

AYLCEE TARHA

CLARA AND THE STONE CIRCLE

Fantasy Tale



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Book Summary

Clara loves adventures! She's an intrepid child who, accompanied by her classmate Jean-Loup, sets out to discover extraordinary secrets hidden by the 'stone circle'. Many adventures await them!

The Author

I, Aylcée Tarha, have decided to speak directly to adults, parents of young children and teenagers. A storyteller before being a novelist, my imagination is put to the service of liberated writing.

NB:

Defending freedom of expression, I leave it to these parents and readers to decide the content of my works by encouraging them to read them first. You are responsible for their intellectual structure.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dualities, a romantic novel
- Clara, a Witch's Love, a fantasy tale
- Clara and the Stone Circle, a fantasy tale
- The Watchtower, a fantasy novel
- The Elemental Peoples, a collection of tales
- Lost Stories, a text collection
- Epidamus, a fantasy novel

DEDICATION

To all parents who love stories to read to their precious little ones whose imaginations need to be shaped and molded.

This text can be downloaded FREE of charge directly from my website by adults, parents, family members, friends, etc., who remain solely responsible for opening the minds of their children (specifically, those between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, in their teens).

I am an independent author and editor.

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PROLOGUE

Clara loved playing with the forest animals: squirrels, fawns, owls... They repaid her a hundredfold. Among them was Coldou, a young wild swan. He thanked her in his own way by taking her to the village primary school every morning and bringing her home every evening. She had taken him in, cared for, and tamed him when he was just a very clumsy baby, and since then, they have maintained a strong and lasting friendship.

To fly with him among his feathers, she had relied on a ritual to shrink herself: chewing a mandrake leaf!

She lived in a small stone and wood house that she shared with her grandmother Béa and her mother Gaby. Clara had nicknamed this home 'her refuge.' It was an old lumberjack's cabin that offered cozy spaces, giving a sense of independence to the trio living there. She also had a host of aunts and cousins, witches who visited them four times a year.

Clara was a good student, studious and thoughtful, calm and mischievous. She also had Jean-Loup, a classmate, as a companion for play, schoolwork, and adventures. She was due to submit a collaborative essay to their teacher in the coming weeks, in active collaboration with him. The subject fascinated them (read Clara, a Witch's Love), even though it proved tricky.

They were happy to meet several times in the clearing next to the little girl's home. She then insisted on inviting him to this special spot she had discovered, naming it 'the stone circle'. From this green gap, they followed a path leading up to the high plateau where they had a magnificent view. There stood these standing stones, menhirs placed in a circle around a dolmen.

'What a luminous, idyllic place!' whispered Jean-Loup, beaming.

Dolmens and menhirs are blocks of rock known as megaliths, with several meanings and uses for the Celts. A menhir is a stone placed vertically, generally set in a circle, in alignment, or in a rectangle depending on the tribe, the location, the customs, and the era. Standing upright, a menhir can form a spiritual path, as in Carnac, a region of Brittany, France.

The dolmen is composed of three stones, one large, forming a table, and two smaller ones whose tops collapse to accommodate the plate, serving as an altar for various druidic rites. Advisors would climb on them to harangue the crowd on the eve of important battles. Some of these structures were believed to be the tombs of chiefs, noble families, epic heroes, or renowned druids.

Often beneath the altar, a hollow basement was inspected by the victors because treasures were piled there. If these sites were themselves buried under stones, they are called 'cairns' in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England. If they are buried under earth, they are called mounds. They sometimes indicated crossroads, boundaries between tribes, places of cultural gatherings, etc.

