

# CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

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

## This week from Clarendon House



## The Clarendon House 2026 Catalogue

Almost 300 high quality items - books, magazines, course modules - collected for the first time for your convenience, with links to take you to wherever you need to go to acquire them. They make great gifts - for yourself and others!



## Welcome!

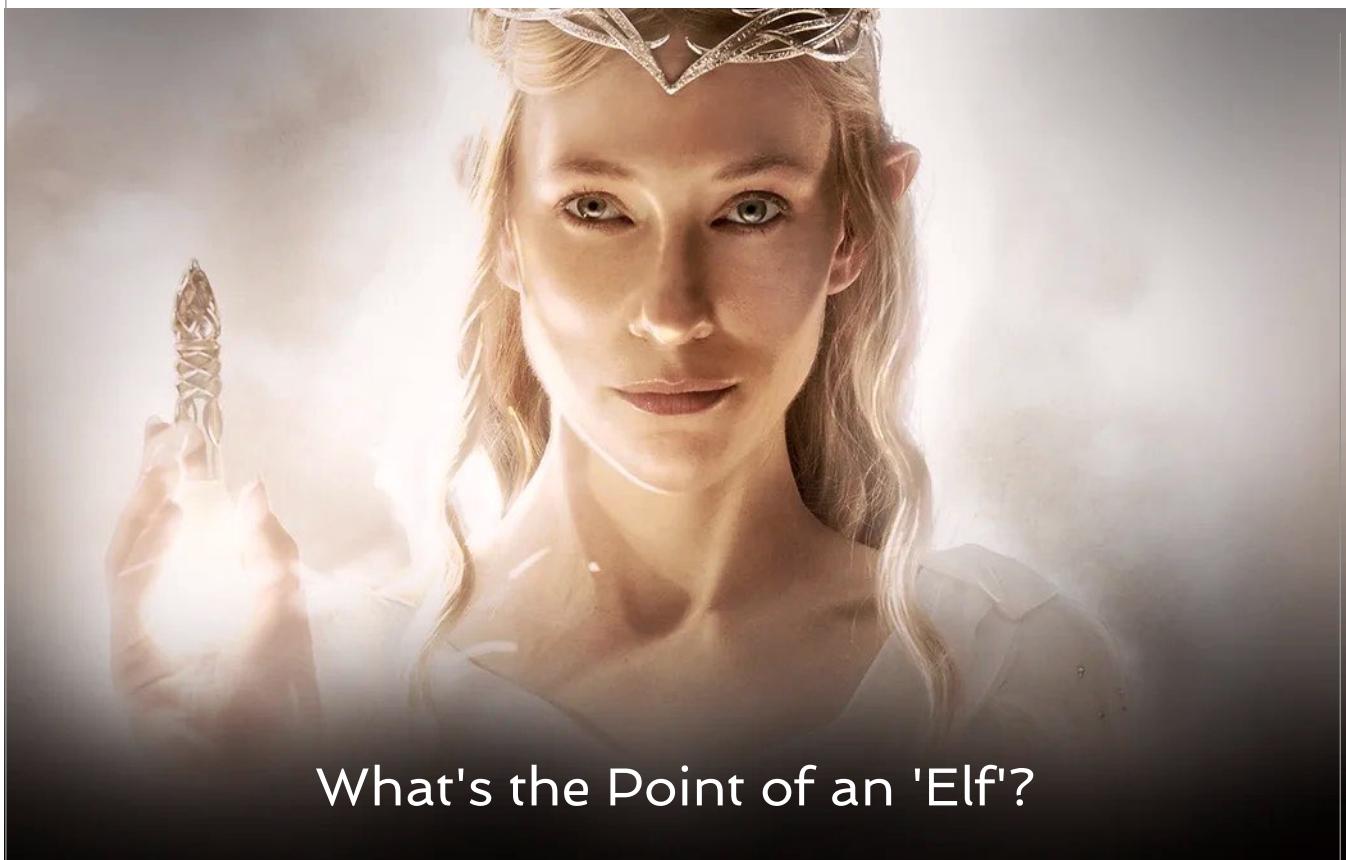
Welcome to the Clarendon House Newsletter for week ending 2nd January 2026, and to a whole new year of fun, excitement and loads more great books and magazines! 2025 saw the publication of 43 items, including 15 magazines, 6 poetry anthologies, 6, science fiction and fantasy anthologies and 6 completely free items!

