

CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

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



Issue # 91 of the Inner Circle Writers' Magazine! The World's Most Exciting Writers' Magazine!

Read the final entries in the Great Clarendon House Writing Challenge 2026 and much, much more!



Welcome!

I just got back from a once-in-a-lifetime cruise of the Norwegian fjords and am profoundly changed (see photo!) This week: Issue # 91 of the Inner Circle Writers' Magazine! It's all happening! Read the final entries in the Great Clarendon House Writing Challenge 2026 and then VOTE for the one which matches the brief best: 'Write a 1,500 word piece in the style of American author Ernest Hemingway!' To help you, Master Author Showcase this month is 'A Clean, Well-lighted Place' by Ernest Hemingway himself! Plus Classic Masterpieces featuring The Railway Children by E. E. Nesbit and Rebecca Hardy tells us about her fantastic success. In addition, explore the key concepts behind effective storytelling in the Fictivity series and discover more about achieving success in 7 Secrets of Successful Stories and much more!

Stay tuned for more!

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

Below is a popular blog item.



4 Tips to Help Your Productivity

Here are a few more tips to help you with productivity. These have worked for me - they might not work for everyone, but I suggest that you adapt them to your own situations as you see fit.

1. Adopt a plan that extends for decades.

This is the Big Picture, around which all the rest of your production schemes will materialise. I developed a Forty Year Plan (I'm heading into Year 11 right now) and included everything that I could possibly think of, including moving house, rearranging finances, settling in, dealing with other logistics - and book production targets for each year. Looking back, I can see that I have more or less kept to these plans so far, though some have 'mutated' a little on the way, while some things happened slightly earlier or later than predicted.

Developing a very long-term plan like this can be a liberating experience. And here's the thing: if you don't put your vision of the future out there, someone else will put theirs in your way.

2. Work out a rough guide to the production for each year.

I started by sketching out the publication of about ten books each year. Yes, that would mean 400 books at the end of the forty years - but why think small?

As it happened this last few years mean that I will be approaching about 40 books this year. Does that mean that I can slack off a little next year? Maybe. The point is that my production of books sped up due to me becoming more familiar with the process, and the fact that I started publishing anthologies of others' work. But in between those anthologies I have published several books of my own and written over five million words which I will shape into more books in the future.

Obviously, Life happens and some of these plans might have to be changed or modified. But having a guide to your year is better than not having one - you will find that you will get more done.

3. Draw up a monthly calendar.

I started trying to do a weekly calendar but was frustrated because once you get into the nitty-gritty of things that happen at a weekly level, obstacles and unforeseen changes come up and throw the schedule off. We'll come to weekly timetabling in a minute, because I am not saying don't do it - quite the opposite. But try starting with a monthly calendar so that you have some goals which are do-able and which you can see approaching day by day.

4. Weekly timetabling.

This is where I found that it got interesting. I was trying to fit too much into a week, and constantly misestimating how long things would take, which is why I eventually gave up and flopped back into a monthly schedule.

BUT then I realised that I was doing it wrong. Instead of writing out a list of what I wanted to do each week and then not meeting the targets, I decided that I should simply divide up each day of the week into slots, like a school timetable, and set targets for each slot. Having spent nearly 20 years as a teacher, the daily timetable thing appealed to me - I tend to

respond to units like that. And it worked here too: by dividing each day into hourly periods, and then filling those periods with different tasks, I found that not only was I getting more done, and getting less distracted on the way, but I also felt that I was getting more done, which is important. Morale is crucial - if too much time is felt to be wasted, a malaise creeps in and can throttle you. It can be just a feeling of wastage rather than anything measurable. The hourly periods helped to show my 'emotional brain' that I was actually getting quite a lot of stuff done.

How does it work?

Simply draw up a timetable, starting as early as you like each day and assigning each hour to a different activity. The trick is - and this is important - to include everything that you know you will need to do on that day.

For example, my timetable might say '6:00 - 9:00 am: breakfast and school run', followed by '9:00 - 10:00 am social media and emails'. Then '10:00 - 11:00 am reading and proofreading (or in your case, perhaps, writing)' followed by '11:00 - 12:00 am research (or in my case, more reading and proofreading - I have such a lot of it to do!)



Then timetable in lunch, block in the rest of the afternoon, including the school run or whatever non-writing activities you know are going to have to be done, and go as far into the evening as you wish.

Timetable in the things that you know are going to come up as potential interruptions: assigning them a time to be dealt with means they are less likely to jump out at you as annoyances. These can include family matters, appointments, calls that you have to make, boring things that you have to do like household chores.

