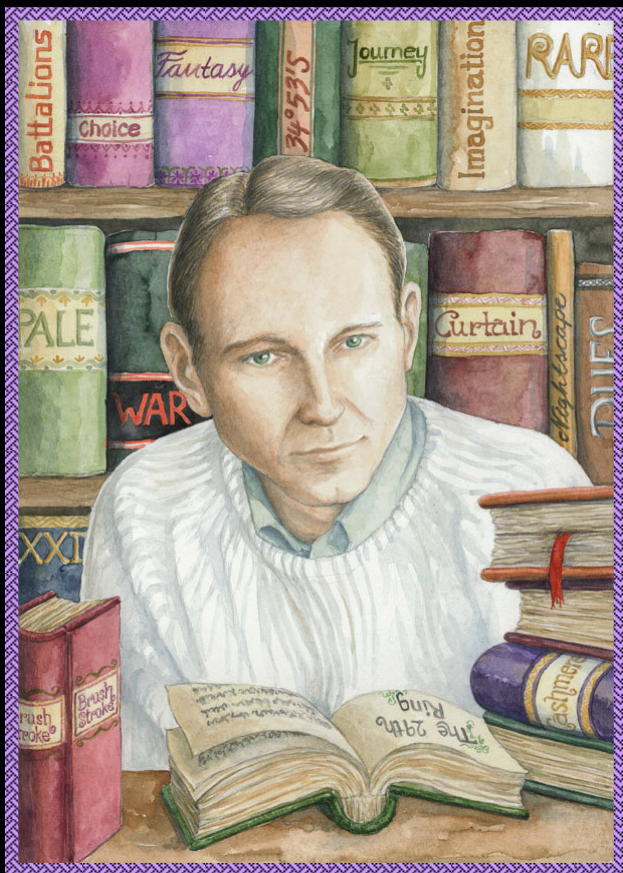


WAYFARER of the 29<sup>TH</sup> RING™ by D.H. DALE™  
 A MINIATURESTORY™ from STORIESWEARETELLING™ for the MINIATURELIBRARY™ of the SHORTSTORYAFICIONADO™

# The SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™ PRESENTS



## Th. MINIATURE LIBRARY Th. SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™

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 Out of the Imagination and Mind's Eye of the Short Story Aficionado™

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# Welcome to A STORY I'M TELLING™ from Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination!

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

Spurred by the crisp coolness of any chosen Autumn afternoon...and before the violet blush of twilight fades to starlit night—hasten to find a comfortable easy chair...one where you may be warmed by the welcoming embers of a glowing hearth. From there, your imagination shall lift you up and whisk you down the narrow drive ahead—through the gateposts and beyond.



Once round the bend, you shall find yourself in a hitherto unseen quarter—as Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination as you can ever hope to be!

It is there and then that you shall have the opportunity to reach out for one brief moment in time—to grasp the offer of an outstretched hand that is a Bit of Mystery,

Romance and Adventure.

## D.H. Dale™ Wayfarer of the 29th Ring™

A Miniature Story™ from Stories We Are Telling™  
for the Miniature Library™ of the Short Story Aficionado™

**FAR BEYOND the THRESHOLD of IMAGINATION™**  
**a BIT of MYSTERY, ROMANCE and ADVENTURE™**

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# Wayfarer of the 29th Ring™

Having Evolved into the Quintessential  
MINIATURE STORY™  
a Bit of MYSTERY, ROMANCE and ADVENTURE™  
is Dedicated to

My FAMILY  
Then, Now and Always

My DARLING and DEVOTED WIFE  
You of Starlit Nights Come and Gone

My LOVING and FAITHFUL DAUGHTER  
You're the Best!

My BELOVED WIFE and ALLY  
You in the Autumn Blush of All the Afternoons Yet to Come  
having been the First to Cross Over the Threshold into the  
MINIATURE LIBRARY™

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# Welcome to A STORY I'M TELLING™ from Far Beyond the Threshold of Imagination!

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

Taste aBitof Mystery, Romance and Adventure! Wrap yourself in the cloak of imagination, and ascend ever higher into the enigmatic mist



clutching at the lavender and golden skirts of the Turta Mountains—the Sea of Pearl and Darhan Steppe becoming mere memories of fast fading and far-off vistas. Journey the veiled paths of east and west—crossing the threshold of The Archives at Ocher to ponder the mysteries therein and long concealed!

