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ABOUT THE BOOK

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Q & A with Brad Goodman
Owner, Blue World Publications

What is this book?

Selected Shorts and Other Methods of Time Travel is a collection of 37 twisted short stories about commercial time travel and the grave misfortune it will bring.

What is this book about, really?

For the most part, this book lengthens fascinations and questions that author David Goodberg grew up with and still finds himself asking. I think the best way to describe the book in a short answer is that it is a classic example of science fiction: extraordinary settings for ordinary occurrence, no matter how hidden, that helps us look at our own lives from a different angle. This book is about extremes and the adventurous tales of far flung worlds and dimensions: both the good and bad, but mostly, the bad and heavily conflicted scenarios.

What format is this book available in and where can it be purchased?

Hardcover and in virtually all ebook formats - available everywhere online and select independent book stores.

This book is printed on 100% recycled paper - how did you come across this decision?

This was an exciting option to finalize because it was the most environmental stance we could take with our paper. You don't see books printed on 100% recycled paper often (let alone high quality recycled paper). A lot of paper and resources go into the production of a book and when looking at our options for choosing not just the paper but also the printer, we wanted to ensure we didn't go with the cheapest option for the sake of saving money. While the cheapest paper available is 0% recycled, we opted for a more expensive route with our 100% recycled paper and love the quality.

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What genre does this fit into?

Generalized it's a book of fiction. While travel travel is a constant theme, the environment is reliant off scenarios and characters, not fantasy, which is a large percentage of science fiction books. But really - it's a book of time travel, space exploration, and the future: it's science fiction.

Is there a target age group?

This is a book for anyone who enjoys science fiction and adventure. It is not intended to be for a specific age group: it is as welcoming for adults as it is for young adults.

Who drew the illustrations for the book?

All illustrations in the book are original concepts by Antonio Deleo, who is an artist, writer and actor. He and author David Goodberg met at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and have been good friends since.

What's Next?

We are developing a few manuscripts and depending on what happens with Shorts will tell how quickly we can jump into our next book. We have lots of very educational and adventurous books to publish.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Q & A with David Goodberg

Why Time Travel?

It's an extreme, which I love to play with. I enjoy extremes because they allow me to explore simple situations by placing them into foreign and relatively complex environments. By doing so, it allows us to take a step back from a possible mundane routine or story and look at it from a different perspective (one of science fiction) and create something fascinating. Also, time travel is a very fun topic. The possibilities and adventures through time travel are endless.

Who did you write this book for and did you have any inspirations?

I didn't write this book with an audience in mind. In fact, I had most of it written before I had the concept of them being published. I have been writing and keeping journals of thoughts and experiences since I was young and this book stemmed from a series of quick stories I wrote to expand basic questions I always seem to ask myself: how would I make my millions if I could travel back in time? How would I teach technology and electronics to someone from the 1800s? How would I communicate with an exact double of my self from another dimension? How great would it be if there was a voice in my head that only I could hear that told me the answer to all questions and problems, both great and small?

I remember when I first read Ray Bradbury's 'A Sound of Thunder' and was instantly enthralled. I began reading his other books and short stories and expanded to everything else science fiction. I can easily say that my greatest influences are Roald Dahl books and The Simpsons, which I grew up watching and reading. I recently began reading books on astrobiology, which gives me many new ideas about life and planetary exploration.

I found your your youtube page with some pretty hilarious videos, especially LOST babies. Will there be more?

Yes. I haven't made a new LOST Babies in a very long time as I've been extremely occupied with this book. I hope to get back on making more as soon as possible.

How did you decide on the title for this book?

When I was in college a friend of mine was in a film history class that screened films. She told me one day that she stupidly asked several people in the class what film was called "Selected Shorts" as she never heard of it before. Turns out, the syllabus said 'Selected Shorts' referring to the screening of several short films. This made me laugh and it stuck with me. Ironically, the following semester I was in a history of film comedy class and was baffled by one of the films on the syllabus: Final Exam. I never heard of it! I even looked it up on IMDB and didn't figure it out until I asked someone what it was, being the final exam for the class on the last day.

That being said, I always remembered that double meaning and wanted to incorporate it into the title. My idea for the story 'Selected Shorts' was planned out except for the time travel agent. I quickly put two and two together to create a title that mentioned time travel, the layout of the book, and a silly time travel agent with a double meaning.

This is your first book - what was the process like?

I loved writing this book. The majority of these stories I wrote for fun to keep myself creatively occupied and to assist in logging the many random ideas in my head. Being my first book, this experience was quite the adventure. The process of writing was a passion of mine and is something I will always do. I will continue to write and if I can manage to do it full-time I will be a happy camper.

