



My Name Is Dee

Robin Wyatt Dunn

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Who is Dee, and what is he doing? One brave author follows this tortured soul in a work of astounding complexity and perplexity.

My Name is Dee is either a groundbreaking piece of science fiction with a unique language, style, and thought process, or it's a rambling Babel of confusing non sequiturs and seemingly random episodes. This is a book that readers will either love or find frustrating—there is no room for the in-between.

Robin Wyatt Dunn is a brave writer, one who seeks to emulate his literary role model, Kim Stanley Robinson. In doing so, however, he has put before the world a work of astounding complexity and perplexity. *My Name is Dee* has a plot and story, but it is not an easy one to find or follow.

A mercenary and magician who fights battles in his mind and on the streets of Los Angeles, Dunn's John Dee is a hard man to get to know. How much of what this character goes through is real or imagined, authentic or drug-induced, is not made clear in the writing, including bizarre characters and occurrences from this and another dimension. All the while, Dee mouths such laments as, "Why couldn't I have moved to a nice simple town? Des Moines?"

As for how these interdimensional beings came to Los Angeles, Dee blames the "Church of S." of whom he ponders: "Who's to say their alien worship didn't bring our little green friends from another dimension that much closer to our wavelengths?"

There is nothing linear about the story, which jumps about more rapidly than the aliens themselves. Dee is obviously a tortured and tormented soul, unsure of what to do and where to go, or of how to relate to his girlfriend, Sandra, a writer of science fiction who may serve as the author's alter ego in the book.

There are characters that speak in gibberish, rap, or Beat poetry (there is even a character called "Beat poet man"). The main character frequently speaks directly to the reader or responds to voices answering questions only he can hear. The result is a book inundated with non sequiturs, tangential diatribes, one-sided arguments, and references to people, places, and things that have no obvious or apparent connection to the book. Boethius of Byzantium, for example, may have been well known as an educator, statesman, and philosopher back in his day, but that day was over 1,500 years ago. A little exposition in places would really be helpful, but neither Dee's character nor the author appear to be the helpful type.

MARK MCLAUGHLIN (Fall 2013)

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