

Newsletter 54



Hi there, Richard Dee here.

Welcome to my October 2026 newsletter.

This month marks the end of barefoot walking on the cliffs at Sharkham Point.

Now we're getting a bit more rain and early morning dew, the surface up there gets slippery, and I don't bounce as well as I used to. Plus, it's a long way down to the sea.

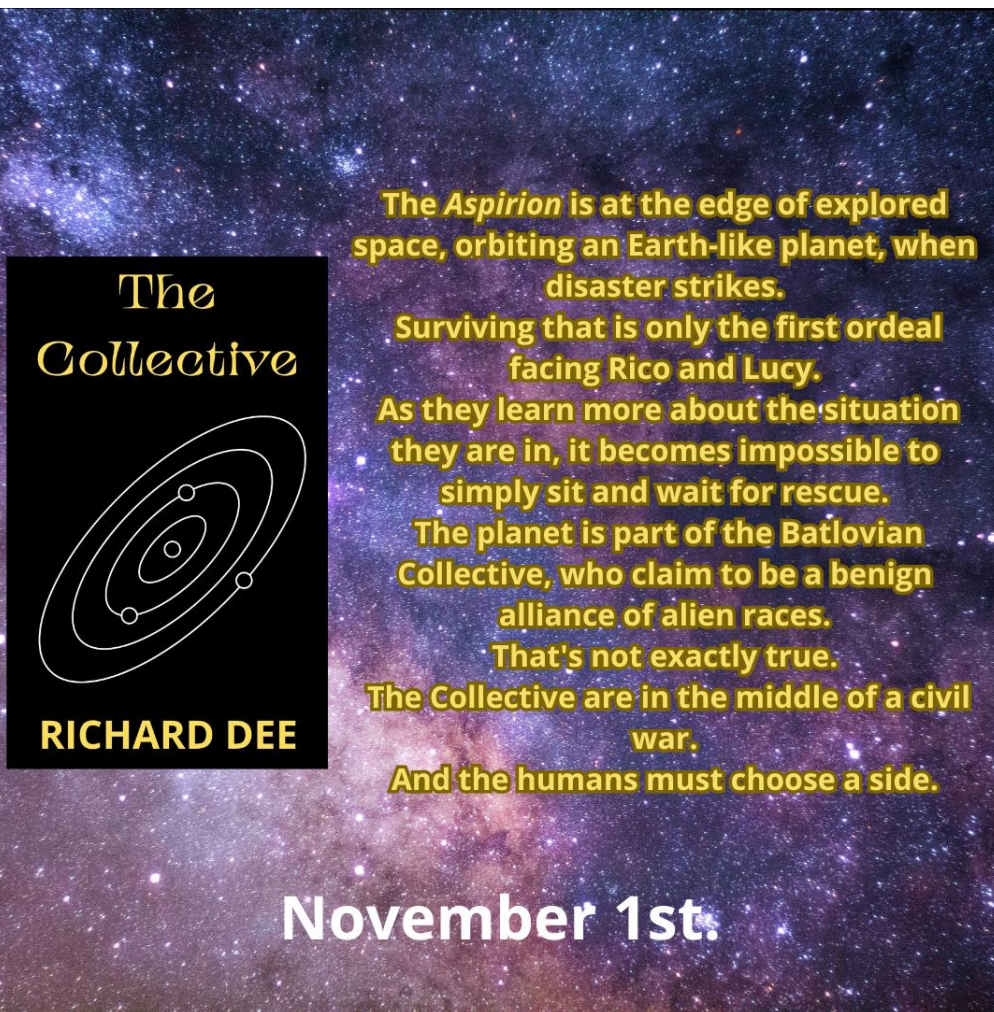
There's gardening to do, preparation for winter and spring bulbs to plant.

In Australia, Georgina is busy with Calving, as well as her nursing job on the Renal Unit.

On with the writing news.

In writing news, the wait is over.

Both the novellas I told you about last month will be published on November 1st. You can pre-order by clicking on the button below the card.



The *Aspirion* is at the edge of explored space, orbiting an Earth-like planet, when disaster strikes.

Surviving that is only the first ordeal facing Rico and Lucy.

As they learn more about the situation they are in, it becomes impossible to simply sit and wait for rescue.

The planet is part of the Batlovian Collective, who claim to be a benign alliance of alien races.

That's not exactly true.

The Collective are in the middle of a civil war.

And the humans must choose a side.

November 1st.