Shy of summits rising abruptly out of lush, carpeted valleys harboring Ancient and Towering Corridors of Jade...hold your breath for a moment, as you gaze out across the vast

Battle Plain of Uvus Nuur—at the kaleidoscopic and perplexing splendors that are Sunrise and Sunset at the Rim of the World!

## Wayfarer of the 29th Ring™

by

D.H. Dale™

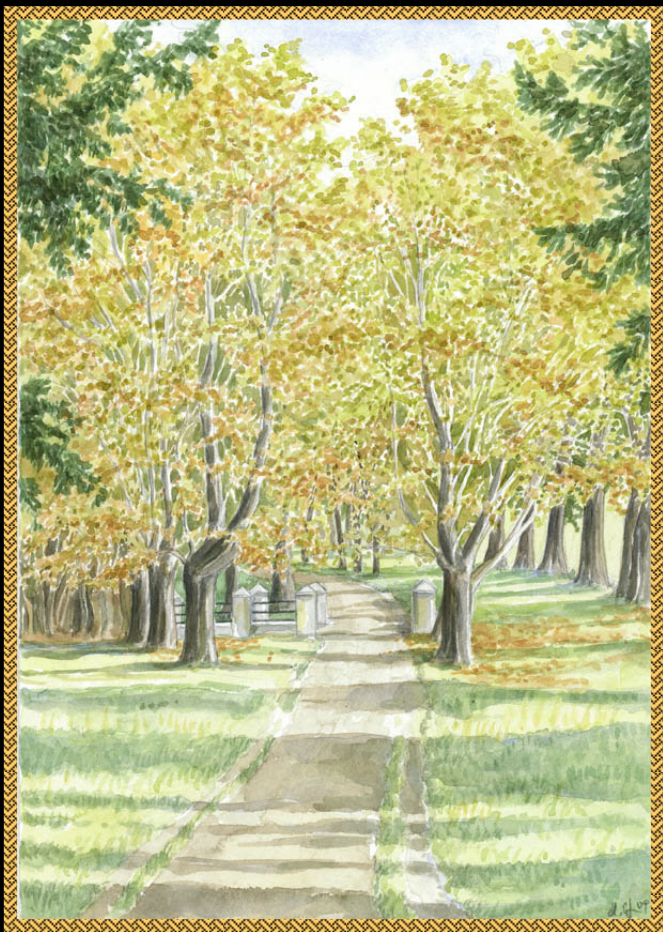
KNOLL on the BATTLE PLAIN of UVUS NUUR  
WAYFARER and SAVIOR the HADASAN STALLION™

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# A Story I'm Beginning Wayfarer of the 29th Ring™

HELLO and welcome to *Stories We Are Telling™* for the *Miniature Library™* of the *Short Story Aficionado™*! Early on, you shall find herein certain few and sundry introductory passages. Among these and soon to be within easy reach are brief outlines of the *story*, *characters*, *teller*, *producer* and *gateway*—as well as an unusually inviting preface, whose intriguing label is *A Prologue of Perspective™*.

All these are yours, courtesy of the  
*Short Story Aficionado* 

Said another way, there is the appetizer before dinner—the indispensable taste that traditionally comes to you ahead of the main course.

In short order thereafter naturally, you shall come to know what's on the storyteller's<sup>1</sup> mind as well—a splendid feast

---

<sup>1</sup>The freewheeling imagination and evocative storytelling of D.H. Dale™ crown otherwise commonplace themes with aBit of Mystery, Romance and Adventure™—a bejeweled and magical coronet not shackled by convention. Herein lies the work of a self-styled painter of the written word—the full kaleidoscope of hues, blushes, shades, tones and tints flowing from the storyteller's inkwell to parchment. It is upon these leaves of paper so unselfishly bestowed by some mighty tree—that the teller has penned this *Miniature Story™* entitled *Wayfarer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ring™*. The storyteller's thread of events, like all praiseworthy accounts, is a manifestation of the routine yet exceptional practice of observing, analyzing and drawing heartfelt as well as compelling conclusions. Inevitably, the finalities reflected in such reasoned judgments can be said to draw themselves up out of a shallow inkstone. After all, that vessel is the lone crucible in which the dry ink of deliberation is measured and mixed with just the right amount of imagination from the well of reflection—thereby maintaining the fragile flow of creativity that the pen can never completely manage on its own.





for the imagination. And that's for sure,  
*Mr. and Mrs. Reader™!*

Herein then, aptly dwells your invitation to a *Miniature Story™*.

