I launched Clarendon House Publications from my home here on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors in England.

Since then, I have published almost 300 high quality items - books, magazines, course modules - and helped hundreds of authors and poets achieve publication, some for the first time.

Over 30 authors have had individual novels or collections produced through me - some of these have had several books published and have gone on to carve out careers for themselves as writers.

With the best-selling books **How Stories Really Work** and **Become a Professional Author** (and the **Become a Professional Author Course**) I have helped writers understand exactly what it is they are doing and how they are doing it - and boosted their confidence to do more of it.

Many Clarendon House writing tools have been released for free download, fully illustrated, in order to assist writers create real careers for themselves.

Now, here collected for the first time for your convenience, are all those publications with links to take you to wherever you need to go to acquire them. They make great gifts - for yourself and others!

Please email me if you have any questions or feedback:
grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

Here's to many more publications and many more years helping you achieve your dreams!

Grant P. Hudson

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