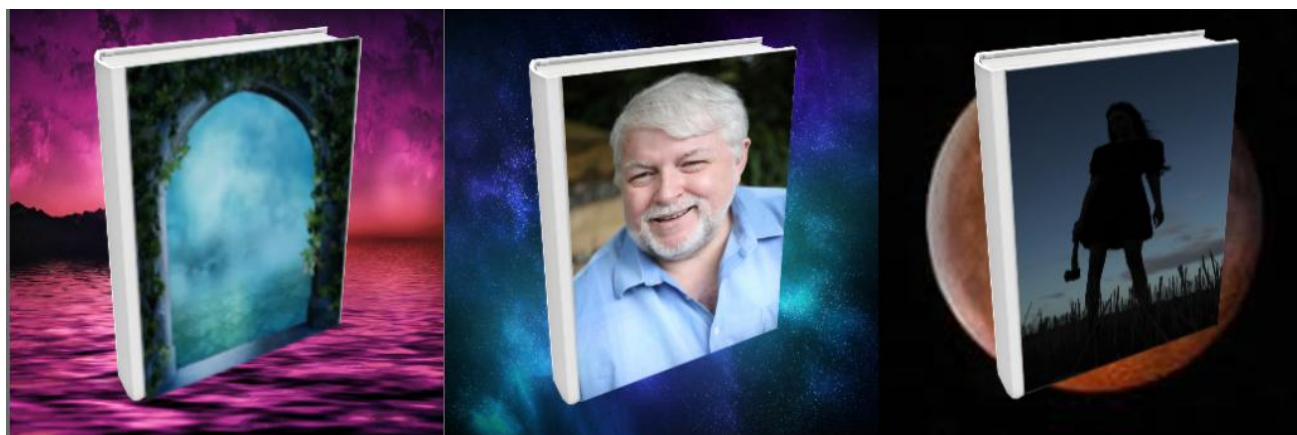


Stephen Oliver: Author - Media Kit



Headshots	3
Bio	4
150 Characters	4
Short Bio	4
Humorous Bio	4
Long Bio	5
Book Images	6
Book Descriptions	11
Unleash Your Dreams: Going Beyond Goal Setting	11
Paranormal City	11
Shuttlers	12
Testimonials	13
Unleash Your Dreams	13
Paranormal City	15
Audible	15
Amazon	18
GoodReads	20
Miscellaneous	21
Shuttlers	22
Amazon	22
Reviews via the Publisher:	22
Competitions	23
Others	23
"Interview" for Reviewers	24
Interview Questions	24
Interview Answers	24
Contact Details	27
Links	28
Websites	28
Book Buying Links	28
Unleash Your Dreams	28
Paranormal City	28
Shuttlers	28

Others	28
Social Media	28
Podcasts	29
The Writing Gym	29
Elizabeth James - The Writer's Stop	29
Janine Bolon - The Writers Hour Creative Conversations	29
First Interview	29
Second Interview	29
The Author's Voice	30
Godian Cross	30
Blasters and Blades	30
Virtual Interviews	30
Feature Friday Futures from Facebook	30
Local Radio	30
Fenland Youth Radio	30
YouTube	30
The Writing Gym	30
Elizabeth James - The Writer's Stop	31
Book Trailers	31
Presentations & Lectures	31

Headshots



Bio

150 Characters

Stephen is a software engineer turned self-help author. He believes people can reprogram their minds and make their lives better.

Short Bio

Stephen is an ex-software engineer who spent many years programming computers to improve people's lives. At the same time, he also learned about NLP, Reiki, and other self-help techniques, which he uses in his own life. He believes people can reprogram their minds and brains in such a way that they can improve their lives in any way they wish.

He began writing fiction (primarily science fiction, space opera, fantasy, urban fantasy, paranormal, magical realism, horror, fairy tales, fairy stories, slipstream, interstitial, noir, detective fiction, action, thriller, humour, YA, and children's stories) and has achieved over 1.4 million words in the past nearly eleven years. His first two books, "Paranormal City" and "Shuttlers", recently shared THE WRITERS FORUM Book of the Year Award because the judges couldn't decide which was better. "Paranormal City" was also shortlisted for the Imaginarium Convention's Imadjinn Awards, 2023, in the category "Best Short Story Collection (single author)."

Humorous Bio

Stephen was utterly sane until he was born to totally normal parents. Having been precipitated into this insane world without his permission, he decided that the only logical response was to become crazy.

He hid the craziness successfully while at school. However, when he started working, he came to believe he could speak to machines. The only possible solution was to train to be a software developer.

After more than three decades of this, he completely lost his mind and decided to become a writer. Over 1½ million words later, he's seen the publication of fifteen short stories, a dark urban fantasy anthology ("*Paranormal City*"), and a space opera novel ("*Shuttlers*") in a single year. He's now madly working on another twenty books, with one already at the publisher's, some more ready for publication, and the rest still being written. There are more short stories due out soon, too.

He says he'll only stop writing when they peel his cold, dead fingers off the keyboard. "Mind you," he quips, "knowing the kinds of stories I write, it'll be one of my creations that does me in!"

Long Bio

Stephen's father was in the Royal Air Force during his childhood and youth, moving every couple of years or so, so he was always the new kid in class. Later, when he established himself as a software engineer, he was often the outsider because he was the foreigner (working in Switzerland as a Brit) or the freelance consultant called in to solve a problem or three.

He spent most of his career as a software engineer, writing specifications, programs, and handbooks. When the financial problems of the early 2010s forced him to close down his software company in 2012, he moved back from Switzerland to the UK to look after his ageing parents, who were also moving back, as he had been their *de facto* carer for some years.

Stephen has been interested in personal growth and bringing out the best of people's potential for over 40 years. Even as a computer programmer, systems analyst and software engineer since the beginning of the '80s, his aim has always been to improve the quality of life for himself and others. This interest led him to learn about psychology and personal growth techniques, resulting in his becoming an NLP Practitioner (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) in 1993.

At the beginning of 1994, he came into contact with Reiki, attending a First Degree Reiki seminar run by a Reiki Master of The Reiki Network® with his parents. Seeing Reiki's improvements to the whole family, they quickly went on to the Second Degree. It became apparent to him that Reiki was one of the best tools for the non-invasive support of personal growth that he'd encountered, so he applied for training as a Reiki Master within the Network. He finished his year's training in mid-1996 and now gives treatments and teaches Reiki in English and German in England, Switzerland and Spain.

In 2004, he began a training course as an adult educator, which he completed the following year. As part of his training, he created the written training concept that The Reiki Network® now uses.