There's MUCH MORE coming from Clarendon House Publications in 2026, including further books from Andrew and Helen Birch, Alexander Marshall, Tobias Green, Bernard Crispin and many more! Plus the usual poetry and science fiction/fantasy anthologies and the vibrant Inner Circle Writers' Magazine!

Feedback is welcome. Drop me a line at [grant@clarendonhousebooks.com](mailto:grant@clarendonhousebooks.com)

Below is a popular blog item.





## What's the Point of an 'Elf'?

I recently had a writer contact me to ask about his use of elves in various stories that he was working on. He was wondering in particular about the 'trope' of 'elves' and whether or not readers were tired of them; he also had questions about whether to combine characters from various stories into one. This is more or less what I wrote in reply:

*It might help to step back from the tropes and conventions and ask 'What exactly am I trying to accomplish with this thing called a "character" (elvish or not)?'*

And to examine that a little more closely, let's look at the grandmaster of modern elfdom, Tolkien. In his works, elves have a central role - and I don't mean that elvish characters participate centrally in the stories of Middle-earth, though they obviously do. I mean that for Tolkien, elves were an extension of his ideas about beauty

as encapsulated in language. The languages came first: Tolkien wove into his created words intimate ideas about things ranging from stars to woods, from love to hate, from God to evil. He tried to capture the essence of the way things were in new forms of speaking and writing. In a sense, Tolkien's created languages are the 'Matrix code' of his stories. Later, he began to imagine a type of being that might use those words, and thus began the sub-creation of a whole world of tales. To do this with integrity, he challenged the existing tropes of 'elves' at that time, the winged, diminutive creatures popular in children's stories, and replaced them with an older idea of elves as a separate and noble race. Such was the power of this created people that Tolkien's idea of elves quickly evolved into a new trope, used by fantasy writers (as well as game designers and movie makers) ever since.



The Inner Circle Writers' Group is the social arm of Clarendon House Publications. ProWritingAid recently listed us as one of the best groups for writers on Facebook:

'Everyone loves Grant, the founder of The Inner Circle Writers' Group, almost as much as they love the warm, supportive environment that always stays professional and on-topic. The members are encouraging, and the moderators keep abusive non-writers to a minimum. Several professional writers call The Inner Circle Writers' Group "home." Join the group and get ready for lots of interaction and engagement in a friendly, family atmosphere. Everyone shares and celebrates each other's successes, and many feel spurred to become and do better.'

This group is for writers interested in the craft and practice of writing and everything connected with that. Members are entitled to exclusive services from Clarendon House and are offered multiple submission opportunities.

It's completely free and fun.

[JOIN NOW](#)

So when you mention 'elf' in any work of fiction these days, readers immediately and subconsciously picture the Tolkien-influenced trope - and quite possibly roll their eyes, simply because it's been used so often in the sixty years since *The Lord of the Rings* was published.

But the trope is so prevalent precisely because Tolkien's use of it was so uniquely powerful: he invented the modern conception of elves in order to convey something else, an idea about life and the universe which resulted from much deep thinking and language creating. It's easy for modern writers to simply borrow that whole package by using the word 'elf', but they do this often without thinking of what they mean or what they intend.

Much creative writing these days is like fast food: we reach for quick, pre-prepared 'idea packages' and throw them together in derived plots, hoping to strike the winning 'recipe' that people like Tolkien laid the groundwork for last century. But that's not the way truly great fiction is put together. Great stories start with profound ideas, which then take form in images which are themselves made largely of vacuums, as anyone who has read my book [How Stories Really Work](#) would know.

