



All about books and reading

Hello!

I hope you're having a great start to the 'merry month of May'. Here in the UK we're having an almost unprecedented period of fine, warm weather. Long may it continue.

At the time of writing I'm preparing to launch my debut novel, *The Otero County Disclosure*, at the Stratford Literary Festival, one of the UK's premier book events. The great and the good of the literary world will be in town - Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare - for a three-day book bonanza. And I'll be there too. The quiet guy in the corner, with a bad case of impostor syndrome.

For me, this is a big step. I'll be talking about my fiction, in a public space, for the very first time. This is far outside my comfort zone. Put me on a stage and you'll see the very best example of, 'to fight or flight?'

The bottom line is I don't know how a hall full of strangers will react to me. And the book. A story several years in the making, dealing with some pretty big issues, with a genre-bending plot ranging from thriller and conspiracy, to the bizarre and... 'otherworldly'. Think *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* crossed with *The X-Files*, via any number of books inspired by the likes of my heroes, such as Dave Eggers (*The Circle*), Andy Weir, Stephen King, Michaels Crichton and Chabon, Robert Harris (*Fatherland* and *Archangel*), Patrick deWitt (*The Sisters Brothers*), David Mitchell (*Cloud Atlas*), John Grisham, and many, many more. And yes, even Tolkien, Dickens, Mark Twain and Harper Lee (I once upon a time read everything and anything).

The hope is that in talking about something I know inside and out, that I'm also passionate about and believe in (others too, I'm pleased to say) - that I hope and pray others will find enjoyment in also and become equally fervent for - that my nerves will remain steady and my voice clear.

I wrote the book because - and I don't want to get too deep here - I feel mankind's at a crossroads. We're at an intersection of our human history where so many narratives are converging; from technology, to politics, to science and deeper understanding. Of ourselves and the reality that surrounds us. A novel for our times. I hope.

The book will be promoted on **BookBub** on publication day (8 July), and on **Bargain Booksy** (9 July) and **Fussy Librarian** (10 July), at a special Amazon Kindle Countdown Deal price (launch week only). See below. There will also be reviews in several US publications in the coming months. I'll keep you posted.

Per the norm, you'll find a fresh batch of free books from new authors at the bottom of this newsletter. There's also the winning character name reveal from last month's spring competition, an introduction to a fellow author, and more about the debut novel (including details of its special, heavily discounted price, for one week only) being published on 8 July.

Have a great May.

Huey

"I'm Huey, a brand-new author based in the UK. I'm a former journalist, travel writer and magazine editor. In 2012 I studied creative writing at UEA, in the UK. I write contemporary and speculative fiction. Conspiracies and thrillers, about ordinary people living through the extraordinary. My debut novel, **The Otero County Disclosure**, arrives July 8, 2025."

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Find my **Amazon**, **Goodreads** and **BookBub** author pages, and links to my website and social platforms, [here](#).

The Otero County Disclosure

Title: *The Otero County Disclosure: A novel for our times*

Publication date: 8 July 2025

Genre(s): Contemporary fiction (conspiracy, thriller, speculative and literary)

Regular price: \$9.99 (£9.99) paperback and \$4.99 (£4.99) eBook

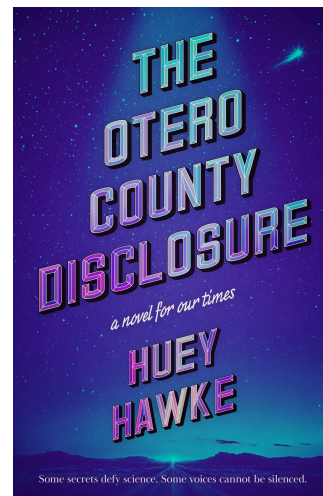
Special Amazon Kindle Countdown deal: 8 July to 14 July
\$0.99

Formats and retailers: Amazon (paperback and Kindle) from 8 July. Kobo, Apple, B&N, Google etc., mid-September onwards.

Hardback and audiobook TBC.

Synopsis: Lonely, super-bright seventeen-year-old Alexa, commonly known as Ex, has severe cerebral palsy. She also has answers to mankind's greatest questions.

Selected to trial a ground-breaking talking technology, she can now speak her ideas. But widowed dad, Norman, working away in Arizona, isn't listening. He has challenges of his own; anxiety and a



tricky programme rumoured to involve 'exotic' materials. His biggest problem might be his opinionated daughter back home.

As they come to learn, if knowledge is power, some will do anything to acquire it.

Inspired by the biggest question of all and mankind's desire to understand non-human intelligence - both artificial and *off planet* - the story follows Ex and Norman as they face their differences and grapple the true nature of our reality – a world beyond the material – to learn our place in the Universe.