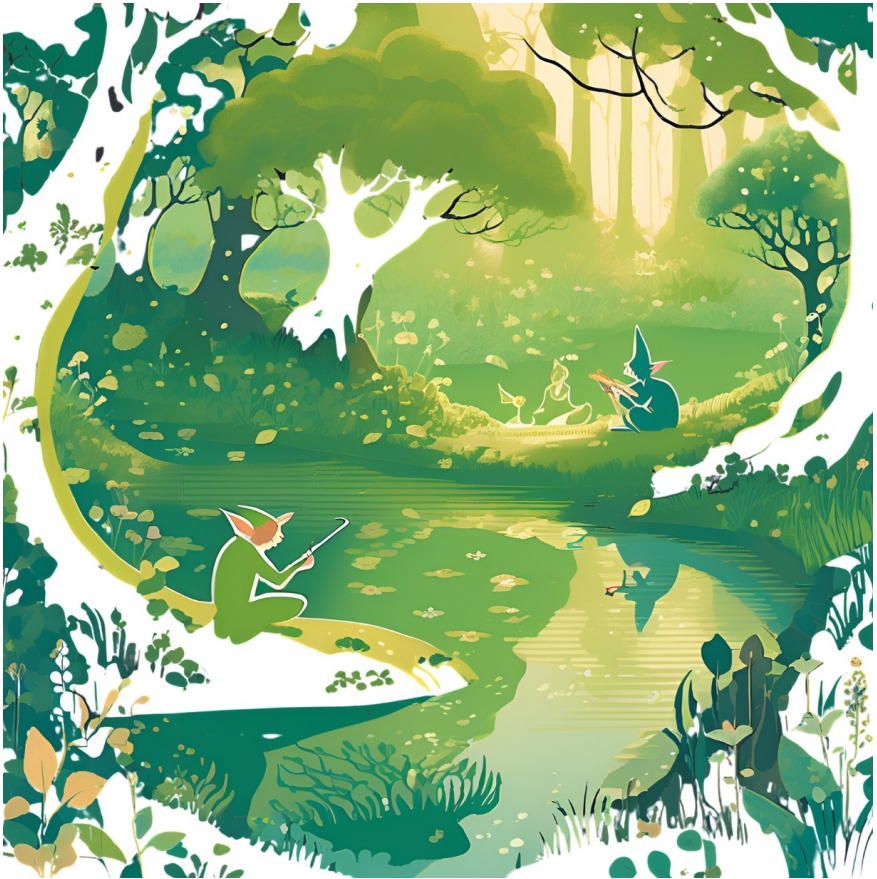
The greatest sorcerer, magician, and seer was Merlin the Enchanter!

He was King Arthur's advisor, leader of the Knights of the Round Table, whom he sent in search of the Holy Grail (sacred cup), and husband of Lady Guinevere, Lancelot's lover. This high druid married Gwendoline, whose sister-in-law he preferred. He madly loved the Lady of the Lake, the fairy Viviane, who betrayed him by locking him away for eternity out of jealousy. The fairy-witch, Arthur's half-sister, Morgane, adored this man irrevocably.

All these events took place within the forest of Brocéliande, near Tintagel Castle, the legendary Camelot, in Celtic Cornwall. In Ille-et-Vilaine, a region of Brittany in France, a forest of the same name is visited for its Valley of No Return, where Merlin's tomb is said to be located, Viviane's Lake, and

the Fairy Stone. The ruins of a haunted castle are also found there... to the sound of chains...

There you will come across frogs, newts, bats and... each of the Elemental peoples: unicorn, undine, elf and goblin!



Part 1

The 'stone circle' perfectly embodies this rather open space, where the free-spirited flights of crows, cawing at regular intervals, shrilly blend with the dull atmosphere reigning above these boulders. These 'protectors' stand tall, proudly raising their points toward the sky. Coldou, smoothing his immaculate plumage with his black beak, is never far from his friend Clara, remaining vigilant.

The sun gradually warms this isolated bucolic corner.

It is also here that her grandmother, across several generations, reconnected with her identity and love, and where Clara received her magic wand from the hands of the Great Initiator! Here, the little girl guides her privileged young companion: silence being conducive to duty, her self-sufficiency offers a beautiful retreat to write quietly, perfectly suited to them both. Jean-Loup knows not to speak, not to see, as her guardian.

She has great confidence in him. And he'd sooner be flayed alive than reveal anything against her. She constantly surprised him! He was truly beginning to appreciate her and love her brotherly! At the final bend in the almost imperceptible path, they emerge onto this esplanade from time immemorial, one smiling and mischievous while the other exclaims in admiration: 'How strangely extraordinary these things are!'

The superb rocks, carved and anchored to the ground in an imperfect circle, are truly astonishing, at the foot of which herbs, spices, and flowers grow anarchically. To the right, at the far end of the view, lies a thorny gap through which, much lower down, we can see 'scale model' houses belonging to the neighboring village. We enter another universe, an indefinable space-time!

The children sit directly on the dolmen, a flat surface weathered by the weather. From there, they have a diverse view of distant horizons, like a colorful kaleidoscope of the