

Synopsis of S. A. Clark's
THE GUARDING (Part I of *The Revelation Trilogy*)
Speculative Fiction – approximately 145,000 words

Twenty-three-year-old redheaded dynamo Maggie Claymore had the perfect job with an aerospace giant in southern California. Then she was laid off, and now three vicious terrorist factions are trying to kill her. The first in a series of grisly murders leads to an unexpected offer from the mysterious Inspector “Chopper” Bassett.

Maggie reluctantly accepts Bassett’s offer and finds herself involved in Project Aviary, an anti-terrorist task force involving the FBI, CIA, and NRO, headed by Admiral Atticus Wells. Other new recruits to the task force from a clandestine defense systems firm are Lance Ryan (an engineering supervisor) and Gabe Gutzman (an engineering team leader). Both are attracted to Maggie, but she spurns their advances.

As the trio are briefed into Project Aviary, they learn that the U.S. President is faced with a \$1 billion ransom demand due in 11 days, the threatened murder of five senior government executives, and the theft of weapons-grade uranium. Initially only one terrorist group (The IBIS Faction) claims responsibility. However, the task force discovers that two additional layers of terrorist groups exist beneath IBIS, with all three terrorist organizations being manipulated by interstellar saurian (lizard-like) mercenaries known as the Krellen.

The far-reaching tentacles of the emerging triple terrorist threat facing Maggie’s team are tightly intertwined with a clandestine interstellar conflict on present-day U.S. soil. The actions of these mercenaries threaten the security of the United States. After Maggie’s mother is also viciously murdered, Maggie discovers her true family heritage lies with another interstellar race that is fighting the mercenaries. However, Maggie’s ancestral roots mark her as a primary target for Krellen assassination squads.

To make matters worse, after several Federal Agents are inexplicably assassinated, Admiral Wells declares Maggie, Gabe and Lance to be double agents, resulting in both the Krellen and the FBI trying to eliminate them.

While being pursued themselves, Maggie and her team track the terrorist mercenaries in a cross-country odyssey from Washington, DC, to Los Angeles, California. During this journey, Maggie’s team faces three violent battles with the terrorists, culminating in a final showdown at a secret government uranium storage facility where the Krellen are equipped with powerful weaponry. After losing several teammates, Maggie is badly wounded...



By the end of the story will Maggie be able to overcome past demons, bring her parents’ murderers to justice, and embrace her true heritage? Will she fall for Lance, Gabe or neither? Will she beat the Krellen in the race to find the microcode? Will her Lyran past affect the future? And what is the secret behind the stolen medallion?

The manuscript is complete, and the author is currently in search of the right agent for this work. Progress toward publication of the complete novel will be posted on the author’s blog.