

CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

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

Last week from Clarendon House



Poetica # 26: An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of Allan Tierney, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Sultana Raza, Maggie D Brace, Annie Nardone, Craig Richard Tickner, Tony Fyler, Trish Parkinson, Peter Kenny, Gareth Macready, Debby Hackbarth, DJ Elton, Afshan Aqil, Dawn DeBraal, Kerri Jesmer, Hanna Biali, Jacek Wilkos, David Painter, Sharon Frame Gay, Andrew and Helen Birch, Linda M. Crate, Mike Turner, Gabriella Balcom, Jim Bates, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Olivia Arieti, Fhen M., Binod Dawadi, RLM Cooper, Thomas R. Bates, Anhait Arustamyan, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Ed Ahern, Abdel Latif Moubarak, Justin Wiggins, Linda Sparks, Tim Law, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Richard Rose, Joseph C. Ogbonna, Lisa H. Owens, Michal Reiben and Kelli J Gavin.



Welcome!

Welcome to the Clarendon House Newsletter for week ending 31st October 2025!

Last week: Poetica # 26: An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology was released! Go [here](#) to grab your copy now!

Coming soon: another set of stories from the world of *Spacetruckers*, by [Andrew and Helen Birch](#), PLUS the first instalment of the science fiction epic *Saga of the Inner Worlds: The Genetian*, by [Tobias Green and Alexander Marshall](#) - and lots more!

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

Below is a popular blog item.



The Foundation of Ideas

Ideas underpin any piece of fiction. They make the difference between the book that doesn't get sold and the bestseller; they also make the difference between the bestseller that a couple of years later you find on the second-hand bookshelf, and the bestseller which is read again and again and made into box-office-shattering films.

Get the ideas right, and the rest will come much easier.

But what ideas? Do you just dream up some clever ideas and then hope for the best? No, there are ways of approaching this which will get you to the core of the matter far more quickly.

The motivation you have as a writer is intimately connected to the central ideas or themes you want to communicate in your work. If you consider, deep down, that your ideas are not important enough or powerful enough, it's likely that you won't make the time

to push various obstacles out of the way and get writing actually happening.

If you find it easy, you are inspired; if you find it difficult, then the other forces in operation in Life - family pressures, health, money and all the rest of them - are stronger than your drive to write. What can you do?

Dig deeper.

To overcome this kind of inertia, you need to tap into deeper, more profound levels of thought and imagination than you are currently.

Throughout the history of literature, one thing stands out when you examine successful authors: all of them had some kind of consistent vision about Life. These things may have changed and evolved over time for them; they may occasionally be hard to summarise or even express in terms apart from their fiction itself; but, at the time of writing, a stable vision underlaid the piece of work.

Think of Shakespeare's Tragedies; think of Donne's poems; think of Forster's novels. Think of George Lucas's *Star Wars*.

Think of any piece of successful fiction that you like. They all have themes, and by themes is meant that they all rest upon a foundation of powerfully held ideas. The ideas may not be the personal beliefs of the author - it's hard to conclude that Shakespeare himself viewed Life tragically, or what exactly went on in Donne's love life, though thousands of words of speculation have been written about both - but for the time that the work was being created, ideas formed the basis of it.

Where does one start in creating a set of foundation ideas for a piece of fiction that in any way approaches the grandeur of, for example, Hardy's melancholic view of Life, or Tolkien's or Graham Greene's Catholicism?

The truth is that you will already have these ideas in some form. It's quite possible - even likely - that your existing fiction already reveals some of the underlying basis upon which it can develop to be better and more powerful.

Like an untrained coal-miner, you've probably walked right past seams of coal in your material without realising what they were.