Is time travel real?

Of course. You are traveling time right now, we all are. Unfortunately we have only determined time travel at a mere fraction of a second at this point (satellites, high speed planes) but somewhere down the road we will figure out how to travel into the future. I think traveling into the past is very unlikely as much as I would like to see it happen.

Why are some of your short stories very short and some quite long?

The longer stories in the book tend to be more adventurous in nature. Most of the stories are situational and present a conflict of interest or problem and these longer stories involve more events and additional elements of narration. The shortest of the stories are more concise ideas; they are situations or questions I tend to ask myself expanded into a simple (or short-complex) situation.

What do you read?

I read a lot of astrobiology and current affairs non-fiction books. I find that these pique my interest and imagination with how society functions and what the real dramas/problems of the world are while still presenting theories of the unknown. The cultural affairs presents the facts to how we live and astrobiology offers hope that we can survive on other planets (and possibly other life forms do too). While I grew up reading Roald Dahl and Ray Bradbury, I have recently begun reading Asimov and enjoy his books. I have a few collections of science fiction short stories from a variety of authors (some compilations) and enjoy those.

Your book exemplifies different theories and methods of time travel. Do you believe one is superior to another?

Not necessarily. Scientifically, I don't think traveling back in time is possible. Our perception of time is a little off from the reality of existence. With advanced technology, it will be possible to travel into the future.

In regards to my stories and theories, I love to explore all different possibilities and don't entertain what could or would be more possible when we have the technology to do so. In fact, some stories contradict the laws of time travel in other stories - it all depends what approach you take when traveling through time. One aspect I do not enjoy in any time travel story or movie is the aspect of return time travel and everything being perfectly ready for your return (mainly, the non-existence of YOU in the new dimension). If you travel into another time or dimension and then "return" to your perceived present, it will still be a brand new dimension - a dimension where you still exist and therefore, have no place entering because you will then be an unnecessary duplicate barging in to a place you don't belong.

This book is filled with very fun cartoons/illustrations. How did you decide in adding artwork and how did you select the artist?

Illustrations are fun. The fact that this is a book of short stories that are more silly and adventurous in nature than something serious, I think it adds to the experience the book is creating for the reader. In addition, it's science fiction and about time travel, which almost demand illustrations and added visuals. Overall, I think Roald Dahl's books were the greatest creative influences for me when it comes to books, which were full of original illustrations that added to the story - I saw it as a necessity.

Antonio Deleo is the illustrator of the book and we met as students at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In the residence hall, he would draw amazing caricatures of students on their dry erase boards that hung on their door and I always new he had a unique style.

Do you believe in space aliens?

I find it nearly impossible to believe that with such a vast universe of billions and billions of stars that we are the only planet with intelligent life. While it's rare that planets will produce intelligent life, there are billions upon billions of stars, which means they are out there. Maybe not in large numbers or nearby, but they are there. As much as I'd love it to be fact though, I doubt they are living among us. The reasons for any intelligent civilization to not communicate with us far outweighs the reasons for.

What do you want a reader to get out of reading this book?

Enjoy reading it! I want everyone to stay adventurous with an active imagination. It's healthy to travel to far distances in the universe without the aid of a television. Daydreaming is a form of meditation and I find it to be quite refreshing and important.

What are your skills/hobbies aside from writing?

Playing soccer, maintaining my garden, and exploring. My garden is my newest hobby. Since moving to Los Angeles I have become somewhat addicted to growing more and more things, mainly rare fruits and vegetables, which are easy to grow in Los Angeles.

What's next?

I am always writing, but I don't know what is next. I have a few screenplays and a few manuscripts in the works but I don't know what will be the next thing I push to the next step. Much of my time is spent constantly updating notes for a novel about a group of teenagers who are shipwrecked on an uncharted planet, acting as a nice cross between Lord of the Flies, Hatchet, Guns Germs and Steel, and LOST. Otherwise, I am always writing - ranging from a children's book to materials for adults and teenagers.

I love satire and extremes, not just because they tend to be more zany and imaginative, but because they are also an excellent gateway for social commentary.

What advice would you give an aspiring writer?

Write. And write without worrying about spelling, grammar or details. Get all your ideas out there and then you can go back and worry about the nitty gritty details and grammar and what to do with everything. Unlike a lot of creative endeavors, writing is a "free" activity. As long as you have the time available and a computer, you don't need to exhaust your resources on equipment, supplies, assistance - it's all you. Just write!