To try to answer the question about combining elf-characters together in various ways, I think we have to forget about them as 'characters' and think of them almost as symbols: what are they in the story to do? What kind of effect are they there to create? What does an 'elf' mean in this context? There's nothing wrong with plucking a pre-packaged idea like an 'elf' straight from the fiction shelf and placing it in a story, as long as you are completely cognisant of why you are doing it.

Maybe the readers' 'eye roll' is part of the effect you want to create - perhaps you want them to accept a contemporary trope with some cynicism so that you can turn that to humorous purposes, or spring an entirely unexpected turn of events on them, or make them question the trope by bringing it to new life.

Examining the idea of 'elf' in this way may help to clarify the different roles of such characters within the different stories. Perhaps you'll strike upon something fundamental at work in your fiction - something so deep that you didn't even

know you were drawing on it - which, in better understanding it, will take your work to a whole new level. Tolkien saw the elves as a kind of 'unfallen Man', a vision of what might have been had Man not taken the road out of Eden. In doing so, he breathed life into a new kind of character and engendered a trope for lesser authors to make use of. Perhaps it's time for the appearance of a new vision of what an 'elf' is? Or what such a character means in telling a story?

Hope that helps.

# **How Stories Really Work**

## **Exploring the Physics of Fiction**

**by Grant P. Hudson**



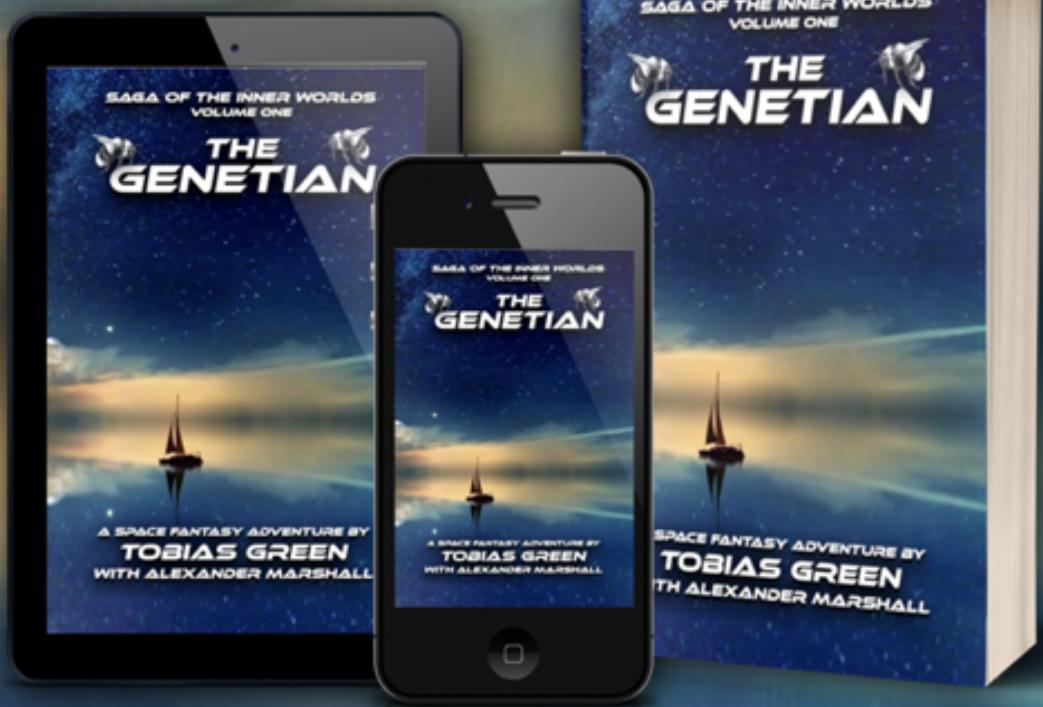
*'I'm reading through **How Stories Really Work**. I've studied writing books for years but I've never seen anything like this! This book is REVOLUTIONARY. Everything is made so simple and precise that other methods of writing seem clumsy by comparison. It's not just a way of writing, but a way of seeing.'*

**-A. P. (Author)**

CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHORS  
TOBIAS GREEN  
AND ALEXANDER MARSHALL

**SAGA OF THE INNER WORLDS  
VOLUME ONE**

**THE  
GENETIAN**



'Genet, the worldsphere known as Emerald, is categorised as a winterworld...'

