

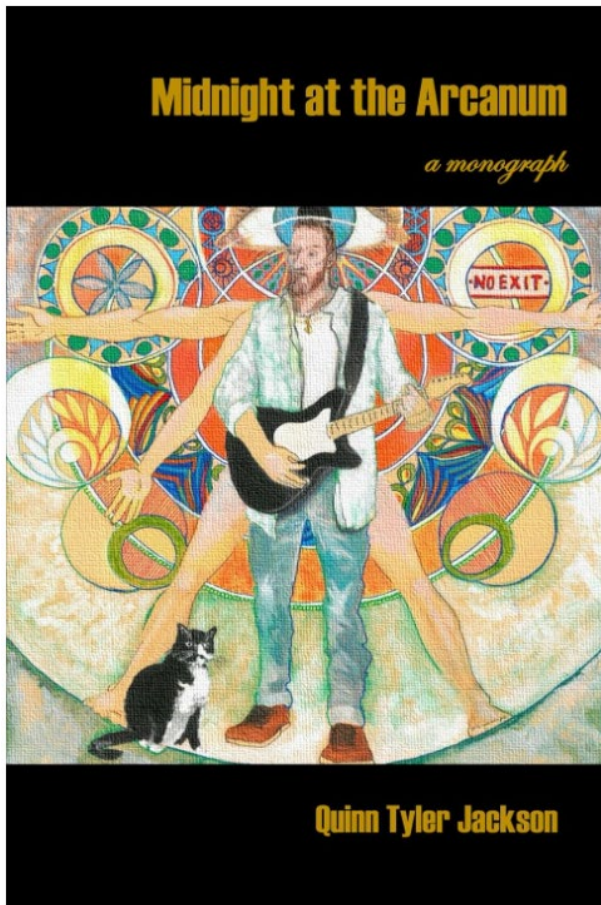
Midnight at the Arcanum: a monograph

by Quinn Tyler Jackson

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Knight Terra Press
littera manet sed lector



Front cover art: Julia Hedge (@coppersongbird)

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Notes: Illustrated (B&W interior); includes a 21-work annotated bibliography, 10 short stories, a 42-chapter novel, and a 3-act play.

meta-autobiographical monograph (*noun*):

A meta-autobiographical monograph is a self-contained and self-referential literary study that blends autobiography, self-reflection, fiction, autotheory, and literary analysis. It strives to simultaneously challenge and entertain readers through its interpretations, focusing on the reader–author dialogue in a milieu of broader social themes.

About the Author

Quinn Tyler Jackson CSci FIScT FRSA has been a silkscreen printer's apprentice, a bookseller's assistant, a gas pumpist, a freelance editor, a literary agent, a researcher, and a Chief Architect, and is currently a Chief Scientist (Mathematics). Jackson is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Chartered Scientist, a Fellow of the Institute of Science & Technology (UK), a Senior Member of both the Association for Computing Machinery and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and a Member of the London Mathematical Society, the American Mathematical Society, and the Writers' Union of Canada. His publication history spans three decades; he has had three novels published in the UK and has had short stories and poetry published in various littles and online journals. Jackson is openly #ActuallyAutistic.

About the Book

This illustrated monograph blends meta-autobiography across diverse forms, such as essays, poetry, short stories, a 42-chapter novel, illustrations, vignettes, and a three-act play, all while remaining a single, self-contained work. Set in Montreal and the West Coast of Canada from the late '80s to the early 2000s, it is an in-context exploration of identity, narrative truth, and the impact of socio-cultural forces on personal experiences. It challenges traditional notions of autobiographical fiction, offering a reflective and intentionally blurred view of the author's life as cast through esthetic filters and functors.

Structure and Content

- **Manuscript length:** 106,000 words
- **Front-matter (12K words):** After two short essays introducing the meta-autobiographical context, the foreword blends personal vignettes of events in the author's then moves to his high school graduation at 18, with broader reflections on narrative and identity.
- **The Novel (60K words):** The novel shifts to the meta-autobiographical protagonist, Conrad, whose journey kaleidoscopically mirrors (but also diverges from) Jackson's experiences, delving into themes of love, loss, and transformation, and reflecting the fluidity between reality and fiction.
- **Back-matter (34K words):** The end materials provide both closure and continuity, using various literary forms to further explore the themes of narrative truth and individual agency.

Key Themes

Metafiction and Self-Agency: The book uses various strategies to disrupt traditional storytelling, placing the author and reader in a subtly implicit but unmistakable dialogue about the nature of truth and experience. As the meta-autobiographical basis underlying the novel, Jackson *could* calibrate the kaleidoscope for the reader but does not, instead acknowledging that the text itself, once published, is set, but the *reader* is the *only* oracle of the work. This is metafiction, but even so, the theatrical fourth wall apparatus of the subgenre is kept *just* outside the field of vision during heavily metafictional passages in order to accentuate rather than abruptly dispel the dreamscape.

Impact on Readers and Society: *Midnight at the Arcanum* aligns with the goals of emancipatory education and the pedagogy of the oppressed in that it strives to empower readers to engage critically with their own stories and those of others, fostering a deeper understanding of the shared human experience. Through its narrative, the book aims to contribute to broader conversations about identity, truth, and storytelling's power to challenge oppositional hegemonic structures.

Philosophical Context

Midnight at the Arcanum: a monograph embraces the philosophy of reclaiming the narrative pedagogy by positioning the meta-autobiographical monograph as a transformative literary form. Aligning with the principles of poststructuralist and deconstructionist thinking, it challenges the boundaries between actual and imagined experiences, advocating through praxis for a fluid interpretation of narrative, identity, and self-driven meaning-making. Jackson harmonizes this with Sartrean existentialism, emphasizing the contingent nature of individual experiences as part of necessary larger social narratives. The reader has absolute interpretative authority to complete the text, while never discounting the constraints arising from the intersectional hegemonies introduced in the text.