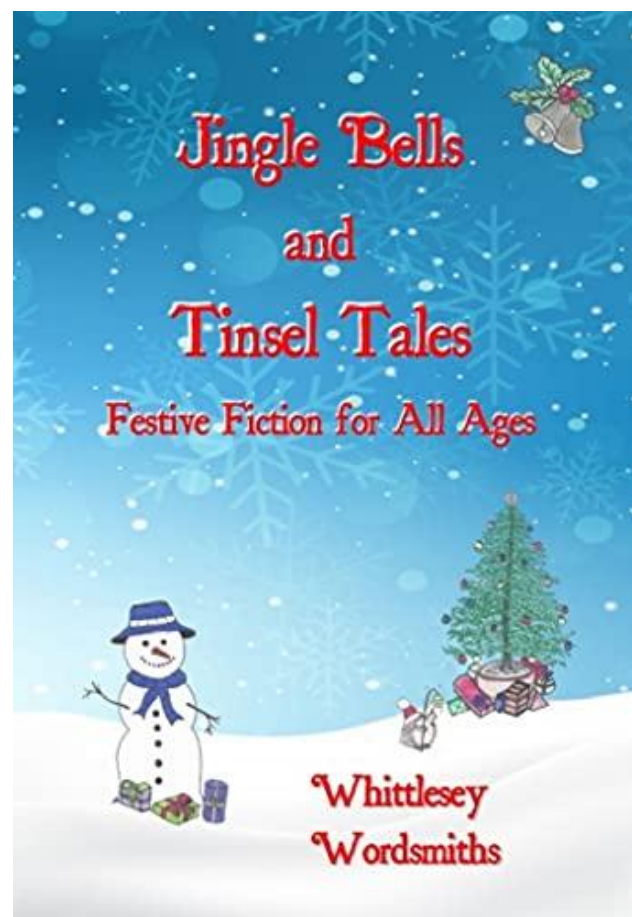
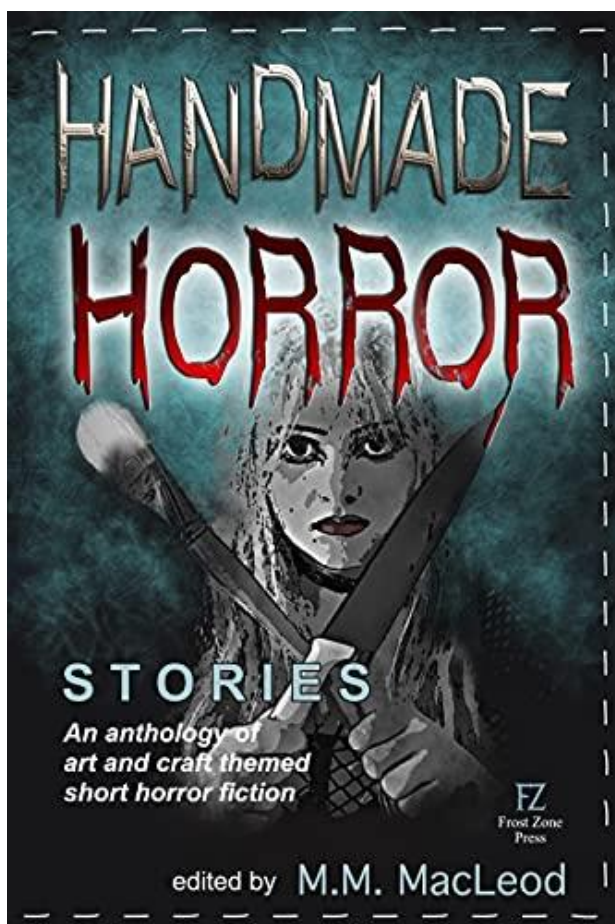
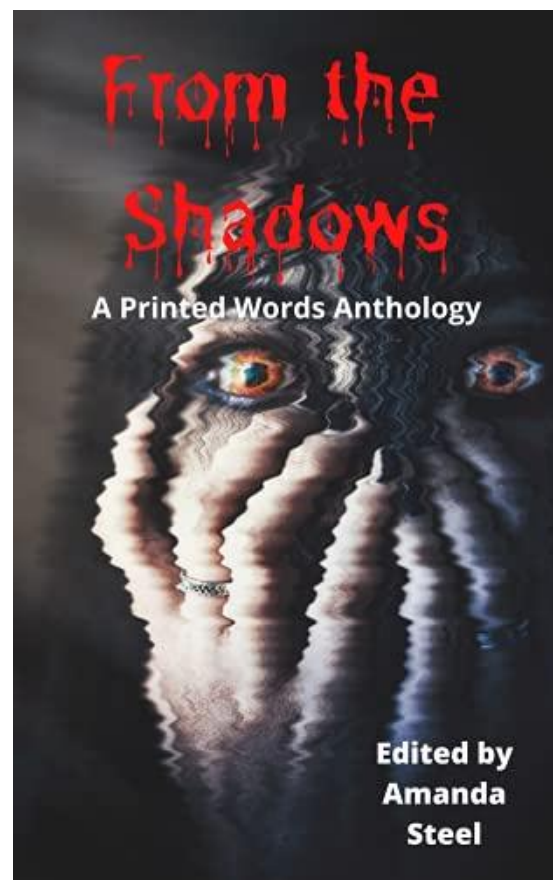
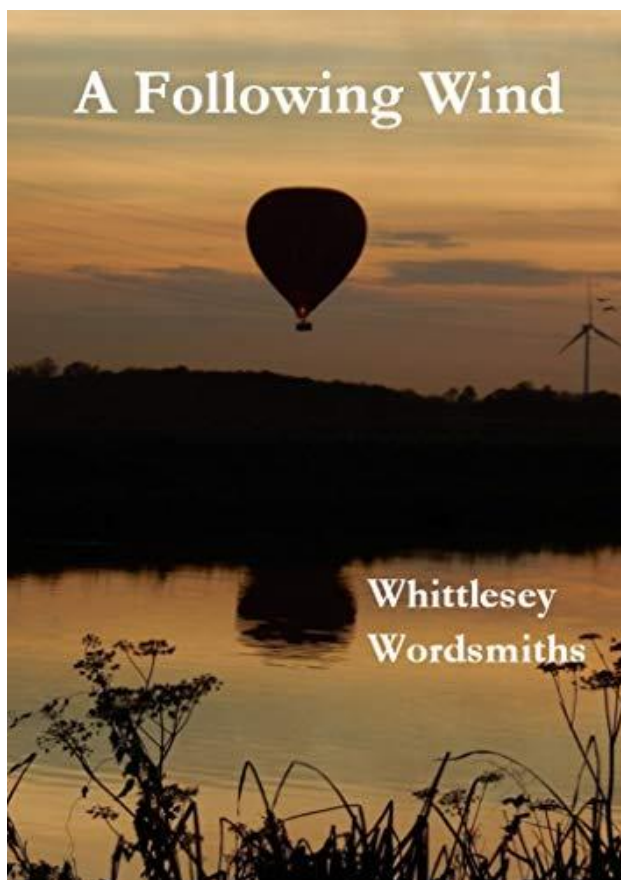
He first became aware of science fiction over fifty years ago, becoming an instant fan and remaining one ever since. A few years later, he increased his range to include fantasy and horror, plus an interest in integrative psychology and the paranormal.

Since restarting his career as a software engineer in the UK proved difficult due to his age (mid-fifties at the time), he decided to put his love of science fiction and fantasy and his ability to write clear prose to good use and began writing. He self-published this self-help book in 2013 before changing direction and moving on to fiction.

He has completed six more books, revised and edited them (four anthologies forming a single series, plus two versions of a science fiction novel). He is also working on another three novels, a further four collections, and a second self-help book. His favourite genres include self-help, science fiction, space opera, fantasy, urban fantasy, paranormal, magical realism, horror, fairy tales, fairy stories, slipstream, interstitial, noir, detective fiction, action, thriller, humour, YA, and children's stories (often more than one in any particular story!). Other works are presently in the planning stage. Over the past eleven years, he has written over 1.4 million words.

His first two books, "Paranormal City" and "Shuttlers", recently shared THE WRITERS FORUM Book of the Year Award because the judges couldn't decide which was better. "Paranormal City" was also shortlisted for the Imaginarium Convention's Imadjinn Awards, 2023, in the category "Best Short Story Collection (single author)." Over 30 short stories have been published in various anthologies.