First in Tobias Green's renowned *Saga of the Inner Worlds*.

Humble beekeeper Veren Vantra, living a quiet life alone on the island of Garth on the seas of a half-frozen world, discovers in his cellars a creature unlike anything he has seen before...

Thadassy of the Lonely Isle, daughter of the slain Thagar, is sent to find the Key to Emerald by none other than Saraptar the Celestial... Forced into a dangerous journey across storm-tossed oceans, pursued by firedemons and unearthly monsters, Veren and his companions discover wondrous artefacts left by the

legendary First Ones, voyage to the sacred sanctuary of Asdalashan on Tingular Island and then far beyond...

What are the secrets of the mysterious Inner Zone?

Why has the fabled Citadel of the North remained hidden deep in the Great Ice for centuries?

And, while the machinations of the War Lord overturn the world and everything that ordinary Genetians think they know, it falls to Veren to solve the riddle of the Golden Worm...

For lovers of fiction like that of Ursula K. Le Guin, or the Icelandic Sagas, or J. R. R. Tolkien, or mediaeval epics.

# CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHORS

## ANDREW and HELEN BIRCH



# SpaceTruckers 6

# Marvis City Blues



Jack Booth turned into the shadows, and away from the blinking neon that permeated the mask covering his face. Avoiding the puddles of the alley, he stepped into a doorway, and opened the door. Looking around, he sighed. The sign that read 'Booth, Private Investigations', was faded and peeling...

Outside, Marvis City was alive. Vendors with street stalls hawked their wares among the neon signs, to the throng of night owls, with tastes and smells from across the galaxy. Con-artists and tricksters walked up and down the strip looking for the unsuspecting tourists, and the easy mark. Cabs lifted off and set down, taking drunken revellers from across the galaxy, to night spots and flesh pots, where a week's wages could be spent in a moment. Whatever you could imagine, it could be bought in Marvis City. Whatever kink or fantasy your heart desired, as long as you had the green, it was here for the taking...

Come to Marvis City in the universe of the Spacetruckers and enter the dark world of the detective, especially that of Jack Booth, scarred ex-soldier from the Celeron Wars, who now battles against injustice and corruption as a detective in one of the wildest cities in the galaxy...

CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR

# ALEXANDER MARSHALL

## Kings of Red Valley Volume One

High in the Absaroka Range of the wild territory of Wyoming, Red Valley became the home of three great families, the Castletons, the Malmouths - and the Kings, who took the narrow land around High Gulch, amongst the peaks.

But when Victoria King's father Matt dies, her whole world begins to unravel - what she thought was her home is soon left far behind as she is pursued across snowy mountains and through dark, twisting valleys by evil men, focused on one thing: possessing her, and through her the whole valley. Strange, half-savage men, wild, half-demonic bears, and a man who has no heart at all await her on the road, and much more besides...

Join Victoria King, her loyal partner Abe Stone, the peculiar wild man Old Laramie, Captain Stirling and others on a ride you will never forget into 1880s Wyoming, where the only real law is written by the bullet...



# The Shattered Stone

[www.clarendonhousebooks.com/alexander-marshall](http://www.clarendonhousebooks.com/alexander-marshall)

CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHORS

BERNARD CRISPIN  
WITH ALEXANDER MARSHALL

THE JOURNALS OF  
SUSAN COVENTRY  
VOLUME ONE

# WINTER'S DOOR

When Susan Coventry and her brother Reggie are evacuated to a huge rambling ruin of a house in Yorkshire after a bomb in the London Blitz kills their parents, little do they suspect the adventures they'll have...

Like meeting Professor Cassius Clocktower, the mysterious man from another world, and his tiny lightbird, Erit...

Or discovering the strange mystery of the Beckenwith Necklace...

