

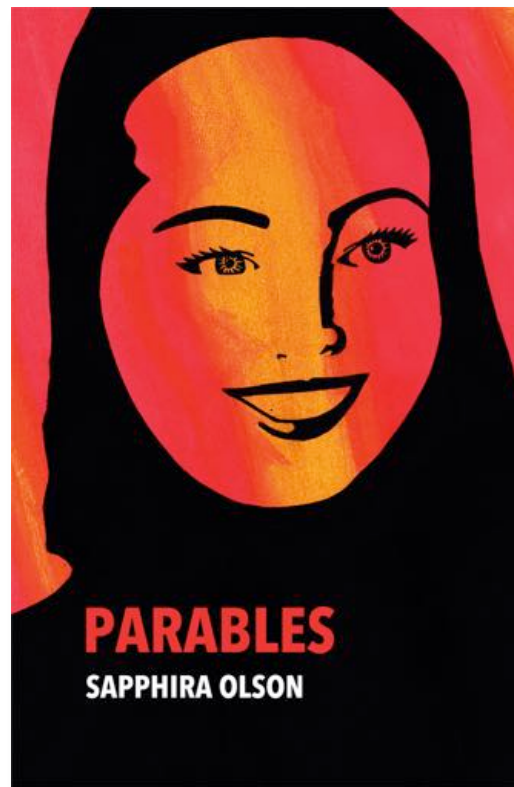


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It is summer. The grapes have grown ripe on the vine. You sit and listen under the shade of the olive tree as Jesus and the Greek God of the grape harvest Dionysus drink together and weave parables into your imagination.

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. Allegories that link future and past with imagination reaching out beyond the horizon, intended to help illuminate the meaning of one's life to the reader. "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.

Visit bit.ly/Parables-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.

* Published by Altostratus, 2283

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