It is a warm, cordial and gracious summons of sorts. Therefore, you are encouraged to embrace it—and RSVP (répondre s'il vous plaît) at once! And respond you can quite simply—with neither more nor less than the minimal energy required to turn the next and each subsequent page.

Yes, you are presently on the ever narrowing pathway whose signposts shall lead you through a narrative gateway residing at the very edge of consummate fancy.

As a matter of fact, you are about to join a host of captivating characters—as you successively breach a wide crevasse and thereafter enter into a brilliantly conceived and fantastical tale.



We are speaking of a colorful saga emanating straight out of the *Imagination and Mind's Eye of Your Storyteller in Miniature™*, D.H. Dale™—whilst being superbly illustrated<sup>2</sup> throughout, with images of original watercolors from the brush and palette of *Anke Eissmann*<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup>Knoll on the Battle Plain of Uvus Nuur™ — Wayfarer and Savior the Hadasan Stallion™ is an image of an original watercolor by Anke Eissmann – 2008, out of the imagination and mind's eye of the Short Story Aficionado™.

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There are far too many who say that flights of the imagination can often verge on the genuinely real.

So, it is incumbent upon you, *Mr. and Mrs. Reader™*, to gather your wits—yes, to maintain your equilibrium and sense of proportion, as you travel the singular and unparalleled path now lying at your feet. In other words, it is for you to proceed along the rarely if ever traveled way laid out just beyond the toes of your shoes.

And if you but raise your hand to momentarily shade your eyes, you shall see that it stretches out before you as far as any pair of eyes can see—yes, to those distant vistas that lie only as far as the nearest far horizon.



It matters not whether that junction of earth and sky be to your east, west, north or south. However, you should keep very close tabs on the *Sunrise and Sunset at the Rim of the World™*<sup>4</sup>!

Confident that you, by sheer will and curiosity of thought then, shall not only ponder but actually travel the rarely traveled way—do enter the doorway that lies cracked open in front of you, Dear Reader. Yes, that's the one—the one directly ahead of you! For it is only there—

---

<sup>3</sup>Residing in Germany, [Anke Eissmann](#) is the illustrator for *Wayfarer of the 29th Ring™*. Her body of work in short films/animation; graphic design and illustration is reflected at [anke.edoras-art.de](#).

<sup>4</sup>In the Land of Granger's Birth™ — Sunrise and Sunset at the Rim of the World™ is an image of an original watercolor by Anke Eissmann – 2010, out of the Imagination and Mind's Eye of the Short Story Aficionado™.






someplace amidst the uppermost shelves of the *Miniature Library*™—that you shall find the *Miniature Story*™ which without a doubt you must now so sorely seek!

## THE MINIATURE LIBRARY™

YES, FEEL FREE to cross over the threshold into what we, within the confines and context of these pages tend to often refer to as simply the *Alphabetical Storehouse*™—the contents and substance of which have been hashed and re-hashed over well hatched and not so very well hatched plots, both broad and lean.

As you look round, you may find yourself mainly interested in those writers whose collective preference is to dip their quills in the ink of solitude and seclusion—the few who prefer the hush of their isolated dells and villages, to the obtrusiveness and hustle-and-bustle of most any overcrowded city and town.

After casting a keen eye about the not unconsiderable cube that is bounded all about by walls, ceiling and floor—you may then see fit to ascend either of two wrought iron and wood spiral staircases.

However, mind the almost hidden landing that lends access to the narrow yet otherwise airily spacious tongue-and-

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groove oval walkway of the *Miniature Library*™.

There, protected from a serious tumble by the oak balustrade, you can discover and subsequently negotiate the rolling cherry-wood ladder.