Book Images



EDITED BY
J.E. FELDMAN

A
DRAGON SOUL
PRESS
ANTHOLOGY



VOL. 17

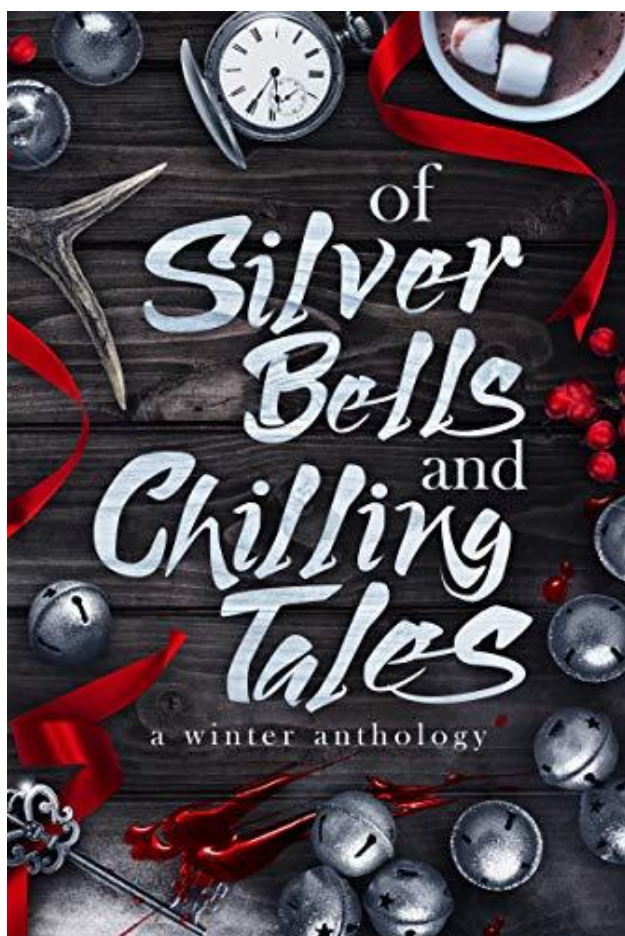
NIGHT TERRORS

SCARE STREET



of Silver Bells and Chilling Tales

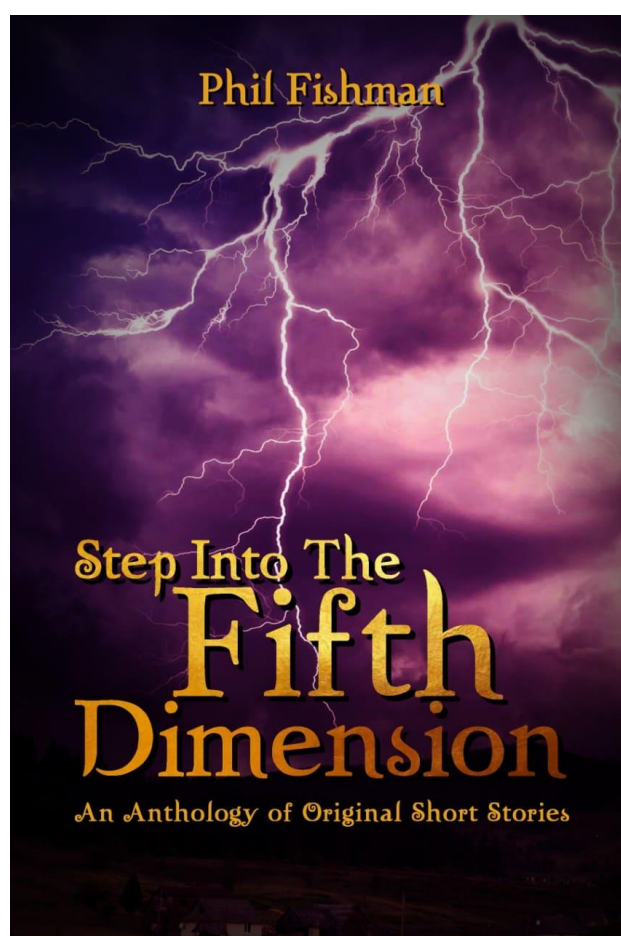
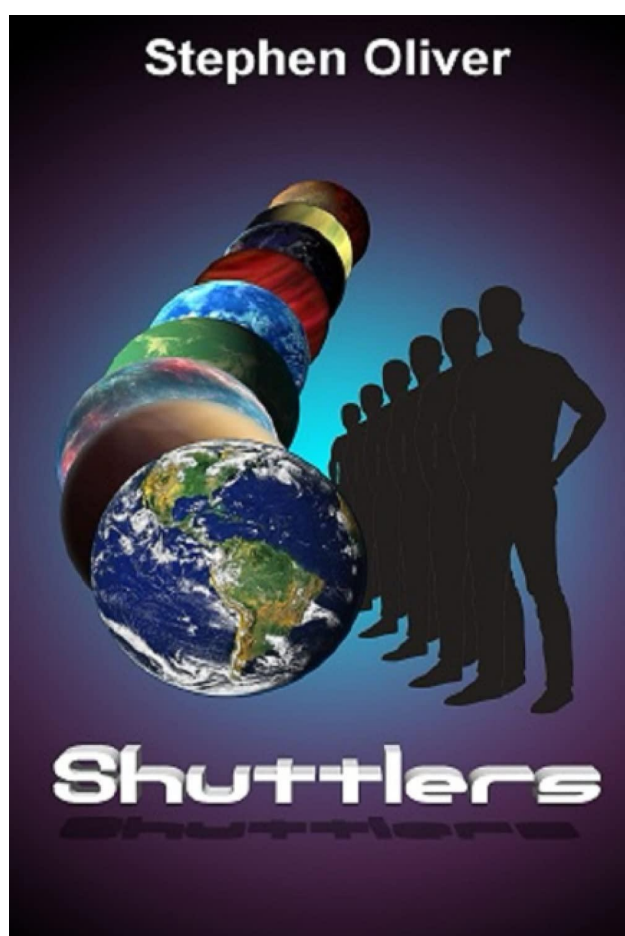
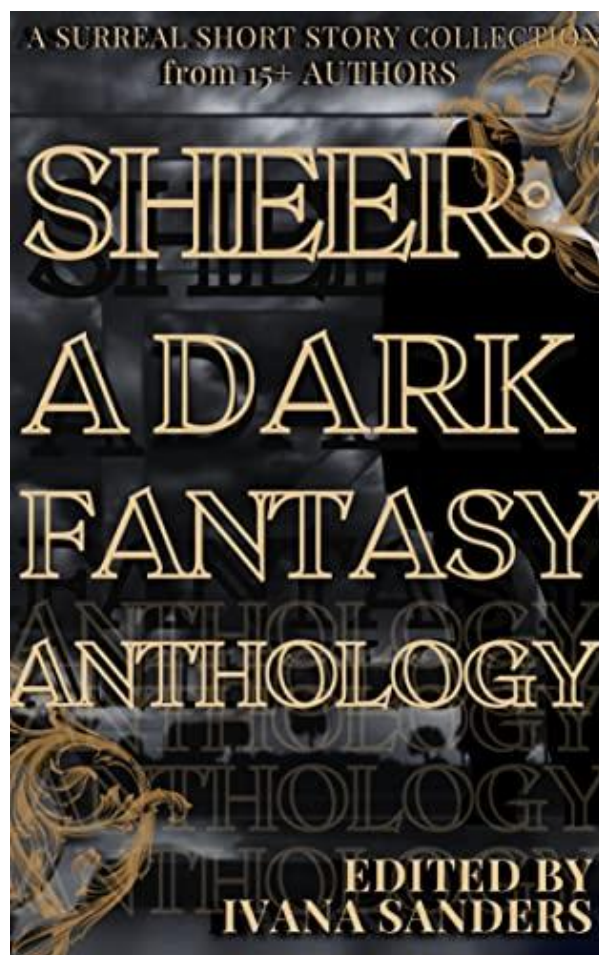
a winter anthology