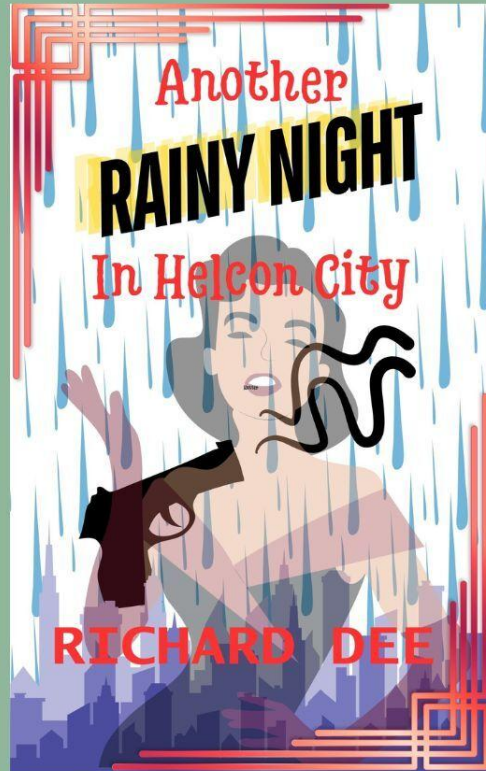
The Collective

A private eye who's
down on his luck.

A grieving widow,
looking for answers.

A dead cop, with
enough secrets
to blow the
town apart.

The people that just
want it all to go away.



Something's got to give.

Another Rainy Night in Helcon City

In other writing news, *Whatever Happened to Andorra Pett* is just about finished. My editor will be taking a look at the beginning of December, so I'm hoping for an easy set of corrections. All things being equal, you can expect the novel to be published in February 2027.

That leaves me with NaNoWriMo, as it used to be called. This year, I expected to write one of the short stories I told you about last month.

HOWEVER

things are never that simple. After I told you that, I had an idea for another story, which I can already see in great detail. So I'm going with it. It's called *Cuckoo in the Nest*.



The Cavan sisters, Claudia and Traci, are big players on the planet Prespiro.

The authorities have heard that they're up to something and want to know more.

They've tried to infiltrate the family several times, without success. Every agent they send ends up dead.

Enter Debs DuBreq, who bears a remarkable resemblance to Traci Cavan. All she has to do is lie in a hospital bed and pretend to be Traci, recovering from a car crash, while the real Traci is interrogated.

It sounds like a simple job. In and out. When things start to go wrong, Debs is faced with the ultimate challenge.

Convince Claudia Cavan that her sister has recovered and is ready to get back to work.

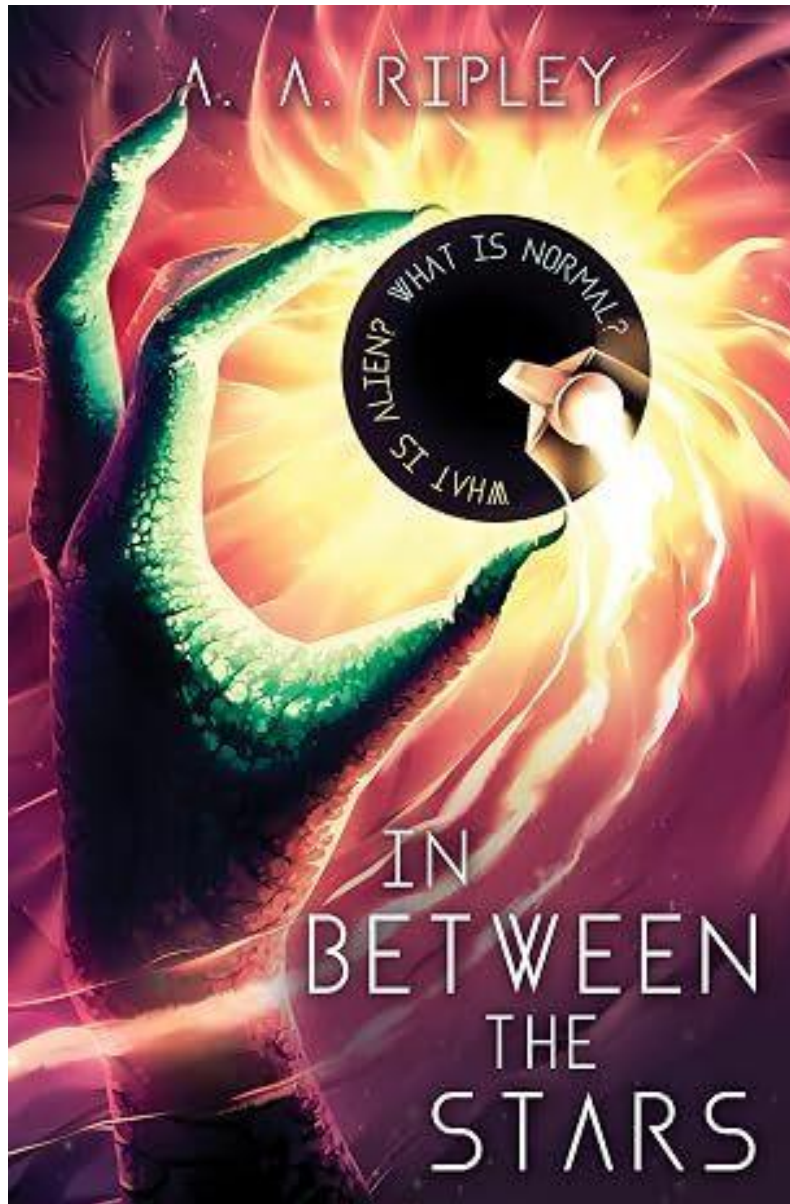
Helping to plot the government's downfall.

