

Here's something different if that's what you're looking for.

Brian Marley's "The Shenanigans" is a collection of short stories (some less than a page long) written with a very different dramatic structure to the conventional exposition/development/resolution template that we tend to expect.

I'm not even sure what to call it - my understanding of Stream of Consciousness writing is that it can entirely do away with regular syntax.

This is not that. It is totally coherent from start to finish, but each "story" simply evolves and evolves, with precious little inclination to refer back to anything that had happened previously. I'm sure we've all had dreams like this.

It might have got tiresome were it not for Marley's seemingly limitless imagination. Really quite extraordinary, and given you're now forewarned, you won't do as I did and spend half the book trying to keep various characters and events in your mind for when they return. They rarely do, and you can possibly enjoy the book even more than me if you go into it with this knowledge from the outset. (You're welcome.) You just turn every page entranced by the bizarre endless shifts before your eyes.

(I guess I should have figured this was no ordinary book. After all, it opens with an Acknowledgements section that runs for 35 pages.)

The Shenanigans is published by a UK micro-press called Grand Iota, who work on a financial model not unlike crowdfunding. When a new release is in the offing, they notify their mailing list, and if you pre-order your copy, it will come with your name printed in a list of supporters at the back of a book. Your name in a book!

Anyway, do check it out if you want to try something a little off the mainstream, but thoroughly engaging.

Lloyd Swanton, ABC Book Club (Australia)