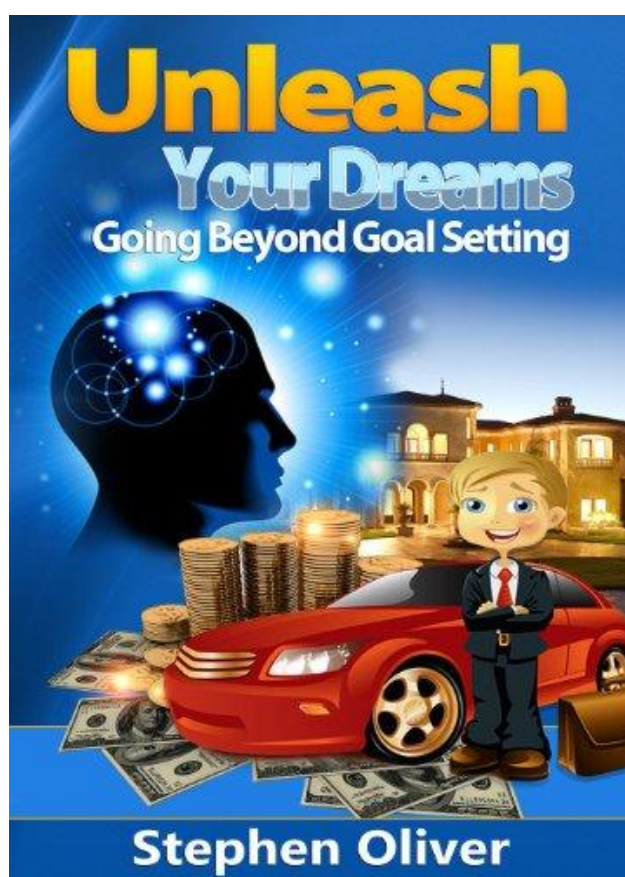
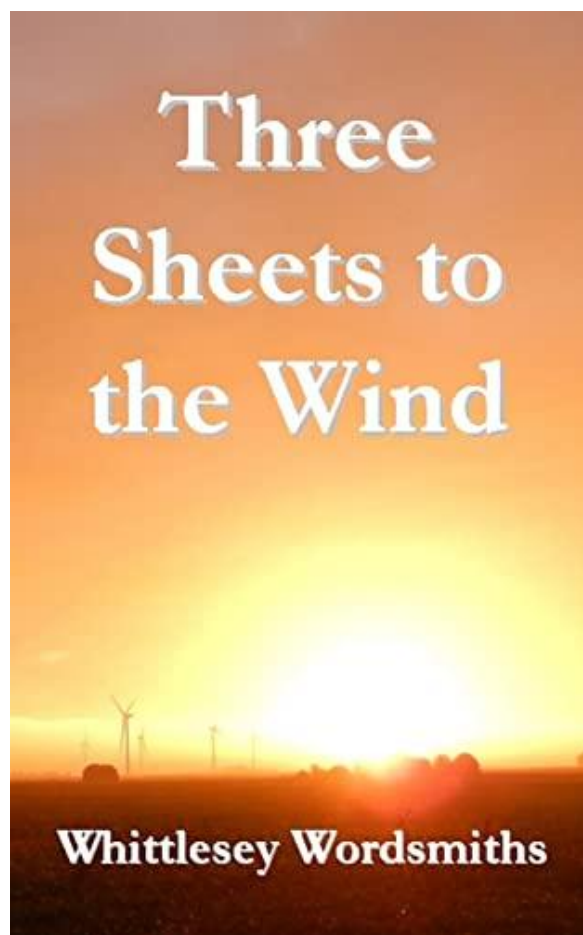
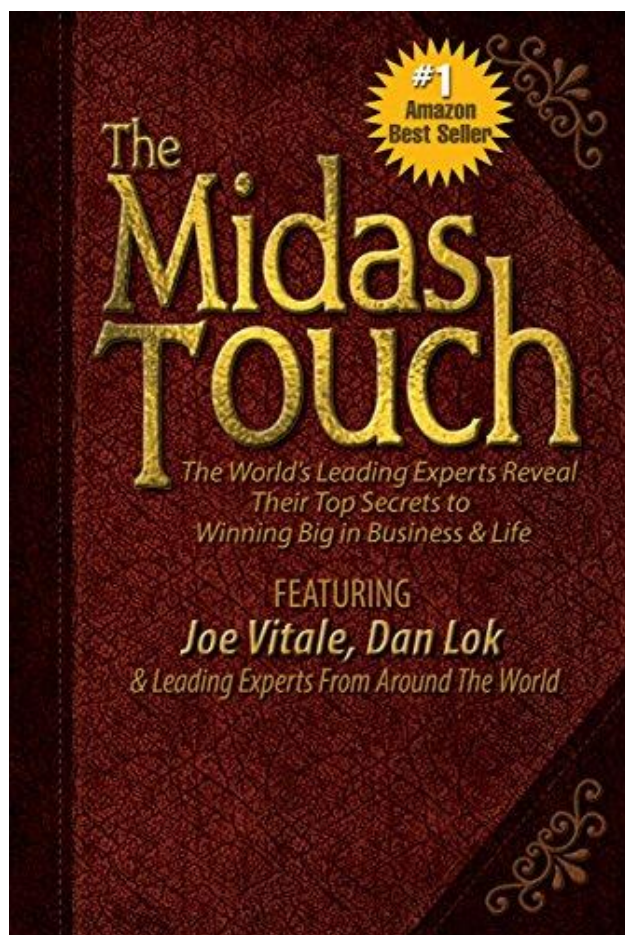


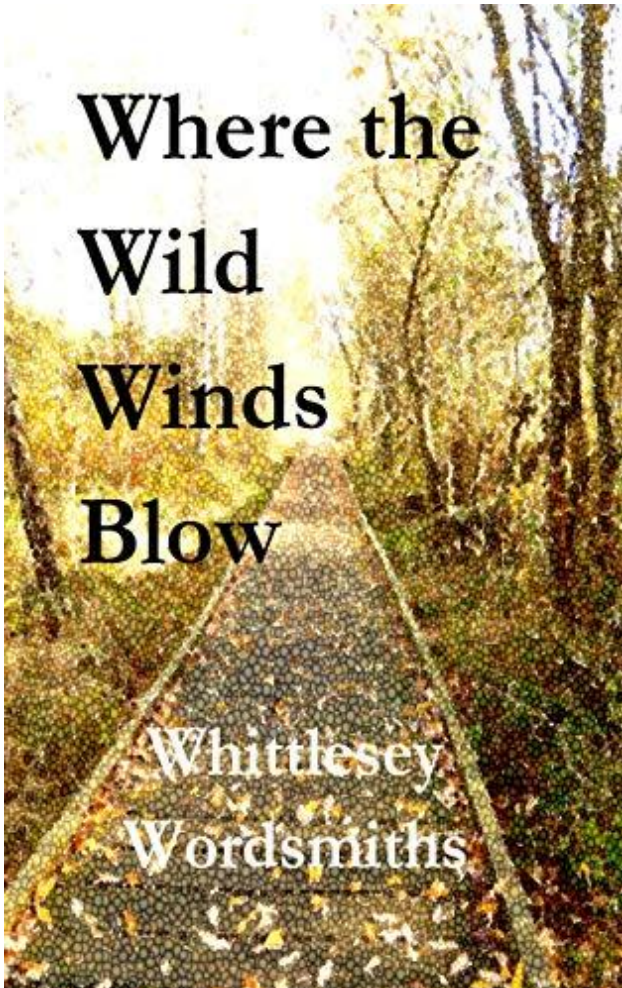
STEPHEN OLIVER

PARANORMAL CITY









Where the Wild Winds Blow

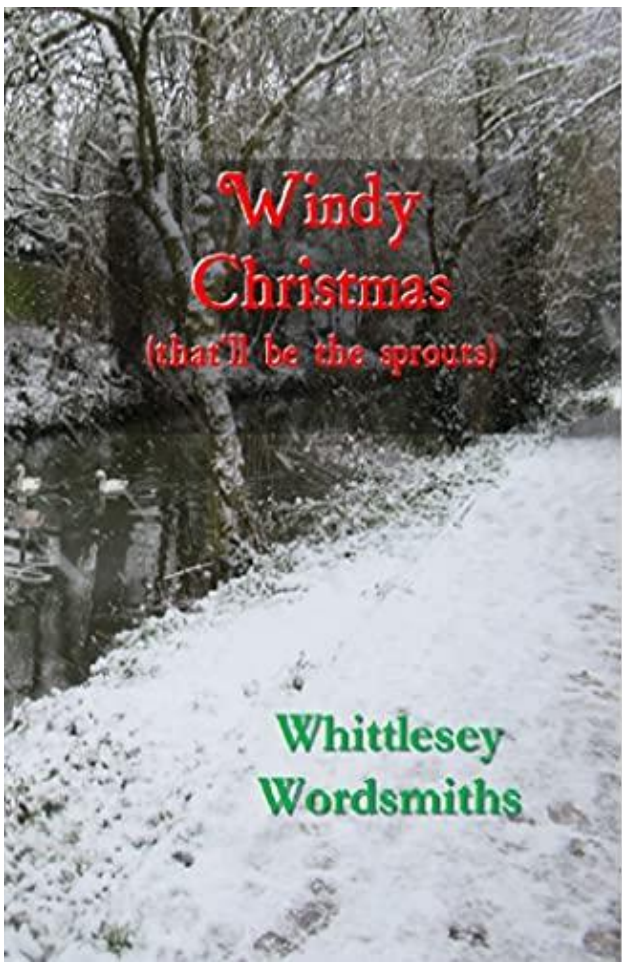
Whittlesey
Wordsmiths



WIGHT CHRISTMAS

HOLIDAY HORROR & SEASONAL SUBVERSION

EDITED BY MARTIN MUNKS



Windy Christmas

(that'll be the sprouts)

Whittlesey
Wordsmiths

Book Descriptions

The books also include anthologies with other authors, shown only above.

