



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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Bed: Stories By Tao Lin Bibliography

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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:

Keith Taylor:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a concern. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take *Bed: Stories* as the daily resource information.

Elizabeth Easterling:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled Bed: Stories can be excellent book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Jonathan Sanders:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill even analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book compared to can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because this all time you only find book that need more time to be read. Bed: Stories can be your answer given it can be read by anyone who have those short extra time problems.

Wayne Robinson:

As we know that book is vital thing to add our understanding for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we want. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated or blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This book Bed: Stories was filled concerning science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading the book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can feel enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book which you wanted.

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