

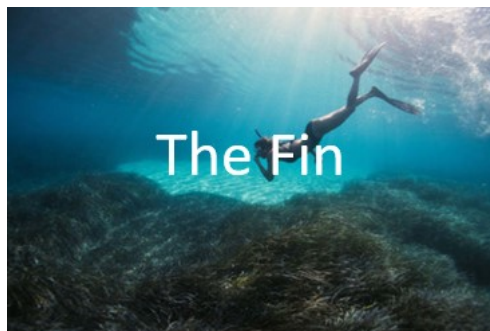
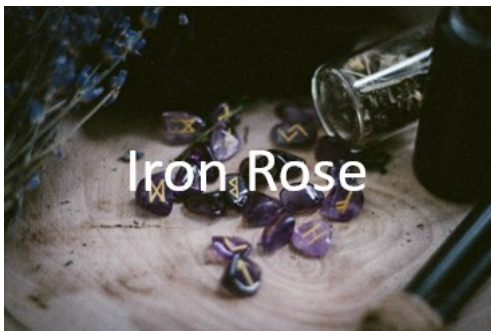
Spring 2022.

Latest news from Author - Ned Stephenson

Greeting fellow readers! I realised when putting together this Spring newsletter, that I've missed a Winter edition. If you live on the east coast of Australia, and are experiencing the pleasures of our third La Niña in a row, you'll accept that the Winter edition got waterlogged and dissolved prior to release. Though I doubt that passes as a sufficient excuse in the digital age, but it's the best I have.

Short Stories on the website

For those after a quick read, I've started putting short stories on my blog. Some have been published in competition anthologies, and others are simply for fun. Each only takes a couple of minutes to read so may be a nice break to your day.



Other changes to the website

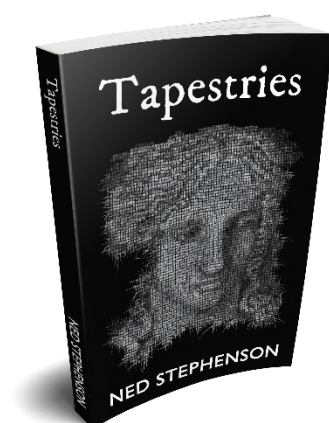
A few changes have been made to the website since the last newsletter. You'll now find an entire section where I go into the [details behind each book](#), plus a new page where

you can [try-before-you-buy](#). Here you can download the first two chapters of each book to see whether it's something up your alley.

Changes have also been made to the shop. Now it's possible to buy [directly](#) from me rather than a bookstore for paperback copies (Australia-wide only). International purchases are still available, as well as the eBook versions if you're a Kindle user, you'll just go through Amazon instead. Anyone who chooses the direct purchase option automatically gets a signed copy.

Tapestries

I'm delighted to say that my third book – *Tapestries*, is now available for pre-order. And because you're subscribers, you hear about it before anyone else and can benefit from a pre-sale discount. Get in early because once it's released to the wild in November, the discount expires.



In case you missed it in the last newsletter, *Tapestries* is a collection of short stories that follow a similar chronological sequence to *Enhancement*, but this time the tales are historical fantasy. If you enjoyed *Enhancement*, you should like this one as well. It's worth getting just for the [Linda Lunnon](#) artwork on the cover!

Sutcliffe's Alchemy: Silver

Progress is underway with *Sutcliffe's Alchemy: Silver* (the imaginatively titled sequel to *Gold*). The story picks up with Brock living his new life as a stock analyst in Perth, Western Australia. Originally, this part of Brock's messed-up world was included in

Gold, but the storyline was becoming rushed, so at the advice of my editor, the stockbroking chapters were pushed into a book of their own. I had hoped to write *Silver* straight after *Gold*, but I was distracted by the idea of a series of historical fantasies, which meant *Tapestries* pushed in front. It was a fun break from Brock's machinations.

Which brings me to a month ago, when for the first time on my tour along the winding road of writing, I was overcome by a debilitating fog of writer's block. What came to my rescue was a blog I read, posted some time ago by a successful Amazon author. He suggested interviewing your characters to learn more about them. Okay, this is weird. These are my own creations so how do I go about interviewing fictional characters who live rent-free in my head? Armed with a list of eight questions to ask them (*what do you care about most in the world; if you could succeed at one thing what would it be; what was your childhood like, and so forth...*) I listened, metaphorically, to what they had to say. Thirteen pages and 6,000 words later I knew more about them than ever! And before you reach for the delete button to escape this nutcase, I've since learnt that many authors do this. I'll let you decide what that tells you about writers.

Hopefully by the Summer newsletter I'll have a first draft. Which is a bold statement as I'm only half-way through the story. Time to burn the all night candle.

And remember, if you've enjoyed any of my books so far, please tell your friends/family/colleagues/strangers in the street about them, and point them to my website 😊