My genres include self-help, science fiction, space opera, cyberpunk, fantasy, urban fantasy, paranormal, magical realism, horror, fairy tales, fairy stories, slipstream, interstitial, noir, detective fiction, action, thriller, humour, YA, children's stories (often more than one genre in any particular story).

Unleash Your Dreams: Going Beyond Goal Setting

Do you have problems setting goals?

Once you've set your goals, do you look around and say to yourself, "Now what?" Do you find it difficult to know whether you're achieving your goals?

If any of these seem familiar, this book is for you. You'll learn how to:

- Decide what goals you want to make a reality and pass them through the steps necessary to make them compelling enough for you to follow.
- Proceed from writing your goals down to actually doing something about them.
- Deal with blocks and lack of motivation, align yourself around your goals to move all parts of yourself in the same direction, and even learn how to create new options and ideas.
- Create new beliefs to support you in achieving your goals.

In this book, Stephen shows you how to do it and illustrates this by showing how he did it.

Twenty worksheets and four cutouts are included to help you with the exercises in the book. These can also be downloaded and printed out for your personal use.

Paranormal City

Welcome to Paranormal City!

There's hospitality for all here, be you vampire, demon, walking dead, or one of the werepeople. We've something for everyone, no matter what your needs or tastes.

Listen to some of the tales of those who live here. They'll tell you this is the greatest city in the world.

Oh, and mundanes are also welcome. Just try to fit in.

A Devil's Dozen tales from Paranormal City for your delight... and terror.

Shuttlers

Trouble is brewing across the Multiverse, and Justin Wilson, a young inter-reality smuggler, is in the thick of it. Alternate versions of the Earth are being raided, plundered, or even accidentally destroyed by Shuttlers, beings like Justin who can easily slip between realities.

The story begins when Justin is arrested for smuggling forbidden books from his world into another by Pol Atkinson. Pol is a patrolman of the Sidewise Directorate, the organisation set up to prevent further damage to all these defenceless worlds. Justin eventually decides to work together with Pol to avert a conspiracy from gaining control of all of Earth's alternate realities everywhere.

Forget about reaching for the stars, which may be impossible, and explore the infinite variations of our own world, where anything can and will happen!

Testimonials

Unleash Your Dreams

“Excellent book! In-depth and packed with insights!”

Dr. Joe Vitale, author “*The Attractor Factor*”

Many roads lead to Success.

Buy this book to find the road which suits you. The author is proficient in NLP and honours the fact that individuals tick differently. Thus, he offers each type of individual learning tools matching particular needs and capabilities. Amusing with fine British humour and generously sprinkled with inspiring quotes, the work is a compilation of useful techniques always with one goal in mind: Success!

René Vögtli, Reiki Master Teacher,
author “*Reiki, der Weltverbesserer*”,
co-founder RIO Reiki International Organisation

“A superb guide under any point of view, on how to let your dream grow, within your job. Thumbs up for this book!”

Alessandro Zamboni

Unleashing Dreams — This is not a casual read. Scan the content if you like at first, to get an idea of layout and organization, but prepare to set aside some time to get serious and read at a student's pace if you want to learn something. If you want to get the most this book has to offer, bring a pen and paper to the table. There are many worksheets to fill out and exercises you can do to help direct your efforts toward a goal. But you will have to write it all down if you're reading the Kindle edition, as there are frequent directions to "print out the next page" and fill out the forms or charts. I applaud this technique, as it is better than simply reading the content and hoping to remember it. Achieving goals takes some personal work.

There aren't really any new ideas in the book, but rather, a re-examination of many concepts raised in the last century and explained in ways we might find more useful for seeking success in today's environment. The author not only has done his homework but has reformulated these ideas into a modern format. This would make a great textbook for a college class, too.

Amazon review

Stephen Oliver helps you to unleash your dreams! — I loved the title, but then I read the book! So much fun and it made sense. Oliver has put some unique and helpful ideas into this self-help for self-starters. A pleasant and easy read that gets your dreams revved up for action.

Linda Butler

Shang Tsung — This little book is a gem. It's got everything you need to know about hitting your goals and being successful packed into one. There's not a lot of books that explain goal setting in this much detail. I'm a minimalist, I keep a few books. I reread this one every December

Yoko Zuna

A well written step by step guide to turning dreams into reality. — After reading several self-help books of which this is one, I was sceptical. Most of those I had read promised much but delivered very little in the way of help.

Stephen thought there was a gap in the market, a gap between planning and implementation. While there is any number of books about setting goals; grand plans and ideas remain just that; unless there is a clear strategy to turn those plans, ideas and dreams into reality.

Unleash your Dreams is different it gives clear guidance, with links to further useful tools and forms online. It clearly explains the way forward in clear unambiguous language and is an easy read.

Mr Oliver has brought his experience in writing guidance manuals and teaching, often complex subjects to this useful book with great effect.

If you want to unleash your dreams; lose weight, write a book, run a marathon or have settled on some other goal, this is the book to help you make your dreams a reality.

Phil

Paranormal City

Audible

- **A very Original Story**

This is about a town where there are the unaware humans with no idea about paranormal. This book was several different stories, but all tie into the whole Book. Narrator does a Wonderful job with the various characters voices and the entire storyline and world. — Georgia McNabb ★★★★★

- **Paranormal City with a Guy Richie Flair.**

I loved PARANORMAL CITY written by Stephen Oliver and narrated by Michael Langan . A collection of paranormal stories that just kept my attention chapter after chapter with colorful character's that just for some reason made me think of several Guy Richie movies with it's battle of wits and brawn. Fast paced, and hilarious with some nice twist. — Py ★★★★★

- **Love the details!**

I'm new to audiobooks and it took me a little bit to understand how the book was being laid out. But once I understood that it lays out each backstory then wraps around and connects all the stories, I loved it! It's momentum was like a train, slowly at first but picks up speed until you don't want to stop listening until you finish it. As I said, I'm new to audiobooks and I was not ready for Michael Langan's voices but by the end of the book, I think it was a great match. Absolutely adored the characters! I really enjoyed the Stephen Oliver's mixture of paranormal and religious views. Very unique. Can't wait to see if there will be more in this series! — Cami Hooper ★★★★★

- **WOW!**

Honestly it took a second to get into this book as I wasn't sure where it was going but it turned out great. Narration was perfect as well. This book will easily be one of my favorites to listen to again. — Maceffp ★★★★★

- **AWESOME SHORT STORIES**

AWESOME SHORT STORIES that all ended up tying into each other at the end. I really enjoyed listening the narrator who brought the characters to life, I am an avid listener and I jump genres but always hold paranormal fantasy at the top of my list, I look forward to listening to other books by this author and performed by the narrator, A must listen for those who love this genre. I received this book for free but it has no bearing on my review that I am voluntarily leaving of my own volition. — Jamel Figgs ★★★★★

- **love this one**

The book is full of all sorts of odd creatures: ghosts, magicians, cyborgs, and shape shifters. — barbara duell ★★★★★

- **WELCOME TO PARANORMAL CITY!**

PARANORMAL CITY BY STEPHEN OLIVER AND NARRATED BY MICHAEL LANGAN comprises of short stories or tales if you will. Each tale intertwines each other. The book was so good it kept me coming back for more. I think the most disappointing thing was that the book had to end! Michael Langan was the perfect person for narration on this book. I hope to listen to more stories from this author in the future

I received the audiobook free in exchange for an honest review. — DDJTJ



- **loved it**

Loved it !! this story. the narrator is so fantastic it's like your really there!! good overall

— Kindle Customer

- **Really enjoyed!**

I thought this was a book of short stories but it was instead a book of entwined stories. Paranormal stories at their best. Well written and narrated extremely well!