Thereafter, it is almost certain that you will find yourself reaching out toward the most suitable shelf to in turn grasp the most appropriate spine and cover.

## GILDED and in DARK EMERALD GREEN LEATHER BOUND

BY THE TIME YOU DESCEND the ladder and steps, and return to the point of beginning—you shall no doubt have in your firm grasp a handsome volume, *gilded and in dark emerald green leather bound*. It is a volume whose cover is supremely soft to the touch, and engraved with the much sought after title—*Wayfarer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ring*™!

Therein, *Mr. and Mrs. Reader*™, you shall find patiently waiting, a visual narrative intoning just the right tenor of note and chord for what is best in *aBit of Mystery, Romance and Adventure*™.

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This extraordinary tale from our *Miniature Library*™ is one that just naturally focuses on the flight of imagination—but where reality is at all times tossing and turning just shy of a roiling surface.

The aforesaid reality reflects the intrusive struggle amidst shadow and light and between good and evil—that which is flanked by the agile, fluctuating strengths of both right and wrong. All of the preceding reflects that which seems to be consistently thrown down like a gauntlet along lines that both reveal and divide elucidations of dilemmas. Naturally, said realism finds its requisite authenticity consigned to that which flows out of experiences and perspectives developed along a path strewn with knowledge and familiarity. That path is the oft traveled one—the narrow and worn one whose ruts can trap you. It is the course that by comparison is not so much desired. That's because it is the road residing outside the broader realm of one's imagination

Happily, it is one's imagination that is capable of taking you anywhere at anytime on any level—this, by simply calling upon it to do so, even in a dream. Such destinations include the land of intrigue at the end of the path not often traveled.

The story at hand flows from the place where imagination dwells—from that

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abode where all that is worthy of being conjured up by the creative mind can be found floating upon a sunlit sea that now and again transforms itself into a moonlit ocean of self-discovery.

*Wayfarer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ring™* is projected onto a richly sculpted and textured façade of a medieval place and time heretofore unknown during this or any similar millennium.

The story of *Wayfarer™* is one whose dimensions and coordinates mandate time as the common thread required to tie them together. This four-dimensional fascia of the imagination assimilates all that is comforting and desirable as to altruism, chivalry, affection and enchantment.

## The EXTERNAL ARCHENEMY is OVERT

THE AFORESAID TRAITS characterize all that is the essence of good working diligently to strike back against the ever-present threat of *overt evil*. Yes, overt in nature—this, because it is a malevolence whose danger is markedly *conventional*, and thus *vulnerable* to something more than just accidental destruction.

The abovementioned evil of susceptibility is consequently cast by the sto-

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ryteller as the *external archenemy* of all that is noble, upright and worthy of that which those of us in the mainstream are inclined to tag with the label most often called good.

And so—the storyteller's thread of events, like all praiseworthy accounts, is a manifestation of the routine yet exceptional practice of observing, analyzing and drawing heartfelt as well as compelling conclusions. Inevitably, the finalities reflected in such reasoned judgments can be said to draw themselves up out of a shallow ink-stone.

After all, that vessel is the lone crucible in which the dry ink of deliberation is measured and mixed with just the right amount of imagination from the well of reflection—thereby maintaining the fragile flow of creativity that the pen can never completely manage on its own.

In any event, the end result is a mural of bold yet soft, as well as clear yet subtle characters cast across the broad face of what is a deep and perplexing social order—where *shadow* doggedly pursues and seeks to permanently blot out the life-giving gift of light.

This endlessly intermittent threat of *societal darkness* is inherently bound up in undercurrents of a rapaciousness that is

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far more inclined to seize—than it is to reflect even a single ounce of benevolence.

## The INTERNAL NEMESIS is COVERT

THE JUST SPELLED OUT lack of generosity leads to what the teller sees as a most regrettable and clearly rampant compromise of honorable goals and objectives—and thus the menacing manifestation and presence of the *most dangerous evil*. In this case as a matter of fact, it is defined as the malevolence that is *vastly more dangerous* than any other type!

Unlike that which is generally explicit, the just mentioned vice is *covert and unpredictable*—and thus *unconventional and less at risk to the perpetrator of being quickly and completely swept away* by all the good that can be summoned to retaliate against it!