Or encountering the Ghost of Greenbridge Gate...

Or trying to figure out how on earth to get rid of the horrible Skelthorpes...

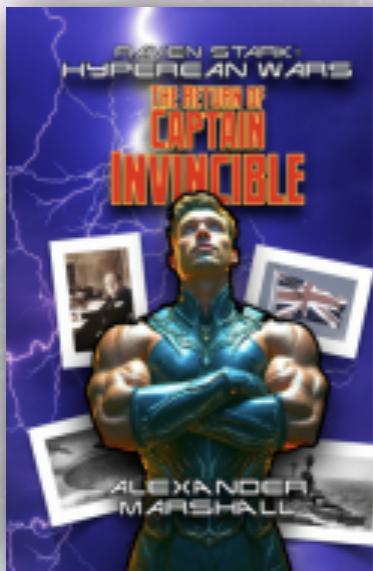
And what is the real significance of the portal known as Winter's Door?

Begin following the exploits of Susan and her brother in this first of the Journals of Susan Coventry.



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# CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR ALEXANDER MARSHALL RAVEN STARK: HYPEREAN WARS



## THE RETURN OF CAPTAIN INVINCIBLE

1940: Britain and Nazi Germany are at war.

*HMS Eagle, under the command of Captain John Strange, is sent to investigate a huge craft of extra-terrestrial origin which has plunged into the ocean west of Spitsbergen. He finds that the Germans have been there first - and that the secrets of the ship threaten to alter not only his life, but the entire destiny of humanity...*

*In this novella launching the Raven Stark series, sorcery and spectral evil meet super-science and space wars - and the world will never be the same again...*

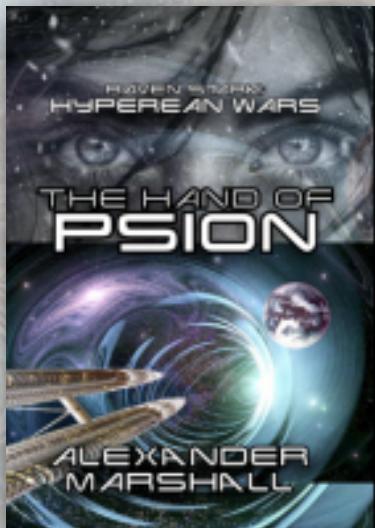
## SPECTREBLOOD

1940: Britain stands alone on the threshold of an invasion...

*But from an alien craft in the Arctic Sea comes an evil even greater than the Nazi threat...*

*Raven Stark, a gifted but physically challenged orphan with a talent for tackling bullies, stumbles upon a secret initiative to save humanity hidden under an ordinary London shop...*

*When her best friend disappears while seeking her sinister father, Raven is driven to make decisions that will change life on Earth in ways no one could have imagined - and to find out who, or what, she really is...*



