



Media Kit - *Prelude to a Change of Mind: The First Book in The Lands of Nod*

What Others Are Saying

If you think yourself a reader, if through your reading experiences you have begun to understand the word and its connotations, you seek stories that are edgy, with serious themes, stories that dare leave you thinking.

You let yourself be surprised by stories like Rob Lewis' *Prelude to a Change of Mind* because, for starters, his story isn't classifiable or formulaic. Is it a coming of age SF story, a Middle Earth spin-off, an ecologist's philosophical treatise? It's all of these, more or less, expressed in a prose that is at once beautiful, technical, and memorable.

And from recent fiction you'll not find a character more endearing than Jackanapes Plenty, a poet, a raconteur extraordinaire -- no, poet, the unofficial bard of Dvarsh culture though he is of questionable, mixed ancestry (Says his cousin, Ekaterina Rigidstick, "Pureblood Dvarsh seem to lack a crucial faculty for garbling concepts and phraseology."). With a diction and lexicon as twisted as DNA strands, he is not always there (pun intended), but he is well-meaning, a friend to our heroine, Meg Christmas, his "little buddy," a metamathemage, naive still of the futures she plays a role in. Jackanapes' poems deserve as close a reading as the story itself.

This novel, the first in a planned series, values any reader's time. Its characters speak intelligibly of the hubris of our species, and so they speak to us. To his credit, Mr. Lewis has pulled off such a thing -- while remaining entertaining and free of pedantry.

James Rossignol
Professor of English, San Antonio College

Admirably evokes a meditation in Spirit and body on this subject of Spirit in Nature, including our own bodies.

Uncle River, Las Cruces Sun-News, April 14, 2002

Somewhere between Science Fiction and folklore, *Prelude to a Change of Mind* juxtaposes diverse notions from whimsy to poetry to the fallacies of modern culture. Set somewhere in opposition to the military industrial complex—the one Eisenhower warned us about—and its predictable leadership, *Prelude* causes readers to think about where culture stands today while observing and relishing in the quest to save the world.

Archetypal characters include heroine Patricia Margaret Christmas, her caregivers the dear ones, Jack—a word weaving fool—and Ekaterina, an earthy wise woman. Is Jack the Trickster of the collective unconscious, or a merry blend of philosopher-poet, Gandhi by way of Norm Crosby?

Fresh vigorous language infused by poetry rings with truth; *Prelude* is worthy of its dedication to Ricardo Sánchez.

I used this novel as a capstone assignment for a college Science Fiction literature class. A blend of good storytelling and poetry, *Prelude* intensified class discussions in fact, fear, fantasy and cultural satisfaction or lack thereof. I daresay *Prelude* provokes millennial readers to confront fallacies in their own thinking processes and beliefs.

A sort of Q Ship, this sleeper invigorated our observations on anti-social sameness and how we might sustain heart and character in the callous society which surrounds us. Encouraging revision, *Prelude* sings the electric interconnectedness of our world, our selves, the earth, the delight of life's simplest pleasures, and the necessity of maintaining our positive habits. This is a book which will make us all think and act like better people. Perhaps we might heed the call.

Jane Focht-Hansen

Professor, San Antonio College