## POLITICAL, ECONOMIC and MILITARY MIASMA

WHAT THE TELLER describes in a norm of specificity then, is a long-standing and unfortunate turning away from *economic beneficence* and *military*

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*deterrence of war*—toward the converse and dangerously conflicting *economic avarice* and *military encouragement of war*.

The first of these great and imminent dangers, i.e., *economic avarice*, refers to the elusiveness of that which is legitimate in trade, industry and the financing thereof.

Said another way, gratuitous materialism refers to any one or more in a series of authentically fluctuating intersections of the curves of supply and demand becoming ever more elusive. This, as time goes by and the practice of quid pro quo becomes ever more dominantly prevalent.

The preceding  occurs because a certain pious brand of greed succeeds in deliberately blurring any nominal quantity of that which can be legitimately identified and justified as demand flowing out of the everyday form of that which we often refer to as normal give-and-take.

The second of the aforesaid great and looming dangers, i.e., *military encouragement of war*, refers to the inherent *miasma of aggression and hostility*—such being a perpetually threatening pall that hangs thickly and all too casually and conveniently about and astride just so many marred and wounded landscapes. These are the myriad of bloody battlefields found in recorded



and unrecorded time—whether past, present or future.

And then there is the yet to be broached *realpolitik*—it being as materialistically shameless as it is shamefully unethical—and is the *treacherously murky middleman* and *facilitating catalyst* of a form of compromise called *concessionary tit for tat*. This out-of-plumb and unequal accord steers the transformation of trueheartedness's worthy goals into the ignominiously contemptible goals whose success relies on deception and half-truths.

Yes, *political reality*—the muddy give-and-take of contradictory global viewpoints that fits hand-in-glove with the blacks and grays of *backroom quid pro quo*—not surprisingly, of course, being immensely disheartening to altruistic quixotes young and old. The latter includes this chronicle's *Dark Champion of the Amethyst™—Wayfarer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ring™*.

Power, Privilege and Control  
from DISPROPORTIONATE  
WEALTH are  
BORN and RAISED

THE PERPETUAL GLUE that embraces the aforesaid misdirected *eco-*

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*monic, political and military triumvirate*, is the outrageously *disproportionate wealth* of a *privileged few*—said asymmetrical affluence never capsizing, but rather providing the full-steam-ahead financing that defrays the immense costs of maintaining and repairing the misguided distortion of an otherwise honorable unity of purpose.

As wise sayings go, money is a term that reverberates within the confines of the old wooden barrel of proverbs and adages quite a bit.

Is it the love of money that points in the direction of hell? Or perhaps it is money in and of itself that pays for that one-way ticket. There is no doubt, of course, that money may facilitate travel in both directions, i.e., up and down. It all depends on how it is used apparently.

The very high center of gravity of disproportionate wealth should make it habitually a quite unstable mass. And yet it is not—only bypassing critical mass once in every century or so. Why?

The teller concludes that this is because the ill-gotten gains of the privileged class are so unconscionably vast—that for decades at a time they can feed an insatiable monster that produces nothing really. This, the most obvious yet most invisible pyramid, is something that the teller sends his cast of characters to deal with.

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## In CAPSULE then...

SO, *Mr. and Mrs. Reader™*, the story of *The World of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ring™* logically interweaves *two perils* that are the natural enemies of the *Dark Champion of the Amethyst™* and those loyal to him—he and they fortunately aided and assisted in their efforts by the magical advantage of enchantment.

As previously delineated, the first of the perils faced by *Wayfarer™* and the vast majority of the realm in which he resides—is an *external (overt) evil*—generally unambiguous and relatively easy to discern, with powers that are finite. One could refer to this peril in colloquial terms perhaps, i.e., the commonly used expression, "...the lesser of two evils...".

The second and most treacherous peril is the heretofore described *triad of internal immorality* that is comprised of misguided and destructive *economic and military policy*, interlinked by the perhaps even more destructive *political arena* that ties the two together.

Everywhere chasing the aforesaid decadent triad is the *wealth* and *power* that springs from within and radiates without.