Here's what you can do to get started:

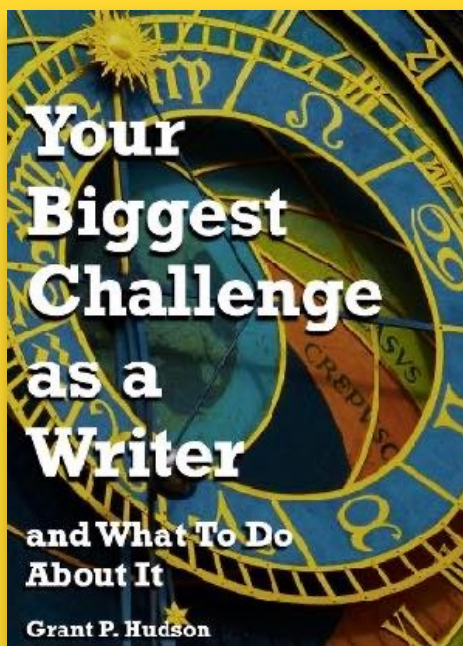
A. Spend some time working out the central ideas or themes you want to communicate in your work. What's important to you? What gives your life meaning?

B. Work out how to go deeper; reach more profound levels of thought and imagination than you are currently. If possible, work out what your consistent vision about Life is. You will probably have these ideas in some form already at work in your life. Think of yourself as a coal-miner, seeking rich seams of coal in your own material.

C. Look for the particular turns of phrase that you admire in a piece of your writing; are there specific chapters which resonate with emotional power? Work out from these what is working in your writing already.

Soon the core ideas that will form the heart of your fiction will begin to pull everything else together.

For more, see the book [How Stories Really Work](#).



YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS A WRITER — and What You Can Do About It

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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

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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, Erith...

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...

SPECTREBROOD

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 AUTHOR

P. A. O'NEIL



P. A. O'Neil's previous book, *Two Sides of the Same Coin: In-between Stories of Sherlock Holmes and John H. Watson*, approached these two amazing characters created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as if they had been real. O'Neil revealed details about their lives and interactions in that book which brought them to life even more for avid Holmes and Watson fans all over the world.

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In For A Penny demonstrates that beloved characters can live forever.



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and **John H. Watson**

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JILL KIESOW



Sometimes you are lucky enough to come across an author who, no matter what she turns her hand to, you can be sure of it being brilliant. Jill Kiesow is such an author. Whether she's writing poetic prose, or an animal story, or horror, or a crime thriller, you know immediately that you are in good hands. If you want to be charmed, enchanted, fascinated, beguiled, and delighted, get this unique and wonderful collection now.



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CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS 2025 so far!



Stay tuned for much more!
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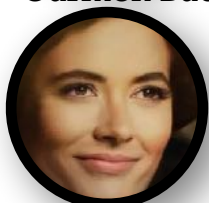
Riham Adly



