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Bed: Stories

By Tao Lin

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College students, recent graduates, and their parents work at Denny's, volunteer at a public library in suburban Florida, attend satanic ska/punk concerts, eat Chinese food with the homeless of New York City, and go to the same Japanese restaurant in Manhattan three times in two sleepless days, all while yearning constantly for love, a better kind of love, or something better than love, things which—much like the Loch Ness Monster—they know probably do not exist, but are rumored to exist and therefore “good enough.”

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This set of nine pseudo-autobiographical, woe-is-our-generation absurdist tales updates Oblamov for worried 21st century slackerdom. Lin's characters will be familiar to MySpace denizens, whether they're struggling through college in a busy city, stifling in an exhausted relationship just for the body heat, or missing their parents (but not knowing how to tell them without sounding as if asking for money). Settings are cheekily vague: "Love Is A Thing On Sale For More Money Than Exists," about a much-needed break-up, takes place during "the month that people began to suspect terrorists had infiltrated Middle America," while "Nine, Ten," a love story about two nine-year-olds and their divorced parents, occurs during the year that people "got a bit careless." As precocious children, depressing descriptions of urban pollution and beached marine life pile up, it becomes clear that Lin's subject is the inadequacy of conventional tools and wisdom for coping with the era of the War on Terror: "Was the future now? Or was it coming up still?... all that was promised... was not here, and would probably never be here. They had lied. Someone had lied." Such observations make the flat, matter-of-fact prose and aimless pop culture references come into vivid focus.

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Review

"In structure and tone, [the stories in *Bed*] have the feel of early Lorrie Moore and Deborah Eisenberg. Like Moore's characters, there are a lot of plays on language and within each story, a return to the same images or ideas--or jokes. And like Moore, most of these characters live in New York, are unemployed or recently employed, and are originally from somewhere more provincial (Florida in Lin's case, Wisconsin in Moore's). However, Lin knows to dig a little deeper into his characters--something we see in Moore's later stories, but less so in her early ones."

--Jennifer Bassett, *KGB Bar Lit*

"Tao Lin writes from moods that less radical writers would let pass—from laziness, from vacancy, from boredom. And it turns out that his report from these places is moving and necessary, not to mention frequently hilarious."

—Miranda July, author of *No One Belongs Here More Than You*

About the Author

Tao Lin (b.1983) is the author of 7 books of fiction/poetry. His third novel *Taipei* will be published by Vintage on 4 Jun 2013. He lives in Manhattan.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Scott Anderson:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the concept *Bed: Stories* suitable to you? The actual book was written by well-known writer in this era. The particular book untitled *Bed: Stories* is a single of several books that will everyone read now. That book was inspired many people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know before. The author explained their idea in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to understand the core of this publication. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So that you can see

the represented of the world on this book.

Kelly Gomes:

The publication untitled Bed: Stories is the publication that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the reserve content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, so the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of Bed: Stories from the publisher to make you more enjoy free time.

Thomas Gonzalez:

The reason why? Because this Bed: Stories is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap that but latter it will shock you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I were you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Jessica Harris:

This Bed: Stories is great e-book for you because the content which can be full of information for you who else always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This book reveal it information accurately using great organize word or we can point out no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but tough core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having Bed: Stories in your hand like getting the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no publication that offer you world in ten or fifteen second right but this reserve already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt that?

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