## THE HAND OF PSION

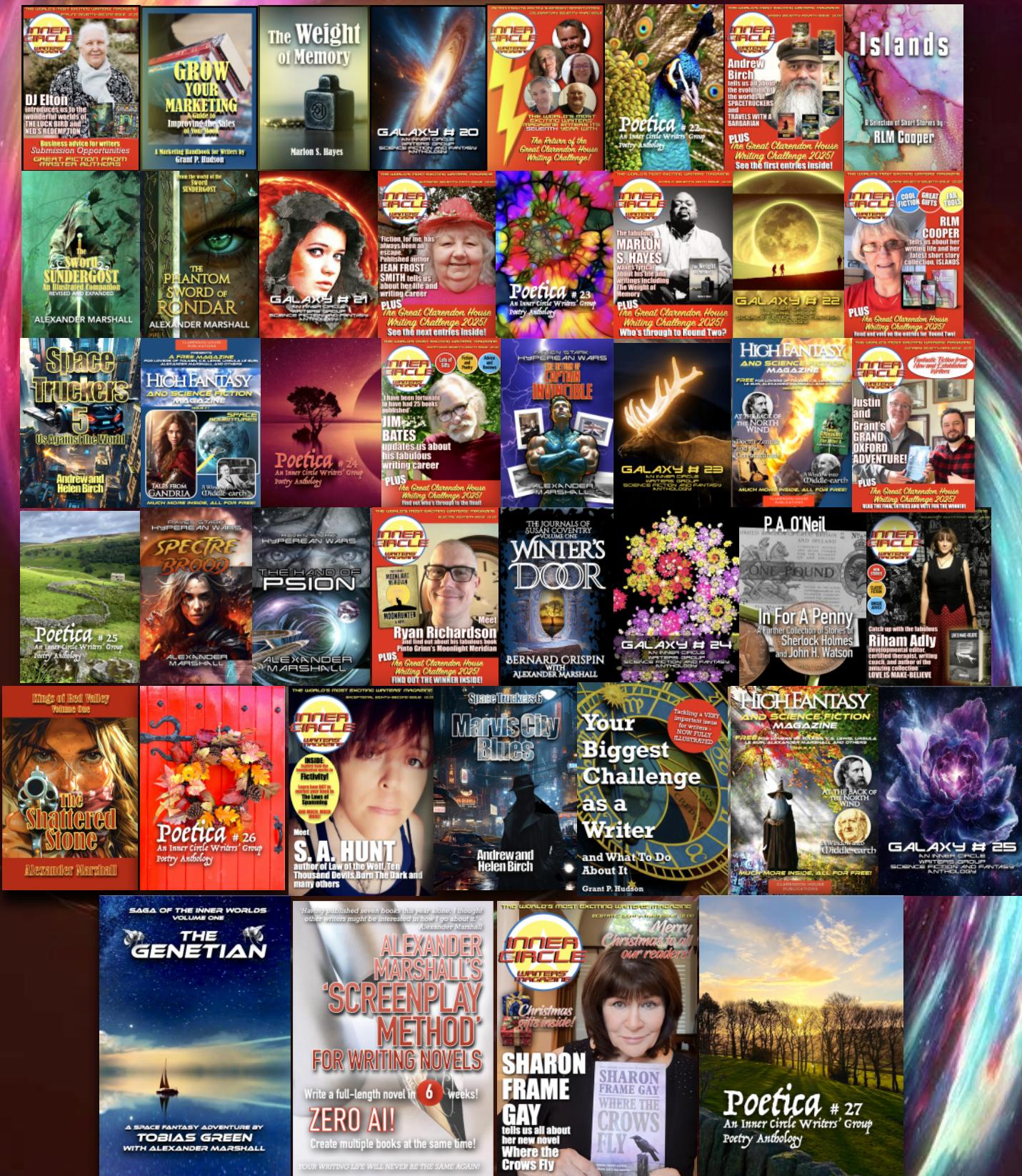
1940: the Nazi regime stands poised to invade Britain...

*But the nascent British Space Fleet has its hands full with a menace far more powerful, one that threatens all life on Earth...*

*With her best friend taken by the enemy for purposes too dark to contemplate, and Captain Invincible shorn of his powers, the newly emancipated Raven Stark finds herself confronting the ultimate challenge alone, on the frozen edge of the world...*

# CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

# 2025!



Stay tuned for much more in 2026!  
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*tales with a twist*

*regional magical realism*

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lovable characters

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Riham Adly



Peter Astle



Carmen Baca



Gabriella Balcom



Jim Bates



David Bowmore



Jennifer Brookins



Sharon Frame Gay



R. A. Goli



Peter Toeg



Bill Swiggs



Mark Scheel



P. A. O'Neil



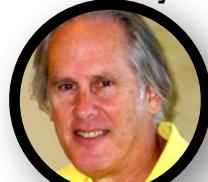
Ruth Morgan



E. Montague



G. Marino Leyland



Frank Kozusko



Samantha Hamilton

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# GALAXY ANTHOLOGIES

VISIT ANOTHER  
GALAXY  
TODAY

**GALAXY**  
INNER CIRCLE  
WRITERS' GROUP  
SCIENCE FICTION  
AND FANTASY  
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FROM

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into mystical lands full of  
faeries and warrior  
women, ancient  
powers and strange  
creatures...



