



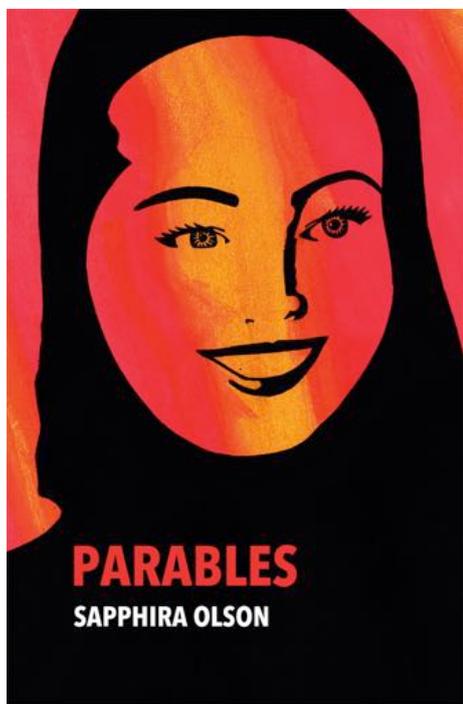
## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Allegories from Sapphira Olson link future and past with imagination reaching out beyond the horizon**

*In a secular world, this collection of intriguing and thought-provoking stories, of the interaction between the mundane and the divine, marks a welcome return by the author Sapphira Olson.*

**DARTFORD, KENT – 18 January 2019 – Elsewhen Press**, an independent UK publisher specialising in Speculative Fiction, is delighted to announce the forthcoming publication of *Parables* by **Sapphira Olson**. *Parables* is a profound and ambitious undertaking by the author of the bestselling book *Humans (An Assortment of Minor Defects)*. Personal tragedy has shaped Sapphira's philosophy and approach, and underscores this unique genre-defying crossover between science fiction, philosophy, theology and humanism.



*Parables* is a collection of stories intended to help illuminate the meaning of one's life to the reader. As Sapphira says in the introduction: "As humans we are propelled forward by our emotions and our subconscious, however much we like to think the rational part of us is the captain of our ship. It is to that emotional core of you that I offer up these parables. They are an imaginary fictional space into which I invite you to step. ... imagined possibilities full of truth, excitement and discovery."

Sapphira Olson's first public recognition came as one of the protagonists in *An Android Awakes*, published in 2015. In 2018, *Fictional Alignment* by author Mike French recounted the tragic events that led to the Altostratus disaster and Sapphira's subsequent abduction by zealots, acting on behalf of the self-styled Bureau for Fictional Alignment, as a direct result of the success of her book *Humans (An Assortment of Minor Defects)*. As the increasingly bizarre sequence of incidents staged by her abductors played out, she met, fell in love with, and eventually married the explorer Umberto Amundsen. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the whole experience caused Sapphira to re-assess the meaning of existence, so she, and Umberto, withdrew from public life for a few years. The result is *Parables*, her first new work since her father's death.

The arresting cover of *Parables* was designed by Umberto Amundsen, as were the many illustrations within the book.

*Parables* will be available on all popular eBook platforms from 22 February 2019. The paperback edition will be available at Easter (22 April 2019).

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*more...*



## Notes for Editors

### About Sapphira Olson

Sapphira Zhanna Olson is the author of the bestselling novel *Humans (An Assortment of Minor Defects)*. Born in Bryansk, Russia, Sapphira is half Russian and half American, her father being born in Minnesota. Tragedy struck early in her life with the death of her twin sister when she was only six weeks old and then again with the tragic loss of her father in the Altostratus disaster.

After the global success of *Humans*, Sapphira withdrew from public life for a number of years and *Parables* is her first work since then. When not writing, she spends her time scuba diving and exploring, with her husband, the cold wastelands of Antarctica.

Readers first met Sapphira in the 2015 ground-breaking *An Android Awakes* collaboration between author Mike French and artist Karl Brown. In that book, a satire set in the fashionably-predicted future where Artificial Intelligence has replaced humans as the source of culture, Android Writer PD121928 attempts to have a novel published but is only allowed 42 rejected submissions before being terminated. In 2018, in Mike French's *Fictional Alignment*, we discovered that Sapphira, who had been in love with the android writer, wrote *Humans (An Arrangement of Minor Defects)* based on the stories PD121928 told her on the night they first met. Published by the Altostratus publishing house in 2283, and marketed as the first work of fiction by a human for over a hundred years, *Humans* was a bestseller. As a result, a handful of zealot androids massacred the Senate and formed a new regime fuelled with a passion to eradicate the evil of fiction from android society. Unable to remove the impact of Sapphira's novel, they kidnapped Sapphira and forced her to work with an oddball team travelling back in time to enact the events of the stories in her book – thus ensuring that they were historical records rather than fiction: the ultimate implementation of fake news.

Visit [bit.ly/Parables-Olson](http://bit.ly/Parables-Olson)

### About Mike French

Mike French was the owner and senior editor of the prestigious literary magazine *The View From Here* during its life from 2007 to 2014. His debut novel in 2011 was nominated for a Galaxy National Book Award. Since then he has had five novels published by Elsewhen Press. Born in Cornwall in 1967, Mike spent his childhood flipping between England and Scotland with a few years in between in Singapore. Mike is married with three children. He currently lives in Luton in the UK and when not writing, watches Formula 1, eats Ben & Jerry's Phish Food and listens to Gorillaz.

### About Elsewhen Press

Elsewhen Press is an independent publisher of Speculative Fiction. Based in the UK, in the South East of England, Elsewhen Press publishes titles in English in digital and print editions, adopting a digital-first policy for most titles. Elsewhen Press is an imprint of Alnpete Limited.

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