Wish me Luck.



What I've been reading.

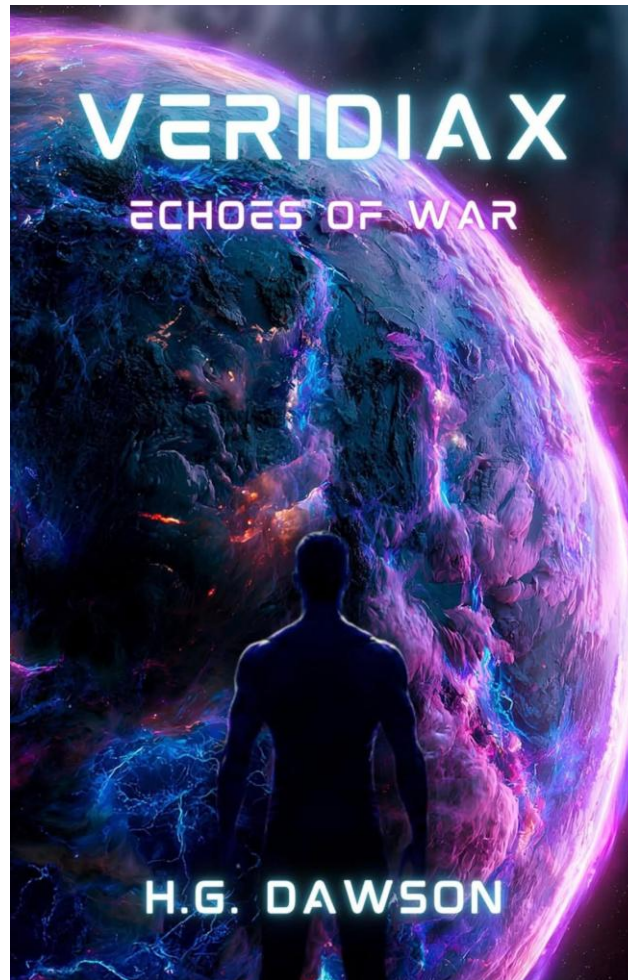
Next on my reading list is this one. I know absolutely nothing about it, apart from what's on the back cover. So we'll have to see how I get on.



As promised, here's my review of Veridax by H G Dawson.

Or click the picture for a purchase link.

Review of Veridax



Highlights from my Substack and website.

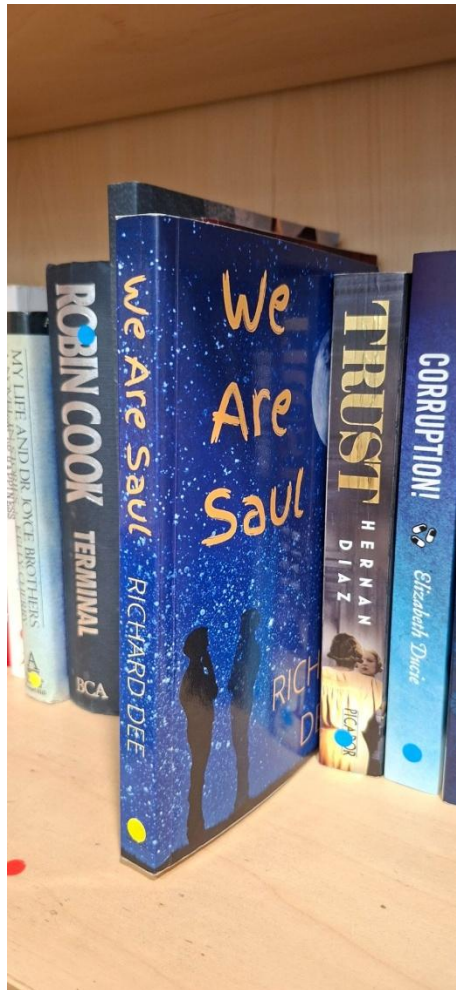
Here are a couple of posts that you might have missed.

A couple of medical short stories

Writing about time travel

Meanwhile, in other news.

I spotted one of my books in a local charity shop. A bargain at £2.00.



As I was looking, another couple were browsing the books.
I overheard the woman say, "There are no good books here."
I just had to open my mouth; my wife cringed.
The man said he would buy it. I didn't hang around; I hope he did.
The book won an award in 2023, so I'm confident that if he actually did,
he would enjoy it.

We've had our first Mince Pie of the year, and it was a good one.



As I said, we've been planting bulbs for next spring. Unfortunately, these grape hyacinths didn't get the message that they were supposed to wait underground till after New Year and decided to come straight up.



Next month, the newsletter will be all about how I'm getting on with *Cuckoo in the Nest*, as well as my preparations for Christmas and the New Year.

I hope you all have a good month.



If you're interested in any of my old newsletters and blogs, you can now find these on my website by clicking the button below.

[Click here for The Archives](#)

If you want to ask me anything about my life or my writing, just hit reply. I'm always happy to chat.

See you next month,

Happy reading.

Richard Dee.