Highly recommend. — B.Shoe

- **Exciting and Entertaining**

In my opinion Paranormal City was an exciting and enjoyable listen I was hooked from the very beginning and it did not let me down. The story was well written with well developed characters you either liked or hated but each made the story flow into a web of absolute horror. The book is descriptive and has a great flow that will keep you intrigued.

I received this book for free upon my request but it has no bearing on my review that I am voluntarily leaving of my own volition. — Blackeagle

- **most excellent**

most excellent story of the paranormal in the normal world and how both worked together to save a city — Kindle Customer

- **city**

Look around you when walking down the road, is the person next to you human or none human. The inhabitants of Paranormal City's , are sharing the streets with werewolves, shapeshifters, vampires, cyborgs, demons , all looking as human as you and me . Amazing listen and description's

Loved listening – mangankillarney

- **Interesting**

fascinating characters and an interesting take. I really enjoyed the detective drama side of the novel and the character of Kane. Would love to say more but I don't want to spoil it for others. – Anonymous User

- **Darkly Intriguing, Entertaining and Creepy Good!**

Do you know your town, your city, YOUR neighbors? This story will make you think twice about your answer! We've all heard about "the city that never sleeps", "the city by the bay", and the "windy city". In this story, the author introduces you to the "Paranormal City" and takes you on an intriguing journey through the dark side of a city that's home to the normal, the paranormal and the supernatural, all peaceful or not so peacefully, co-existing together! I'll not be playing spoiler - so the question of peacefully or not won't be answered here! The characters in this story were my favorite part! So imaginative, so beautifully, so fabulously unique! I've never seen such a skillful application of editorial license, and I loved it! No spoilers! Listen and you will see exactly what I mean! The darkly dynamic plot is action packed; at times intense, at times not for the sensitive, at times amusing, and at times frightening! I was thoroughly invested in this story, my attention held, thirsty for the next juicy details to be revealed! The narration was superb, truly bringing the author's characters and vision to glorious life, and enhancing the dark "noir" feel of this brilliant story! Five stars across the board! – Gigi ★★★★★

- **Paranormal City** – An interesting book of intersecting paranormal stories. These stories all revolve around one city and its inhabitants. It has a good amount of characters and action and there is some gore but it is not overdone. It was interesting to see all the different types of paranormals and how they interacted. This reads more like a detective crime thriller with paranormal and magical characters. Narrator Michael Langan does a good job of moving the story along and keeping the listener engaged. – Gabrielle ★★★★★

Amazon

- **Let's go to Paranormal City to fight crime!**

This book is very original, to the point where it is almost difficult to describe in a few paragraphs! Paranormal City is a place that you might never be aware of. It exists on another plane, like hiding in plain sight. There are many Paranormal Cities in different locations. There are various ways to enter, you will have to read the book to understand, The "core" of the city is Darktown. Lots of stuff happens here, mostly bad and/or illegal, But absolutely spooky, violent and scary. Imagine Micky Spillane going to Hell. Twilight Zone, Outer Limit sort of stuff. Michael Sana is the main character. Again, it is difficult to tie him down with a single description. He is equal parts journalist, magician, private detective. He is comfortable in busting up a biker gang as chasing vampires. The book is full of all sorts of odd creatures: ghosts, magicians, cyborgs, and shape shifters. The book is tightly written and the author is Stephen Oliver. — Holly Schneck ★★★★★

- **Paranormal City is home to all sorts, from ordinary men and women to Vampires, werepeople**

I survived the Dark City and found my way home. I bought this book from the author at a book signing. I was intrigued and when I started reading it was instantly drawn deeply into this strange world. His descriptions of the people inhabiting the dark city and descriptions of Hell are absolutely amazing, I thoroughly enjoyed every bit of this book. It appealed to my darker side. Congratulations Stephen Oliver, I look forward to the next one. — George & Jane Pobgee ★★★★★

- **Unexpectedly engaging**

Although this isn't my usual genre, I found Stephen's world engaging. Its different occupants and visitors came together at the end in satisfying fashion and I suspect we may be hearing more of the Paranormal City. — Cathy ★★★★★

- **Delightfully peculiar** – The city may look normal – for a while anyway. Get beneath the surface and you will find ghouls, werewolves, cyberfolk, magicians and beasts from Hell. All living together peacefully, well, until the beasts from Hell arrived. Then, as they say, all Hell actually did break loose.

This is a quirky series of stories, all (or almost all) bound together by characters who slide in and out of them on a whim. Great fun for the fan of fantasy and Hell beasts. — VL Stuart ★★★★★

- **Something completely different** – Paranormal City is unlike any other city or maybe it isn't, it could be that this city is also here; unseen in the city we inhabit but hiding in plain sight, sharing its existence but in a different way to the one it lives within.

Paranormal City's inhabitants walk our streets in a form of normality we recognise, rubbing shoulders with the daily commuters, sharing our places and lives but they are in some way different. These are the werewolves, shapeshifters, vampires, cyborgs, demons and creatures which only become strange to us when assuming

their other, true hidden identity. Paranormal City becomes the battleground of a titanic struggle between strange forces and creatures. It is a fascinating tale and a damn good read.

Hopefully, these creatures are purely a work of fiction. Great stuff Stephen, more, please – Phil ★★★★★

- **A bit of a mixed bag!**

This book is not for those of a nervous disposition who have vivid imaginations capable of transporting them to the scenes of action, who like to read just before they go to sleep. Your dreams will be peopled with angels, demons, humans with magical powers, and a bogeyman who really doesn't want to be one who hides in closets or under beds because he's claustrophobic..... You couldn't make it up, could you, but Stephen Oliver has and the book is one that will keep you turning the pages to find out who or what happens next. It is a riveting tale....or selection of tales that combine to make a satisfying whole. – Hilary ★★★★★

- **A VERY Original Story**

I purchased and listened to this book on Audible books.

This is about a town where there are the unaware humans with no idea about paranormal. This book was several different stories, but all tie into the whole Book. Narrator does a Wonderful job with the various characters voices and the entire storyline and world. – Georgia McNabb ★★★★★

- **Fun and Fast Paced**

Half way through this collection of short stories and I'm excited enough to write a review. I tend to read sci-fi/fantasy and this has a bit of both with horror, crime, and some cyberpunk thrown in. The stories are fun and fast paced, which you don't find a lot. And when done well, as this one has, I easily found myself sucked into the story and immersed in the world of Paranormal City. I look forward to more books from Stephen Oliver. – Peter Wisniewski ★★★★★

- **Fine, but Not for Me**

I stopped reading this book at about 15% simply because it wasn't my taste.

Readers of noir and / or paranormal fantasy may very well enjoy it. There was just a little too much grit and gore for me. – Amazon User ★★★★★

GoodReads

- **Ilena Holder** ★★★★★

This book is very original, to the point where it is almost difficult to describe in a few paragraphs! Paranormal City is a place that you might never be aware of. It exists on another plane, like hiding in plain sight. There are many Paranormal Cities in different locations. There are various ways to enter, you will have to read the book to understand, The "core" of the city is Darktown. Lots of stuff happens here, mostly bad and/or illegal, But absolutely spooky, violent and scary. Imagine Micky Spillane going to Hell. Twilight Zone, Outer Limit sort of stuff. Michael Sana is the main character. Again, it is difficult to tie him down with a single description. He is equal parts journalist, magician, private detective. He is comfortable in busting up a biker gang as chasing vampires. The book is full of all sorts of odd creatures: ghosts, magicians, cyborgs, and shape shifters. The book is tightly written and the author is Stephen Oliver.

