

Michael Pendragon is an American writer, poet, editor, and publisher primarily active in the small press (circa 1995–2005).

He was born and raised in a small rural town in southern New Jersey and several of his short stories reflect his early experiences there. After graduating high school, he briefly served in the U.S. Navy in Orlando, Florida. He later worked a variety of jobs including salesman, security guard, short order cook, cashier, construction worker, valet, telemarketer, dishwasher, baker, administrative assistant, and assistant editor for a New York City-based publishing company. His diverse background is also reflected in the variety of characters and situations that appear in his works.

PUBLISHED WORKS (Currently Available at Amazon):

Much of Madness – A novel about a small-scale apocalypse that took place shortly before the first millennium. Part satire, part poetry, and part myth, this unique tome might best be categorized as Magic Realism–Michael Pendragon style.

Into the Night – The collected poetic works of Michael Pendragon. Mostly rhymed–metered verses in a decidedly dark romantic vein.

Collected Short Stories (in the following 3 volumes:

Night Things
The Dead
Beyond the Veil

Pendragonian tales blend horror and speculative fantasy elements with the author's unique brand of gallows humor.

Night Magick – A tragi-comic play written in both blank and rhymed verse. Shakespeare filtered through the sensibilities of Byron.

IN THE WORKS:

The Magic Shadow Show – A philosophical text exploring the metaphysical aspects of the motion picture.

Music! Music! Music! – A musical history book covering the period from the immediate post-WWII years through the early rock 'n' roll era. Intended to be an all-inclusive tome.

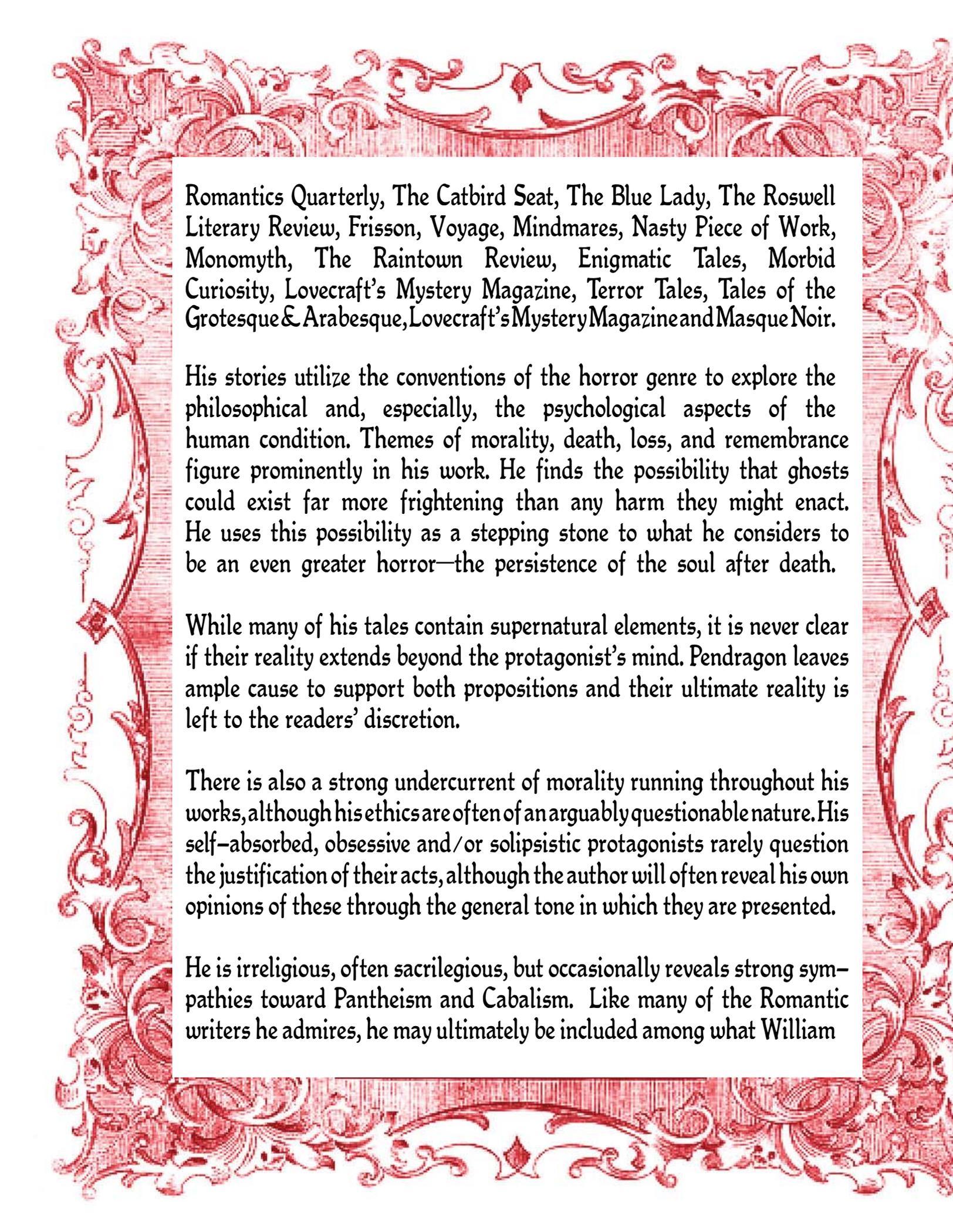
Children of the Night – Originally written as a screenplay, this novel presents the tale of a group of spiritually lost New Yorkers who convince themselves that they are vampires.

