

W. Owens

### Author Spotlight: Brian Lumley

I enjoyed discovering, meeting, reading, and sharing self-published authors in 2023. I hope you did as well. These two years of featuring fellow writer worker bees have been a blast and I'm going to keep it going for 2024.

**Note:** Especially since I'm currently gobbling up two books at a time and want to tell someone about them. 😊

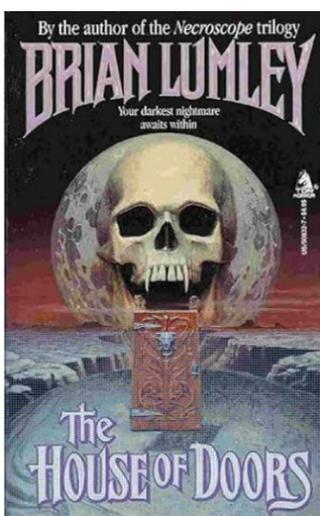
Has anyone heard of Brian Lumley? Some of you probably do as he is most famous for the Necroscope series. It was the 90's and B. Dalton bookstore at my local mall was my go-to spot. I was itching for something new to read and the below cover drew me in. *The House of Doors* is all about dimensions and machines, and a group of people trying to make sense of an unnatural invasion and the possibility of the end of the world as we knew it.

What better way to start 2024 with a blast from my high school past that introduced me to the realm of Science Fiction.

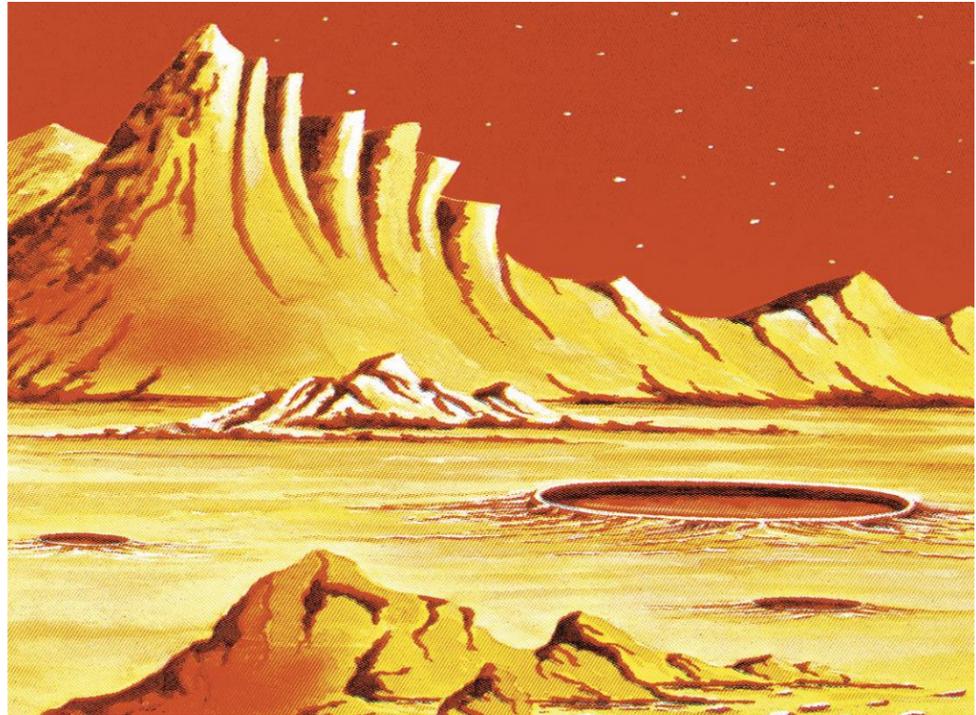
Since I will be setting myself a personal bar of reading and featuring both indie and published authors each month, I'll be tackling this with a theme in mind surrounding a specific genre.

**Note:** Check out my mini article on your right-hand side to see what I'm talking about in detail.

It's going to be so much fun!!



[The House of Doors by Lumley, Brian \(amazon.com\)](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0312920000)



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### The Science Fiction High

Did you know that January 2 is National Science Fiction Day? I was not aware this was a thing, and I must have been under a rock this whole time if even The Hallmark Channel recognized the day.

**Note:** The things I learn.

I mean, so of course, I will celebrate it by immersing myself in movies and a book. A marathon if you will. But boy o boy, I'm not sure where I can start, so I'll back up a bit. Let's look at the beginning because of course, that learning something new idea rocks...

Science Fiction is a written concept that brings forth many futuristic ideas like technology, space, time, and the bigger word- extraterrestrial lifeforms then swirls the ideas into our human existence. It is a relative to fantasy and horror genres because it can skate between those two imaginations. Because of this, many sub-genres can be created.

**Note:** Most if not all of these ideals have taken extreme importance in our real life, specifically, technology.

In doing some research, I discovered that Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley is considered to be the first author of Sci-fi. Though others proceeded her and there have been discussions about the validity of her *Frankenstein* and *The Last Man* books, she is considered the writer who helped fully form and bring inspiration to the genre to what it has become today.

I feel like I need to read one of these works of fiction, just to see how the genre has evolved since back then.

Feel free to join in on the fun tomorrow and let me know what fun titles you find, read, or even watch. I'm all ears.

Until next time! 😊

**Extra Note:** I realized that I left an extra paragraph about NaNoWriMo in last month's issue that was, oh I don't know, part of November's issue. \*\* And that's what happens when you get worded out and are ready for a staycation. \*\* Oops 😊

### Word Of The Month

Miasma

[www.worddaily.com](http://www.worddaily.com)

**noun-** A highly unpleasant or unhealthy smell or vapor. An oppressive or unpleasant atmosphere that surrounds or emanates from something. *The miasma after the septic tank situation made our eyes water and noses burn.*

### Scoop Of The Month

2024 is here!!

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A new year brings fresh ideas for artistry. I'm totally down to get those expressive vibes going. Have any writing goals for 2024?

### Nerd Alert

The Truth about Amazon's Alexa

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The Library of Alexandria in Egypt was one of the inspirations behind the name 'Alexa' being used. This location is said to have held the "wealth of humankind's accumulated knowledge in the ancient world."

[www.interestingfacts.com](http://www.interestingfacts.com)