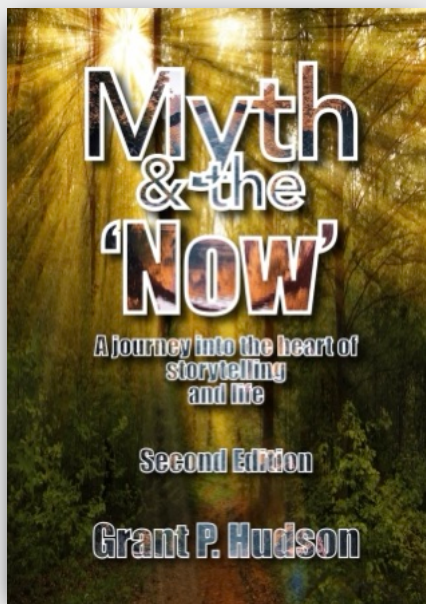


CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

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

This week from Clarendon House



Myth & the 'Now'

Second Edition

by Grant P. Hudson

Myth & the 'Now' takes the reader on a journey into the heart of myth and attempts to bring it into view in new ways.

It's a voyage which will visit unusual places, from Asgard and the world of the Norse Gods, to Navajo plains and Finnish lakes; along the way, be prepared to glimpse not only the evolution of human civilisation but the human soul and how it grows in individuals.

Get ready to look beyond the edge of fiction's universe to an even wider world...



Welcome!

Welcome to the Clarendon House Newsletter for week ending 10th July 2026! It's Summer Fair season in Yorkshire!

Recently, we've seen the release of *The 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 - and Marshall's *Heaven's Shield* a sci-fi thriller featuring Marilyn 5, advanced simulated human and Chief Operative of Special Services.

This week? I've released the second edition of my *Myth & the 'Now'*! Anyone who loved my earlier book *How Stories Really Work*, or anyone who is interested in the mysteries and mechanics of storytelling - or anyone who wonders about patterns and structures in the world at large - will find this book intriguing: an exploration of what lies behind the scenes of just about everything.

Stay tuned for more!

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

Below is a popular blog item.

How to Fall in Love (The 'Laws' of Spamming Part 5)



How do you build affinity with anyone?

Well, it usually begins with finding something in common - either a working background, or some kind of common interest or passion.

It can develop further when you find out more about an individual's personal life, their preferences, tastes, foibles, habits and so on. Spotting what it is that you like or admire among these more intimate things is a kind of treasure hunt - you follow a trail, finding more and more about a person with whom you have an affinity.

Sometimes this treasure trail can lead to the treasure itself: you realise that you love the person, in all their glory and shame - you effectively 'fall in love' with the individual. If this occurs, then the trail which led you there loses significance - it has achieved its aim. Should any one of the points that led you to the heart of a person change over time, it doesn't matter: the point was that that characteristic led you to your destination. If one of the things that led you to fall in love was the person's physical beauty, for example, then after you have achieved love, it doesn't matter if the

physical state of the person changes, just as it doesn't matter if a new road is built on a map once you know where a place is - it's an irrelevancy, a detail which has no impact on your knowledge.

These treasure trail points can be of various kinds when it comes to relationships between people - sometimes they are matters of close personal intimacy, sometimes sexual, sometimes more remote, as when you admire someone for their noble qualities in relation to others, rather than anything to do with you. You might, for instance, love a partner for their beauty, their personal idiosyncrasies, their sexual drive and so forth, but your love may be enhanced by the fact that you also admire them in the workplace or because of the way they treat children or get involved in charity work.

Once you have fallen in love, the separate attributes through which you came to that condition form mere details of a larger picture.

What has that got to do with selling books?

Well, we've already established, I hope, that there are two kinds of relationships - ones based on intimacy or affinity, and ones based on commerce or exchange.



While there is some overlap, most of us can draw a pretty clear line through our lives dividing one kind of interaction from the other kind. We have ascertained that the relationship which a writer desires to have with a reader - or a reader with a writer, in terms of that writer's output - belongs to the first kind of relationship, the affinity based one; but we also know that, in order to get to that point, a writer must persuade the reader to engage in the second kind of relationship, a commercial one, and part with some money to acquire the book or books containing that author's work.

To draw the analogy closer, it is as though, when we fall in love with someone, we also had to persuade them to hand over some money at some point.

Tangling commerce with matters of the heart is difficult in any circumstance - and this is precisely the problem the writer faces in endeavouring to sell his or her books.

To get the reader to fall in love, we must engage in 'selling'.

Short of some kind of perverse mind control or hypnosis, there is no way to do this other than to act as though the writer is wooing the reader.

Just as with romance, the relationship between writer and reader usually begins with finding something in common - some kind of common interest or passion, probably in this case defined as a preferred genre or kind of story.