- **Georgia Tumbleweed McNabb** ★★★★★

This is about a town where there are the unaware humans with no idea about paranormal. This book was several different stories, but all tie into the whole Book. Narrator does a Wonderful job with the various characters voices and the entire storyline and world.

- **Jackie** ★★★★★

This was quite a different type of story. A place that welcomes all kinds of creatures from Demons to vampires and more. Perhaps trying to fit in, is the key to everything.

- **orrison** ★★★★★

- **Barbara Duell** ★★★★★

- **Annalisa** ★★★★★

An excellent read. Very entertaining. Oliver has a delightful subtle sense of humor

Miscellaneous

- *Facebook post:* I wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed your book, Paranormal City. I stayed up late last night to finish it. It was an otherworldly thriller, with a touch of horror that kept me turning the pages. The stories were full of excitement, great characters, and the unforeseen story twists that have defined you in the writing gym salons.
Thank you for the great read. – Peter Wisniewski
- *Private comment:* It's very good. Apart from that my only other observation is this: whatever medication you're on, I think I'll give it a miss, thanks!!
- *Facebook comment:* Stephen Oliver brings us yet another terrifyingly twisted tale. He is up late into the night chatting with his author friends, and while he may come across as a perfectly nice English gentleman, his writing proves that behind those neat manners is a mind that Ted Bundy and the Yorkshire Ripper would applaud. Please buy this book because I'm afraid to. – Allie Powers
- *Facebook comment:* I don't even enjoy Star Wars, but your writing captures my attention. You make an entire genre that I usually overlook accessible and desirable. Thank you! – Allie Powers

Shuttlers

Amazon

- **A damn good read**

I was privileged to read Stephen's book before it was published. I ordered my print copy immediately after I had finished reading the then manuscript.

It is available at the moment on Kindle, if you can't wait for the print edition then read it now you won't be disappointed. — Philip Cumberland ★★★★★

- **Really enjoyable!**

A very enjoyable and easy read. Good character development and a unique perspective into the multiverse. SciFi readers of all ages will enjoy this book. — SadDuck ★★★★★

- **almost a collection**

of stories around the concept of a multiverse. Well imagined and believable. — Cathy ★★★★★

Reviews via the Publisher:

- “An exciting, very cool, very well written book. The action keeps the reader engaged from the beginning to the end. I found this novel to be very thought-provoking. It's definitely one of the best books I have read for a very long time.” — Louis
- “The characters journey through alternate realities, where every reality is differently from the reality they have known. The science fiction element is a fascinating exploration of multiple worlds, where the characters have new chances to learn something about themselves and become their own heroes.” — Bryan Mueller
- “I enjoyed reading this book very much, and it kept my attention hooked throughout. I appreciated the characters and the fast paced storyline.” — Jennifer Willman

Competitions

Both Paranormal City and Shuttlers

- **THE WRITERS FORUM...** 'Book of the Year Award.'

I'm proud to announce the results of 'The Book of the Year Awards.' After a very thorough judging process, which was extremely difficult due to the very high standard of work entered into the awards... the results are as follows.

First place is awarded to -

STEPHEN OLIVER for his dual entry of Science Fiction and Urban Fantasy novels.
'SHUTTLERS'

&

'PARANORMAL CITY'

'Jigsaw pieces of Douglas Adams, shavings of Vonnegut, shards of Philip K. Dick... stud these two novels like diamonds. Crammed full of a highly fertile imagination that spills from page to page in a glorious haemorrhaging of ideas, Stephen takes us on fantastic journeys. But you can relax and strap yourself in... because you're in the hands of a fantastic storyteller.



Paranormal City

- Shortlisted for the Imaginarium Convention's Imadjinn Awards 2023, Best Short Story Collection (single author).

Others

Night Terrors Vol. 17

- Another Hit – Once again, Scare Street hits one over the fence. Here are 13 stories that give the reader a wide variety of scares. Horrible is much more than ghosts, goblins and things that go bump in the night, although all of those things can turn your hair white. "Execution Day" is certainly a fine example. In "Ringmaster of the Carnival" we get a magnificent tale involving aliens and the results of an over active curiosity. "Tombstone" brought to mind some of those wonderful Twilight Zone and One Step Beyond tv episodes from the '50s. Of course, no volume of Night Terrors would be complete without the adventures of Jimmy Hsu and this particular tale is, in my opinion, the best yet.

The talent these authors possess never ceases to amaze me. It's like a magic fountain that never stops gushing forth. – DaveB ★★★★★

"Interview" for Reviewers

Interview Questions

How did you come to write "Unleash Your Dreams", your first book?

Isn't it strange for a computer specialist to write a book about self-development?

How long have you been into self-help and personal development?

What else are you writing?

Interview Answers

How did you come to write "Unleash Your Dreams", your first book?

After I finished training as an NLP Practitioner in 1993, a group of us would get together regularly to practice. Pat, one of the other members, was also training to be an Alexander Technique Teacher. She was concerned that the course concentrated only on the technique itself, with no training about how to go about making your practice a going concern. Worst of all was that there was nothing about setting goals.

Pat, our friend Barbro, and I set out to create a weekend course to compensate for this deficiency. As the one with the most computer experience, it fell to me to create all the course materials once we'd decided what it should contain. We offered the course, but there were no takers. As a side note, a year later, Pat was the only course member with a practice.

Some years later, I read *How to Write and Publish Your Own eBook in as Little as 7 Days* by Jim Edwards and Dr Joe Vitale. This inspired me to take the course we'd developed and rewrite it as this book, restructuring it slightly to remove exercises meant to be done in a group situation. I asked Pat and Barbro if it was okay, and they both replied in the affirmative. Pat was too busy, so I asked another friend, Mathias, to help Barbro and me. I finally self-published the book in 2013.

Isn't it strange for a computer specialist to write a book about self-development?

Not at all. As a software engineer, I was always concerned that I was creating something that would either improve the users' lives or reduce their problems and ease their burdens. From there, considering my interest in personal development, it's only a short step to deciding to help people to help themselves.

Because I am also a Reiki Master, I have been asked on various occasions if I am a healer and whether I can heal someone of their problems. I always reply that I can teach them to help themselves, but they must do the work. They often cut the conversation short at this point. It's just like with computers; if the user is unwilling to work with the software, the best programs in the world are useless to them. It's the same with my book: if they don't do the exercises, it's little more than a paperweight.

How long have you been into self-help and personal development?

I've been interested for over fifty years, although I didn't know what it was initially.

It started in my early teens with an interest in the occult and paranormal. Over the years, that interest gradually changed into a fascination with how people think and how they can change their thinking. This culminated in 1993 with the decision to take formal training when I applied to become an NLP Practitioner. We spent an intense month on the island of Bali, where I learned the basics. Since then, I have done much reading and learning on my own.

You need to understand that I have had a mystical streak for most of my life. I believe that the universe is essentially simple and that the complexities we see are all due to our inability to understand that simplicity.

What else are you writing?

I've been working on a follow-up book on the theme of changing yourself into the person who can achieve your goals. I have the main parts in place; it's primarily a job of finishing off, revising, and editing.

Unfortunately, in the meantime, I've discovered the joys and woes of being a fiction writer. I started to write a fantasy novel but found myself needing help to get through. This wasn't writer's block, as such, it was just that the story refused to progress because I'd made a significant mistake. I'm a "Pantser" or "Discovery Writer" by nature, which means I often write "by the seat of my pants." After reading a book designed to turn pantsers into "Plotters," I mistakenly applied the methods the book taught. My story was dead in the water at 35,000 words.

