

# MONTAGE OF A MAUVE REALITY

By Thomas James Taylor

**The Busker:** Just another wandering minstrel?

**Locomotive Breath:** Not only a great song by Jethro Tull but also a frantic day-in-the-life story when it all just seems to go wrong.

**Dark Gallery:** We all have regrets, don't we? What happens to all those bad memories when we keep them suppressed?

**Seeds of Dissent:** The function of government is to facilitate the democratic view of what an ideal society ought to be, but how do our younger citizens feel about the decisions being made? After all, today's decisions do become their inheritance.

**Bastards:** Honesty and integrity—still admirable traits in modern society, or has it become acceptable to trade them off in the pursuit of wealth, success, and self-gratification?

**The Gravity of Elm's Situation:** For every life a separate reality.

~ Nineteen thought-provoking stories on almost as many subjects! ~



This collection contains my very first scribbles, when I realised that if I did not depart from the self-destructive path I was on, the future would not be stretching very much further for me. The stories and accounts within are what emerged from of a mind in turmoil; eighteen constructs hastily reported as they were viewed, playing out in the theatre of the mind.

Few are constructed stories; being the teetering first steps of a writer in training and reaching for a new way of life, not knowing a hell of a lot about the art. The remainders are memories and impromptu conjurings, hastily written down as they played out for me, shaped somewhat by the benefit of hindsight, and leaving me to wonder about the nature of the human animal and the mechanisms of the imagination. It has taken me far too long to revisit the short story format, *a format so well suited to existential concerns*. But at last, in 2021 I was again able to return to the short story with enormous delight!