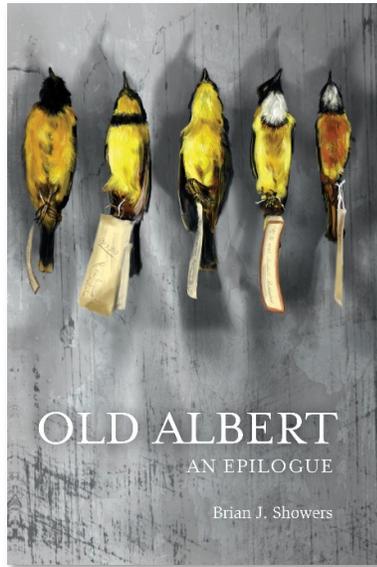


# SWAN RIVER PRESS



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**BRIAN J. SHOWERS** is originally from Madison, Wisconsin. He has written short stories, articles, and reviews for magazines such as *Rue Morgue*, *Ghosts & Scholars*, and *Supernatural Tales*. His short story collection, *The Bleeding Horse*, won the Children of the Night Award. He is also the author of *Literary Walking Tours of Gothic Dublin*, the co-editor of *Reflections in a Glass Darkly: Essays on J. Sheridan Le Fanu*, and the editor of *The Green Book*. Showers also edited the Ghost Story Award-winning anthology *Dreams of Shadow and Smoke*. He lives in Dublin, Ireland.

## OLD ALBERT

AN EPILOGUE

**Brian J. Showers**

*“If dear Old Albert finds you, / Still your tongue, be still your tongue.”*

– School Rhyme

The place is Larkhill House, and during its century and a half of existence it has hosted an array of peculiar tenants: the reclusive though brilliant ornithologist Ellis Grimwood; a murderous wine merchant and his young wife; and the Sacred Order of the Mysteries of Thoth, who re-christened Larkhill the “New Temple of Abtiti” and practised there their outlandish and mystical rites. After vacating Larkhill, these individuals—all of them—left something of themselves behind . . . Set in the same haunted neighbourhood as the stories in the award-winning collection *The Bleeding Horse*, *Old Albert* continues with the idea that not all is well in the leafy Victorian suburb of Rathmines, Dublin.

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“A Note to the Reader” by Jim Rockhill

I. Prologue

II. Ellis Grimwood of Larkhill

III. This Terrible, This Unnatural Crime

IV. An Exaltation of Skylarks

V. Thin and Brittle Bones

VI. Come Like Shadows, So Depart

“An Afterword” by Adam Golaski

### REVIEWS

*“What opens as exposition almost too dry, soon flowers into a beautiful mystery . . . The prose is excellently concise and the mood appropriately ominous.”*

– The Pan Review

*“Showers fills his stories with notes that mimic reality but may or may not be based in reality . . . a striking reading experience.”*

– The Agony Column

*“Old Albert is a strange and troubling book, and in many ways a brilliant one.”*

– Le Fanu Studies

*“I wish more books irritated, confused, and held my attention throughout (and afterwards) as this slender volume did with what seemed to be little or no effort.”*

– Dead Reckonings

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