However, I was still able to write. I had an idea for a set of scenes that did not fit into the story. Instead, I wrote it as a short story. Once I'd finished, I realised I had created an entire narrative universe — one where I could explore the strange and weird ideas that continued to cascade into my head. Before I knew it, I had a complete novel-length book on my hands.

I was looking around for an editor when I came across a Facebook post by Annalisa Parent. She was looking for people to read an ARC (Advanced Reader Copy) of her book [Storytelling For Pantsers](#). I asked her if she also did editing work, and she did. Before I knew it, I was a member of the [Writing Gym](#), going through their program for writers, from writing and finishing the book through revision and editing, submission, and on to marketing. Although not necessarily in that order.

Since then, I've completed three more anthologies of stories set inside *Paranormal City*, as I call the place, and am working on the fifth volume. Plus, I'm writing another seven anthologies that are offshoots within the same narrative universe. I have written two versions of a science fiction novel (YA and adult) titled *Shuttlers*. I am also working on a novel derived from a short story published at the end of 2020, and have another science fiction tetralogy I have resurrected from my youth. I've also begun a cooperation with another writer on a story combining psychological horror with real horror.

Oh, and the original novel has grown by over 73,000 words to 108,000 at present; I estimate there are another 50,000 words to go.

I've published three books (and the first sequel to *Paranormal City* is with the publisher) and thirty short stories (with a couple more awaiting publication). I'm also working on around twenty other projects.

All in all, over the last nearly 11 years, I have written over 1.4 million words. I don't intend to stop.

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Links

Websites

Author Blog: www.stephenoliver-author.com

Self-Development Blog: www.stephenoliverblog.com

Book Buying Links

Unleash Your Dreams

Kindle: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00EX4FVUI>

Paperback: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0992744113>

iBooks: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id1177089529>

Smashwords: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/682994>

Apple: <https://books.apple.com/us/book/x/id1547027028>

Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/2940164771447>

Kobo: <http://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/Search?Query=9780992744120>

Scribd: <https://www.scribd.com/search?query=9780992744120>

Alibris for Libraries: <https://library.alibris.com/booksearch?wtit=978-0992744113>

On my Blog: <http://stephenoliver-author.com/books/>

Books2Read Universal Link: <https://books2read.com/Unleash-Your-Dreams>

Paranormal City

Kindle: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09PZHGRQW>

Paperback: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1951768426/>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1951768426/>

Audiobook: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B39BGF7G/>

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0B39DB12V/>

Shuttlers

Kindle: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09LHZ5PX9>

Paperback: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B8RJ5Y22/>

Others

You can find other books I've contributed to [here on my blog](#) and on [Amazon](#).

Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stephen.oliver.940>

Twitter: @AuthorStephenO, @stephen_author

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/stephenoliver94/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/spoc63/>

GoodReads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/22046374.Stephen_Oliver

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZDeGJJGYjg72xl3CG-awnw>

Podcasts

The Writing Gym

No Excuses: How to Finish & Publish Your Novel — <https://writing-gym.com/noexcuseshighlight/>

How to Find the Time Away to Write — <https://writing-gym.com/noexcuseshighlight/>

How to Finish a Novel, Find a Literary Agent AND Publish — <https://writing-gym.com/findanagent/>

Make the Author Lifestyle Happen for You — <https://writing-gym.com/dreambig>

Elizabeth James - The Writer's Stop

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/77O2gsFTbWXcKy5Ks1dUr7>

Podcast Addict: <https://podcastaddict.com/podcast/3038980>

Jiosaavn: <https://www.jiosaavn.com/shows/The--Writers-StopV1VJTAMKezVAWU>

Passionate World Talk Radio: <https://passionateworldtalkradio.com/unleashing-your-dreams/>

Mentioned on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/passionateworldradio/>

iTunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-writers-stop/id1523170826?i=1000484275418>

Spreaker: <https://www.spreaker.com/user/8680265/the-writers-stop>

Castbox: <https://castbox.fm/channel/id3104442>

Janine Bolon - The Writers Hour Creative Conversations

First Interview

Podbean:

<https://thewritershourcreativeconversations.podbean.com/e/stephen-oliver-on-reprogramming-your-mind/>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/743kfTq81cl8zehJ67FCtF>

Breaker: <https://www.breaker.audio/the-writers-hour-creative-conversations/e/74333204>

Radiopublic: <https://radiopublic.com/the-writers-hour-creative-convers-8QMzmO/s1!abe12>

Spreaker: <https://www.spreaker.com/user/12807063/stephen-oliver-on-reprogramming-your-min>

Backtracks:

<https://backtracks.fm/discover/s/the-writers-hour-creative-conversations/5805f4772e3bbc2f/e/stephen-oliver-on-reprogramming-your-mind/bcbb29e13520f590>

Deezer: <https://www.deezer.com/us/show/1513512>

iTunes:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stephen-oliver-on-reprogramming-your-mind/id1523697787?i=1000495495371>

Tunein:

<https://tunein.com/podcasts/Education-Podcasts/The-Writers-Hour-Creative-Conversations-p1346601/?topicId=158139916>

Second Interview

Podbean:

[podbean.com/media/share/pb-zdwqa-f31e84?utm_campaign=u_share_ep&utm_medium=dlink&utm_source=u_share\(opens in a new tab\)](https://podbean.com/media/share/pb-zdwqa-f31e84?utm_campaign=u_share_ep&utm_medium=dlink&utm_source=u_share(opens in a new tab))

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hr1iIF7EEc4>

The Author's Voice

<https://share.transistor.fm/s/04c54e00>

Godian Cross

https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/godian-cross/episodes/LIVE-with-Author-Stephen-Oliver-e28igud/LIVE-with-Author-Stephen-Oliver-aa9hmam?fbclid=IwAR3Sr8_Emm6An_qHlkaOx_cYnrahKKGRNTNIKzbfr0mcuWB5wG8i8c3Hc8Q
<https://music.amazon.co.uk/podcasts/a7226214-b8d9-46e3-a13b-149f1988295b/godian-cross>

Blasters and Blades

Spotify:

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/blasters-and-blades/episodes/Episode-284-Stephen-Oliver-Purveyor-of-the-Paranormal-e28pkng>

Virtual Interviews

Feature Friday Futures from Facebook

Paranormal City:

<https://www.ericklein.com/homepage/feature-friday-futures/interview-stephen-oliver/>

Shuttlers: <https://www.ericklein.com/homepage/feature-friday-futures/interview-stephen-oliver-2/>

Local Radio

Fenland Youth Radio

27/9/2022: <http://stephenoliver-author.com/my-interview/>

Transcript: <http://stephenoliver-author.com/transcript-of-my-interview/>

24/7/2023 /

Transcript: <https://stephenoliver-author.com/another-local-radio-interview/>

YouTube & Other Video Channels

The Writing Gym

Celebrating Writing Gym Graduate Stephen Oliver: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klt_b0ohKhE

How to get a publishing deal for your novel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbZgAaV-LHo>

How to find the time away to write: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PTv_b4pWbw

Unveiling the Secret: How Annalisa Transformed Me from a Struggling Writer to a Published Author: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lk3MKOw5ORA>

Writing Gym Retreats — <https://vimeo.com/855196937/52e85be3bb?share=copy>

Elizabeth James - The Writer's Stop

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGidZWxYGCK&t=154s&fbclid=IwAR3oI3kpN9o26DA5Rq-zUVGUUsJfiUm8_U86lnNiJp_0CAjubDwWbLW6wjFw

Blasters and Blades

YouTube: https://youtu.be/g_jwmEllsjo?si=Dy2kmPuBV1khmaxQ

Rumble: <https://rumble.com/v3ds4d9-episode-284-stephen-oliver-purveyor-of-the-paranormal.html>

BitChute: https://www.bitchute.com/video/g_jwmEllsjo/

Book Trailers

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/K9sHYt5648c>

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cD_0yQgOKaY

Presentations & Lectures

Whittlesey Women's Institute, 6/6/2023 — Unleash Your Dreams: Going Beyond Goal Setting

New Hampshire Rotary Club, 12/6/2023, via Zoom — Being a Prizewinning Author