We have talked earlier about finding out more about an individual's personal life, preferences, tastes, foibles, habits and so on. This can be applied to readers too: listing things that one likes or admires about prospective readers gets the affinity to grow. At this point of course, as is sometimes the case in romance, the relationship is one-sided: one might admire another but the other doesn't necessarily return the flow. Readers, in fact, are at this stage unaware of the existence of the writer, but have only their personal preferences and tastes visible.

Pursuing a reader is therefore much like pursuing a partner: one must strive to find those things which are important to the reader, align with them, authentically agree with them, and earn that reader's trust by responding accordingly to any sign of affinity coming back. Once a reader contacts a writer's material and loves it, all of these 'treasure trail points' fall away: a fan doesn't any longer mind what a book's cover looks like, or how a blurb reads - they want what that writer has to offer however it is packaged.

So growing affinity between a writer and reader is largely a matter of cultivation. Readers have habits, qualities, characteristics, concerns, routines. These can be tracked and paralleled.

What Facebook and others are trying to do with their algorithms is precisely this tracking. What's needed to make it all work, though, is human authenticity. A person will not fall in love with an algorithmic pattern, but only with another person; a reader will not become a fan of anything other than the underlying truth which an algorithm reveals.

Once a reader becomes a fan, the separate attributes through which that was brought into being melt away.

For more on this and why it works, get my free e-book [The Laws of Spamming](#).

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

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.

Make your selection from Amazon

CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR ALEXANDER MARSHALL

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...

Make your selection from Amazon

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
Phantom Sword of Rondar*, *Raven Stark*:
Hyperean Wars and
many more.



SUPERHEROIC STORIES

ALEXANDER MARSHALL Selected Writings Volume 2

Make your selection from Amazon

CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR

ALEXANDER MARSHALL

From the world of the
**Sword
SUNDERGOST**

A PHANTOM SWORD OF RONDAR
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



Make your selection from Amazon

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...

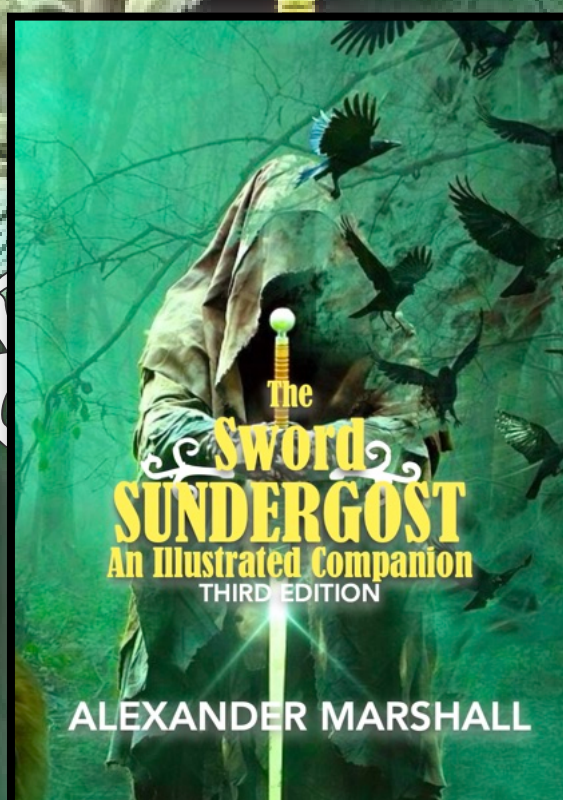
And now, for FREE, comes this lavishly illustrated e-book to give you a glimpse into the wide world of Gandria - from the mighty mountains of the Penning to the deserts of Turgal; from the heroic and tragic Valkurn to the twisted and burned Dare-kor; from ancient and powerful gemstones to the Sword Sundergost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



PLUS

A MAP OF GANDRIA
Download a map of part of the world of *The Sword Sundergost* for free

<https://www.clarendonhousebooks.com/free-items>

CLARENDON HOUSE AUTHOR

GARETH MACREADY



THE BONES OF MY UNIVERSE

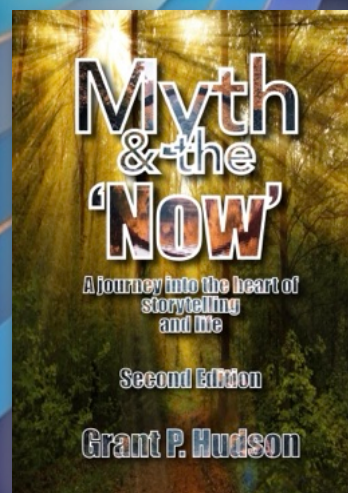


In this unique collection of short stories, Gareth Macready demonstrates both tremendous skills as a writer and an extraordinary understanding of both the Australian and Japanese cultures, blending them together to create science fiction like nothing else you will have ever read, including Dragon Tech,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

Make your selection from Amazon

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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