You can even timetable regular breaks, social media 'interludes' and so on.

One of the things that you may find is that you are getting quicker at getting the other things done too.

Don't be too rigid with all this. If you get too fixated, you tend to also get too fraught and disappointed if your schedule goes awry, which it will from time to time. You don't want to get into a situation where you are saying to yourself 'Oh no! I've gone four minutes overtime into my lunch slot!' or things like that. Use the timetable as a guide, rather than a regime.

Putting all the above together should boost your production to some extent. And you will feel yourself getting closer to the annual goals and the Big Picture that spans decades, step by step.

For more, get my free e-books [here](#).

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)

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Grant P. Hudson

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CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR
ALEXANDER MARSHALL

A Marilyn 5 Adventure

Heaven's Shield



Heaven's Shield: the most expensive space cruiser ever built, is about to be launched on its inaugural voyage around the Solar System...

But Marilyn 5, advanced simulated human and Chief Operative of Special Services, detects something is wrong.

When she boards the vessel on the night before its launch, she finds that her former owner, genius inventor Harold S, has been expecting her for a while - but what no one is expecting is a ruthless attempt by renegade sim terrorists to steal the incredibly powerful Kruptos plasma which powers the ship's engines, an attempt which puts the lives of all

the passengers at stake, including that of Marilyn's beloved Harold...

Marilyn escapes the attention of the terrorist gang and goes solo in an effort to save everyone - but then discovers that the enemy have some dreadful secrets, one of which is that their number includes the psychotic war-droid, Despot 6.

What begins as an attempt to save Heaven's Shield becomes a terrible mission to stop another Hume/Sim War...

Another exciting novella from the pen of acclaimed author Alexander Marshall.

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CHRONICLES OF BELTH
BOOK ONE

FALL OF THE RED WARRIOR



A new space fantasy novella, based on William Shakespeare's Macbeth, from acclaimed author Alexander Marshall.

The planet Belth, bombarded millennia ago by crimson rays which affected the biological codes of its creatures, is similar to Earth in many respects. Its dominant species is basically humanoid in shape, though many biological functions are different. Civilisations have risen and fallen among the floating continents over the ages.

At the time of this narrative, Tarsna the Red Warrior is Belth's mightiest hero. The current Commander of Belthian forces, Dasar the Dark Cloak is failing in an attempt to defend the planet from twin incursions. Leading the defence are the Red Warrior and his female battle-companion Firebrand. They savagely defeat both invasions.

But when Tarsna and his companion have a sinister encounter after the battle, the machinations of the story become more complex...

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CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR ALEXANDER MARSHALL

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prevent the Nega Wave
from overwhelming
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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
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from the author of *The
Sword Sundergost*, *The
Phantom Sword of Rondar*, *Raven Stark*:
Hyperean Wars and
many more.



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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
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Why does the mysterious Jewel seem to have
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QUEEN OF THE TWISTED ISLES



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CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR

ALEXANDER MARSHALL

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

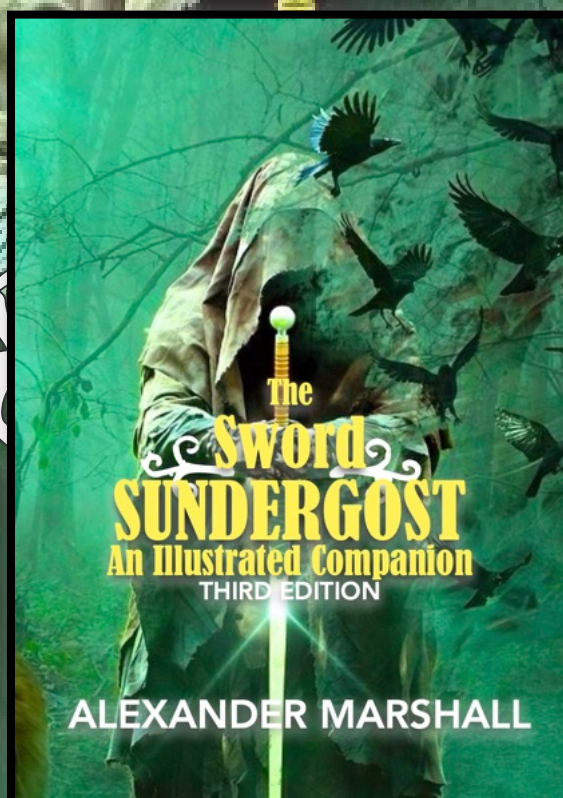
And now, for FREE, comes this lavishly illustrated e-book to give you a glimpse into the wide world of Gandria - from the mighty mountains of the Penning to the deserts of Turgal; from the heroic and tragic Valkurn to the twisted and burned Dare-kor; from ancient and powerful gemstones to the Sword Sundergost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