Said *affluence* and its attendant sway over others are the catalysts that fa-

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cilitate minority privileged *control* over the majority—as well as the disquiet and infiltration of the malevolence arising therefrom.

Said perpetual and foreboding infiltrator is consequently cast by the storyteller as the *internal (covert) archenemy* of all that is decent and good.

Said dishonorable and profligate trio's ensuing and insidious *control* by the *few of privilege* over the many—the latter majority being the populace that forms the foundation supporting the apex of the realm—cannot be sustained without said disproportionate and thereby facilitating *wealth*, and its concomitant *power*.



Said another way, *wealth* finances *power*, which in turn, results in *privilege*—all three facilitating *control*—this *disproportionate ring* holding the majority *captive* to the *will* of the minority.

*Wayfarer*™ and those loyal to him—aided and assisted by the aforementioned magical advantage of enchantment—are focused on a return to *economic beneficence* and *military deterrence of war*.

To achieve this objective, he and they must disrupt and bring down the status quo of the realm's apex—while in the process, simultaneously hunting down and annihilating the externality and inter-



nality that are together *Malevolence Most Foul*™.

Therein lie the commonalities that the teller chooses to interlace across the face and fabric of his story.

As it turns out, the careful merging of reality and make-believe is the suitable platform from which to launch the world of *Wayfarer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ring*™ — D.H. Dale's™ most recent and preeminent illustrated contribution to the *Miniature Library*™.



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reader...

You are encouraged to peruse the next introductory passage, to learn more about the storyteller's emissaries for good —

## *The CHARACTERS* *WAYFARER OF THE 29<sup>TH</sup> RING*™

Your Producer in Miniature...  
The Short Story Aficionado™

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<sup>5</sup>The *Short Story Aficionado*™ is the producer of *Wayfarer of the 29<sup>th</sup> Ring*™ and other *Miniature Stories*™ from *Stories We Are Telling*™ for the *Miniature Library*™ of the *Short Story Aficionado*™. The *Short Story Aficionado*™ can be reached at [producer@gttransglobal.com](mailto:producer@gttransglobal.com).

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SUNRISE and SUNSET at the RIM of the WORLD™  
In the LAND of GRANGER'S BIRTH

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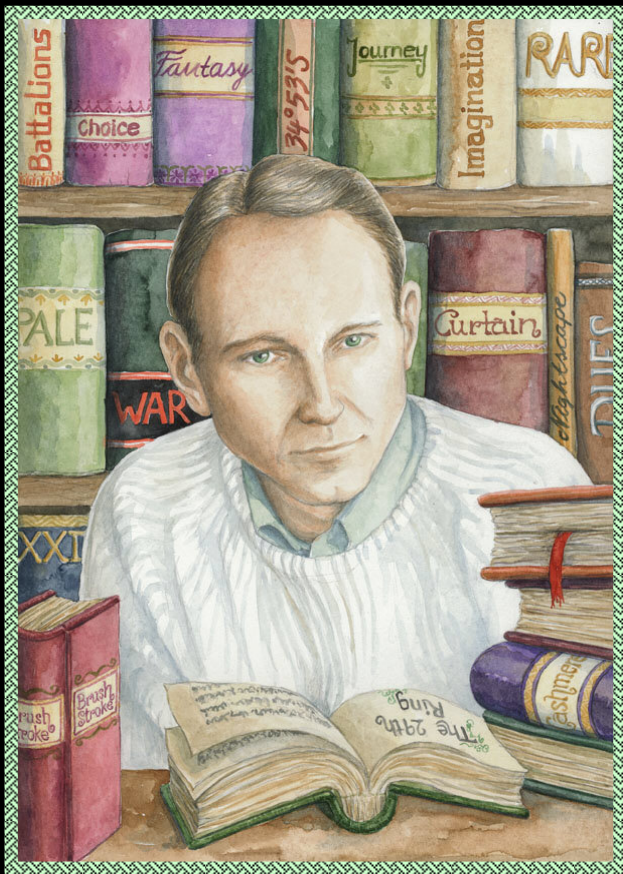
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A MINIATURE STORY™ from STORIES WE ARE TELLING™ for the MINIATURE LIBRARY™ of the SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™

# YOURS in MINIATURE... The SHORT STORY AFICIONADO™



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