OUT OF PRINT:

Nocturne – The collected short stories of Michael Pendragon. Early versions -- since revised and expanded.

CAREER:

Pendragon's short stories and poems have appeared in over 100 publications, including: Edgar: Digested Work, Fantasque, Ocular, The Dream Zone, Event Horizon, Pluto's Orchard,



Romantics Quarterly, The Catbird Seat, The Blue Lady, The Roswell Literary Review, Frisson, Voyage, Mindmares, Nasty Piece of Work, Monomyth, The Raintown Review, Enigmatic Tales, Morbid Curiosity, Lovecraft's Mystery Magazine, Terror Tales, Tales of the Grotesque & Arabesque, Lovecraft's Mystery Magazine and Masque Noir.

His stories utilize the conventions of the horror genre to explore the philosophical and, especially, the psychological aspects of the human condition. Themes of morality, death, loss, and remembrance figure prominently in his work. He finds the possibility that ghosts could exist far more frightening than any harm they might enact. He uses this possibility as a stepping stone to what he considers to be an even greater horror—the persistence of the soul after death.

While many of his tales contain supernatural elements, it is never clear if their reality extends beyond the protagonist's mind. Pendragon leaves ample cause to support both propositions and their ultimate reality is left to the readers' discretion.

There is also a strong undercurrent of morality running throughout his works, although his ethics are often of an arguably questionable nature. His self-absorbed, obsessive and/or solipsistic protagonists rarely question the justification of their acts, although the author will often reveal his own opinions of these through the general tone in which they are presented.

He is irreligious, often sacrilegious, but occasionally reveals strong sympathies toward Pantheism and Cabalism. Like many of the Romantic writers he admires, he may ultimately be included among what William

Blake termed as "the Devil's party".

His poetry is often rhymed-metered and employs such as internal rhyme, alliteration and onomatopoeia. Death, loss, disillusionment, and decay are again his primary themes.

He is strongly influenced by Edgar A. Poe in both his poetry and prose, and he has sometimes been compared to him ("...heralded as the Edgar A. Poe of the new millennium...", *The Threepenny Review*, No.80, Winter 2000, p27).

He attended Jersey City State University (back when it was still a college) where he wrote, directed, and/or acted in several student films in the late 1980s-early 90s, and appeared in small roles in two of the campus' stage productions. He also wrote for the school paper, *The Gothic Times*, and edited their art and literary magazine *Excalibur*.

Pendragon was later the founding editor and publisher of a pair of literary journals: *Penny Dreadful: Tales & Poems of Fantastic Terror*, and *Songs of Innocence & Experience*. Stories and poems from both publications have received honorable mention in various editions of *The Year's Best Fantasy & Horror*, St. Martins Press, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, Eds. Both publications are currently on a more or less permanent hiatus.

He has also published several multi-author anthologies, including *The Bible of Hell*, 2000, and *There is Something in October*, 2005.

He disappeared from the small press scene circa 2005, in order to revise his works.