A thrilling, genre-bending ride along the Superstition Freeway, and a funny, poignant study of a father and daughter living through the brightest – and darkest – of times. At its heart *The Otero County Disclosure* is a novel about hope, humanity, and the untapped power of the human mind.

You can read more about the genesis of the novel, its background and inspirations, below.

Quotes from the novel: *'It's not about faith, Dad. It's bigger than that. I don't keep religion as you well know. I asked myself many times if a god would have left me this way. Turns out I didn't need one anyway. Why's it crazy to believe in something "other", but it's okay to worship some unseen, unknown deity. It's like this Dad; I happen to think the UFO phenomenon is linked to our consciousness...'*

'It's run by deep, dark powerbrokers in US defence and intelligence. It came out of the wider military industrial complex, private organisations, ambitious politicians....think of it as dark matter. You won't find mention of it anywhere and don't go looking for it either.'

"All our dreams, our fears, desires, our inner lives, exist in the darkness. All unseen." He paused and stared straight ahead for a few moments, as if he was thinking through what he might say next. Eventually he continued. "If light is too strong, we are forced to look away. But the darkness. The darkness is always compelling."

"You have black programs. Then you have so black... you can't see it."

“QUOTES...”

“...THE SAME ROUTINE FOR DECADES, SOMETHING IN THE SKY. BACK IN THE FORTIES IT WAS A CRUDE SAUCER WITH A LADDER. MECHANICAL. TODAY, IT'S SMOOTH BLACK TRIANGLES AND TIC-TACS. WHY THE DIFFERENCE? A CHANGE IN HUMAN DISCERNMENT? THESE THINGS MANIFEST IN A FORM REFLECTING THE ZEITGEIST. UFOS ARE A BELIEF SYSTEM FOR FOLKS WITH BIG FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS. A LADDER, IF YOU WILL, TO SOMEWHERE ELSE. ESCAPE. A TRIANGLE SIGNIFYING ENLIGHTENMENT. OTHERS? IT'S NOT BELIEF. THEY KNOW. THEY HAVE A SIGHTING. AN UNDENIABLY REAL, PROFOUND EXPERIENCE.”

“Excuse me for asking, but I'm real curious...are we really, here *here*?”

“There is certainly a here *here*. Just as there is a there *there*. However, I'm afraid I'll have to defer to my original answer. I cannot directly respond to that question. I will say your consciousness is certainly here. Therefore, it is for you to decide.”

“

Imagine if your consciousness came fully formed from without as well as from within. Nothing would be a coincidence. Everything connected. Everybody.

”

Introducing: Michael Cardwell

Michael has a free book he's offering to subscribers: *Frontier Marshal: A Coogan Mystery* (Frontier Series Book 3). U. S. Marshall Danny Coogan returns to his roots in Montana to settle into the sleepy town of Darwin with his pregnant wife. But as Danny races into town ahead of an early blizzard, the storms of his past threaten his future. Not only has the ambitions of the Ghost Buffalo Society set some of the local Indians on a path toward insurrection, but Danny's best friend, Edmund Goodrunner, working undercover for the Tribal Council, has gone missing.

Get 'FRONTIER MARSHALL'

And the April Competition winner is...

Last month I asked readers to name a character in my next novel, due in 2026 (the title will likely be confirmed later this year).

I want to say a huge 'thank you' to everybody for your fantastic suggestions. I'm keeping them all because they will all, one day, have a life.

The background to the 2026 book is as follows: an eighteen-year-old Texan college dropout is forced to travel with his widowed grandmother, a woman he hardly knows, from her home in the Hudson

Valley, to a wedding in Oregon, in 1983.

Along the way, grandmother and grandson come to know one another better and appreciate the other's differences. In particular, the grandson, who comes to see the elderly lady in a completely different light; she had an extraordinary career as a journalist back in the 50s and 60s. A career nobody in the family knew anything about. She investigated some very odd, mysterious stories, perhaps connected, and now, with her health failing, she wants to share what she knows.

The route of the trip is deliberate – each place visited holds a significance for the grandmother, related to her time as a journalist. And why did she give it all up and keep quiet for decades?

Here's the description of the character I asked you to name, from last month... granny and grandson pick-up a hitchhiker along the way, somewhere in the Midwest. An attractive nineteen-year-old woman with a dog called Larry (named after her grandfather). A big black Newfoundland. The hitchhiker is smart and funny but somewhat elusive, almost mysterious. She's heading home to Alamogordo (having been in NYC trying to get into acting school but her money ran out and no landlords would accept Larry).

I'm still sketching the character and getting to know her. However, from the many responses I received, when I read Margaret's suggestion it just seemed right. Oftentimes you don't know a name until you see it or read it, and something clicks.