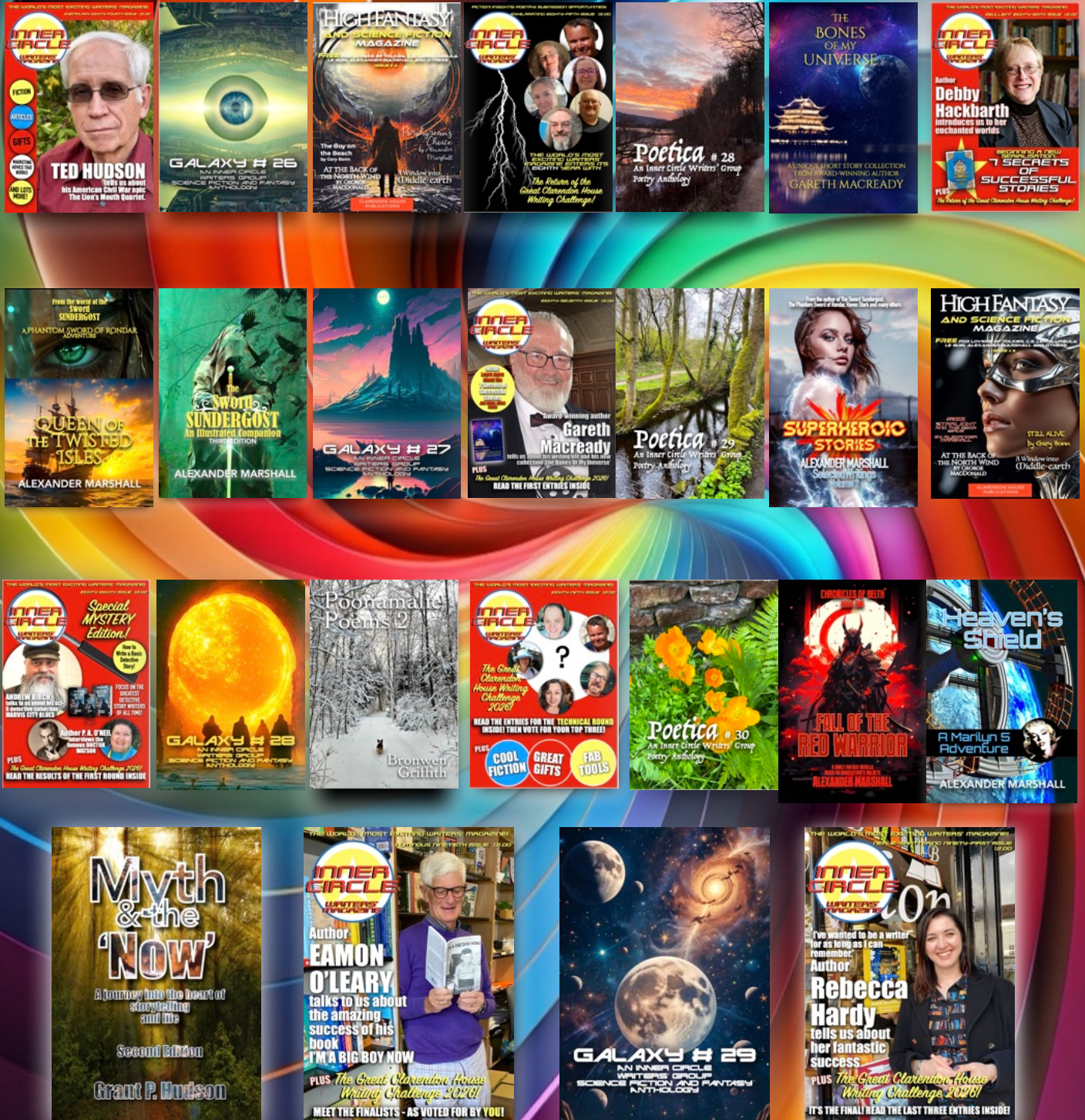


In this unique collection of short stories, Gareth Macready demonstrates both tremendous skills as a writer and an extraordinary understanding of both the Australian and Japanese cultures, blending them together to create science fiction like nothing else you will have ever read, including Dragon Tech, 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!
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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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