

Greetings Club Member

I created a newsletter with illustrations, pictures and links only to discover these are the features the internet's spambots hunt for, potentially relegating my email to junk mail, promotions or worse ... that great dustbin in the electronic ether. So I have to keep to simple text as I'd rather get something to you than nothing at all.

Rant over, let me introduce myself. I live in Johannesburg with my wife (both our daughters are overseas) and am a former soldier, university graduate, Toastmaster, lecturer and banker. I have a borderline insane interest in good books, history and tales of derring-do.

I write action-adventure stories. There's always a journey, frequent action scenes, excitement and risk. Strong male and female characters face high-stakes situations and grow by overcoming the odds. I also respect my target reader's intellect. You appreciate learning something new (as do I) and so my work is research-intense.

What about these newsletters? I want to use them to share aspects of my writing world. Things I've observed and learnt (and continue to learn) along the way. So with that in mind, let's kick off with an old hobby horse of mine: settings.

Settings in stories. Crucial or complementary? What do you think? (Do let me know at colin@colingrieve.com)

In Sci-Fi or fantasy novels, I'd say crucial. But what about action-adventure?

I'd argue it's also important. Very important. When putting a character to the sword what better way is there than to place in him in a boat on a raging sea? Or have her staring death in the face crawling across a desert floor?

And the more exotic, the better. It's the same reason we travel to faraway places on holiday. An innate desire to escape to something new, experience something that stimulates the senses.

But in handling scenes I'd argue there's another 'C': credibility. I'll go into it in my next newsletter.

And after that I'll tell you how a Barracuda in Lisbon Harbour was also a prop in *Darkness Shall Cover You*. What a setting in *Those Who Favour Fire* has in common with, Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker.

All while I'm working on the sequel to, *BRING ME GIANTS*.

And now to some housekeeping.

1. If you had issues downloading your exclusive copy of *Darkness Shall Cover You*, please contact the delivery service provider, Book Funnel. They're very helpful and will resolve any problems.
1. You may prefer a physical copy of a book and in most countries Amazon obliges in a reasonable time and at a fair cost. That's not yet the case in South Africa but Amazon is setting up operations here and these issues should be resolved soon. Until then ebooks are convenient and dirt cheap – and downloading Kindle software to any tablet or laptop is free.

Oh, and you can get both books in the McGavell series at <https://www.colingrieve.com/books/>

Once done please write a review on my Amazon page.

A blessed Easter to those who celebrate.

Colin Grieve

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