So, a BIG Congratulations to **Margaret Lindsay** and her nomination! Everybody, meet Margaret's character...**Patricia (Patty) McGregor!**

Here's a little about Margaret, from the lady herself: *"I am an 82-year-old great grandma of two, soon to be three, granny to six, and mother of three.*

I have been an avid reader since I was about six. I practiced reading the condiment labels on the table!

I was born and raised just outside Glasgow, in Scotland. We moved south to the Midlands (England) in 1984 and have been here ever since. We live not too far from Kenilworth Castle.

We celebrated our 60th anniversary last month and got the congratulatory card from King Charles. It now has pride of place above the fireplace.

I have very catholic tastes in reading material. Virtually anything except Horror and Western. I really loved Anne McCaffrey's 'Dragons of Pern' books (science fiction/fantasy). They always ended too quickly! I'm glad her son has carried on the tales."

Margaret, my many thanks to you for bringing Patricia 'Patty' McGregor out into the light. A \$25 (£25) book voucher is winging it's way to you...



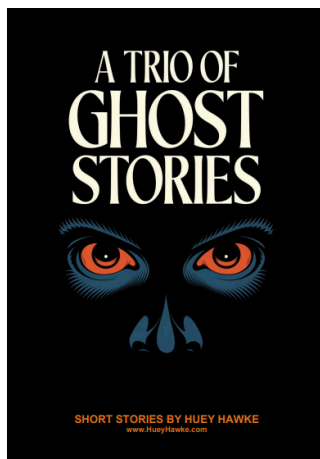
Huey's Stuff

Click the images below to read more. I'll be publishing more free short stories, here, in this newsletter, in the coming months.



Want to Read the Debut Novel Before Anyone Else?

I'm looking for up to 15 book lovers to read and review *The Otero County Disclosure* before anyone else...



A Trio of Contemporary Ghost Stories

More chillers than horrors. Each short story is only a ten-minute read. A little outside my normal genre. Perfect for a quick dip before lights out...



Huey's Current Short Stories

If you haven't already got them, click here. You can also get the PDF version of *The House of Woo*.



Huey Q&A

Ten things about me you might be interested to learn. Including my time on a Netflix show...



Huey's News & Views - Blog

Check-out my blog to read more about everything from books and writing, to UFOs.



How I Came to Write The Otero County Disclosure

From fascination with the current global zeitgeist, UFOs, my wonderful big brother, to my professional experiences as a journalist and consultant... it's been one hell of a journey.

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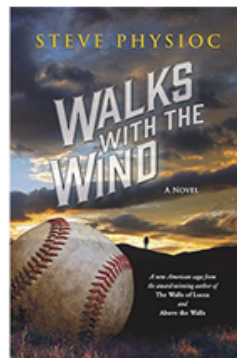
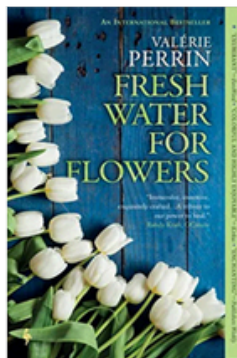
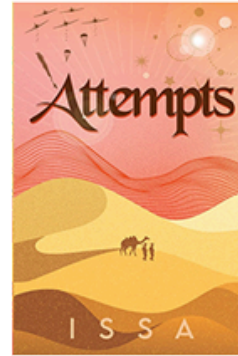
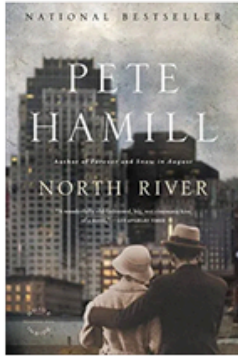
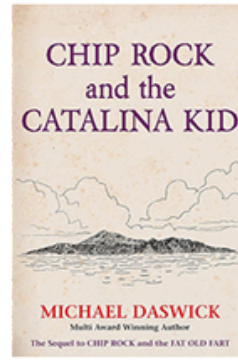
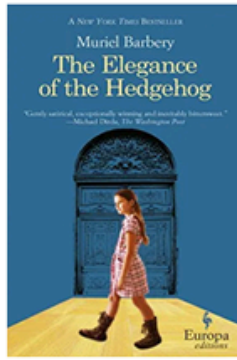
70 giveaways across general, literary, mystery & suspense, and sci-fi and fantasy.

Ends 8 June

More books and competition time!

Here's your chance to grab another free book or two, and enter a competition to win ten stories with a value of \$250. Note, the giveaway ends on **30 May, 2025**. What are you waiting for!

[Go to the giveaway](#)



Do you like the newsletter? Share it, or forward to an interested friend.



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