Peter Astle



Carmen Baca



Gabriella Balcom



Jim Bates



David Bowmore



Jennifer Brookins



Sharon Frame Gay



R. A. Goli

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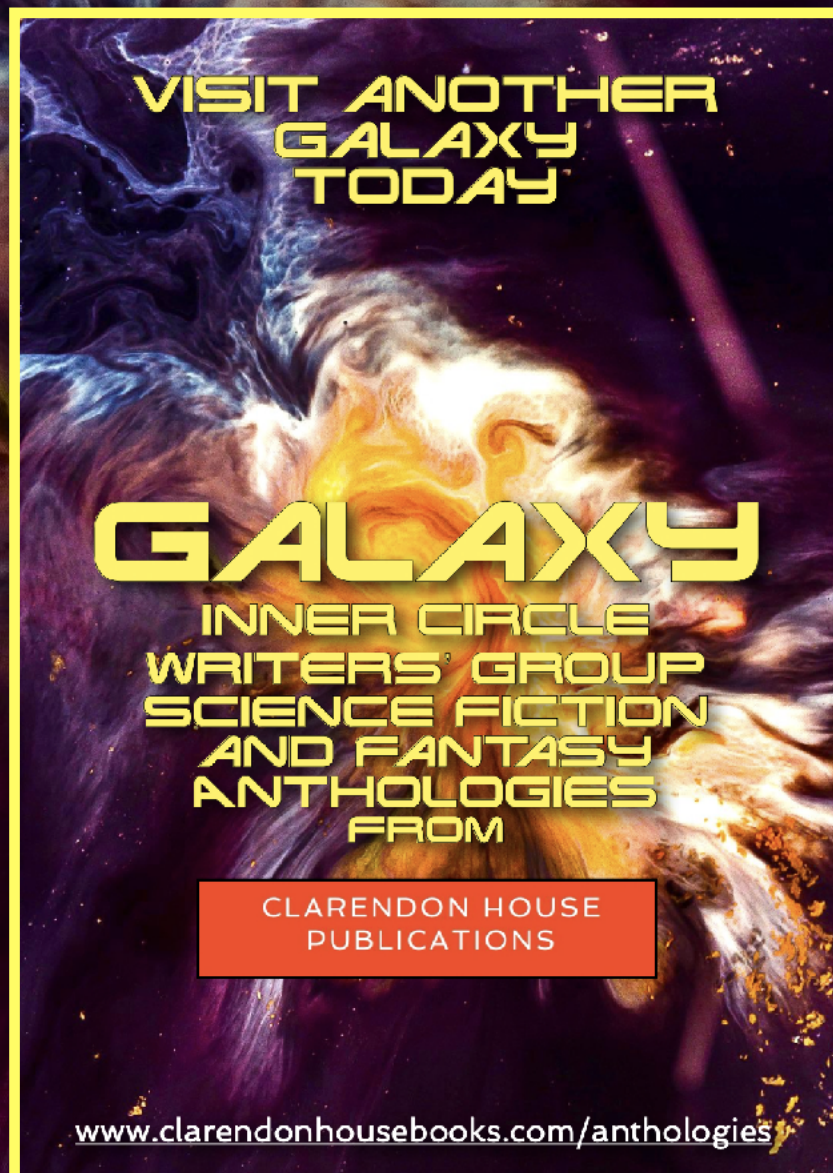


Samantha Hamilton

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GALAXY ANTHOLOGIES



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



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Helen Birch



Bruce Rowe

TRAVEL
TO THE STARS AND
ENCOUNTER FULLY-
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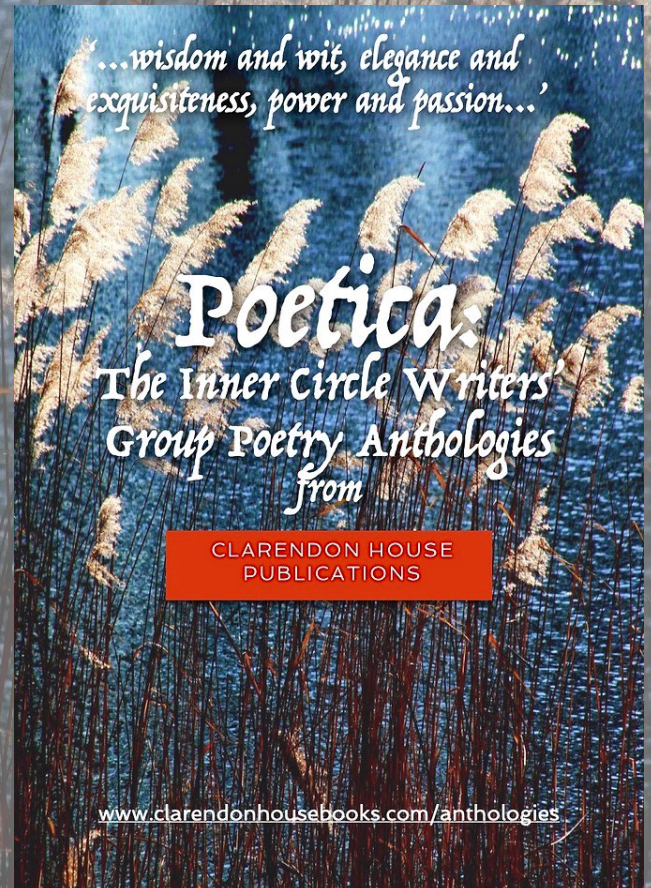
CLARENDON HOUSE
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The

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*



For a complete guide to the Poetica anthologies,
including new submission guidelines,
please download this free guide at
www.clarendonhousebooks.com/submissions

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 Fretravorn 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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PUBLICATIONS

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

The Sword SUNDERGOST



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