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Helen Birch



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TO THE STARS AND  
ENCOUNTER FULLY-  
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CULTURES AND  
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Alexander  
Marshall

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The  
**Poetica**  
*anthologies*

*Poetry should surprise  
by a fine excess and not  
by singularity—it should  
strike the reader as a  
wording of his own  
highest thoughts, and  
appear almost a  
remembrance.*  
— John Keats

*...wisdom and wit, elegance and  
exquisiteness, power and passion...*

**Poetica:**  
The Inner Circle Writers'  
Group Poetry Anthologies  
from

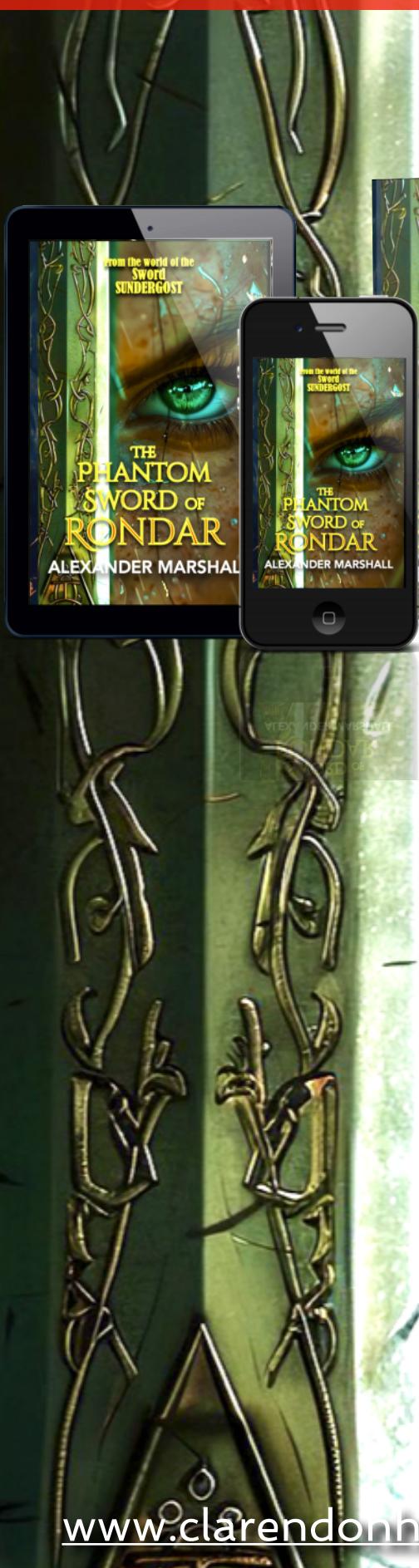
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# CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR

# ALEXANDER MARSHALL



## THE PHANTOM SWORD of RONDAR

*Annua Larkswing once studied to be a Herald of Raendu in the Hall of Ramsgarden high in the hills of Rondar - but she abandoned the ways of peace and went to fight in the War of the Sword, becoming one of the fabled Crimson Company...*

*Fearful Fretavorn is home to the Bloodseekers, vicious raiders who seek the downfall of the kingdom of Rondar across the sea; they will stop at nothing to utterly destroy that realm...*

*When a savage raid upon the coastal village of Tagavorn results in the cruel death of Krisain, Annua's adopted daughter, a wild and vengeful power is unleashed which neither the lord of the Bloodseekers nor the queen of Rondar could have foreseen: it is time for the **Phantom Sword of Rondar** to strike again...*

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NOW IN ONE GIANT VOLUME

'From the fertile mind of Alexander Marshall comes a complex world of Gods, legends, dragons, ancient evil and unlikely heroes... I predict that in years to come, *The Sword Sundergost* will be hailed as a classic.'

-David Bowmore, author of *The Magic of Deben Market*

# The Sword SUNDERGOST



ALEXANDER MARSHALL

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

Grant P. Hudson

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