



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Publication Date: February 2007
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Dalton Publishing announces the release of Robert Stikmanz's *Prelude to a Change of Mind: The First Book in The Lands of Nod*. (Trade paperback, 168 pages, 13.95)

Where realities crossbreed.

When the fate of the world hangs in the balance, there is little a woman will not do. It's just that sex with an elf isn't usually at the top of the list.

At the dawn of the nuclear age a young woman faces a terrifying new world, one in which her sanity seems to be the first casualty. Feverish and alone in an isolated outpost in the American west, Meg Christmas encounters strange healing creatures led seemingly by a pot-smoking, poetry-spouting dwarf with a keen eye for budding sexuality and a disconcerting way of appearing and disappearing out of thin air. More disturbing, an old woman tells Meg the price she must pay for her unorthodox healing is not her soul, but the bearing of a child who may be destined to save not merely the world, but the universe itself.

In this first in a series of fantastic fictions, artist and visionary Robert Stikmanz introduces us to parallel universes, tribal time-traveling dwarves, monomaniacal space generals, garrulous cross-breeds, and a race of elf-like creatures called thrm whose only language is a sort of purring compassion punctuated by furious and orgiastic sexual frolic. The thrm also hold the key to saving this very planet from the irrational fear, puritanical violence, and cynical greed that blinds humanity to the real emotional and intellectual ideals that permeate the highest human aspirations and desires.

Rob Lewis (aka Robert Stikmanz) has had a presence in the Austin creative underground for three decades. His poems and other writings appeared in all the *Sleepy Tree* anthologies, and in *Aileron*, *The Argonaut*, *ViAtzlan*, *The Cannon*, and *Vowel Movement*, among others. He has published three chapbooks. Lewis's visual work has ranged from cover illustrations for the late Albert Huffstickler to political posters to digital drawings to ambient video projections. Lewis lives in Austin, Texas. *Prelude to a Change of Mind* is his first novel.

A delightful brew of fantasy, folklore, speculative science, and social critique sprinkled with wry humor and intellectual provocation, *Prelude to a Change of Mind* is that rare book that satisfies the heart, mind, and that strange human condition called soul. It is a coming of the ages story that asks us to believe that compassion, sacrifice, and a little imagination is a formula that works at the crossroads of every reality: maybe even this one.

This book will appeal to fans of fantasy, science fiction, and folklore. It is an excellent book for college students whose studies include comparative religions, folklore, and speculative science.

For much more information please visit the Prelude to a Change of Mind media page on Dalton Publishing's Web site here:

www.daltonpublishing.com/prelude-media-kit

There you will find (in both pdf and doc formats where applicable):

- Complete data sheet for the book
- Print and Web ready images of the book cover and author
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- What others are saying about the book

Contact deltina@daltonpublishing.com to request a review copy of the book.

Prelude to a Change of Mind

The First Book in The Lands of Nod

Robert Stikmanz

February 2007

\$13.95, 168 pages, 6x9 Trade Paperback

Fantasy/Science Fiction/Folklore/Myth

ISBN-13: 978-0-9740703-6-0

Dalton Publishing

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Austin, Texas 78767