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A Short History of *Blankety Blank*

Blankety Blank by D. Harlan Wilson

Release date: August 2008, distributed by Ingram

trade hardcover: 188 pages, 6x9, \$29.95, ISBN: 978-1-933293-50-9

trade paperback: 188 pages, 6x9, \$15.95, ISBN: 978-1-933293-57-8

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After exposing the ultraviolent ironies of pedagogy and “plaquedemia” in his first novel, *Dr. Identity*, Wilson now turns his unreal gaze to suburbia. Inspired by the author’s boyhood in Grand Rapids, Michigan, *Blankety Blank* is a novel that masquerades as memoir, playing with the ways personal experience produces (and falsifies) identity. Interspersed throughout the novel are brief pseudo-histories about random events, ranging from the origins of Jack the Ripper to the evolution of the handlebar mustache. These events inform *Blankety Blank*’s near-future world, which exists somewhere between utopia and dystopia. And while the denizens of this McMansion-infested “Vulgaria” commit incomprehensibly outrageous acts, it’s clear that they are trapped by historical forces and peer expectations. In the words of protagonist Rutger Van Trout, “If you ain’t Dutch, you ain’t much.”

The book is scheduled to debut at HorrorFind Weekend 10 in Adelphi, MD (August 15th-17th) where Wilson will do a reading and signing. He will also be attending Zombiefest in Monroeville, PA (October 25th-26th) with more appearances to be announced soon.

This book will be of special interest to fans of Kurt Vonnegut, Paul Auster, Percival Everett and Mark Leyner.

About the Author

D. Harlan Wilson is an English professor, novelist, literary critic, award-winning screenwriter, and hack bodybuilder whose body of work is most commonly associated with the Bizarro movement. His books include *The Kafka Effekt*, *Stranger on the Loose*, *Pseudo-City* and *Dr. Identity*, the latter of which is the first installment in The Scikungfi Trilogy. Visit Wilson online at www.dharlanwilson.com and www.myspace.com/dharlanwilson.



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Advance Praise for *Blankety Blank*

“Be not embarrassed to laugh out loud at this nasty book. Wilson has reinvented the genre of demonic sci-fi slapstick... Intelligent, wicked, erudite, maniacal... Read this book and bask in the energy of a living imagination.”—**Steve Katz, America Award winning author of *Swanny’s Ways* and *Antonello’s Lion***

“...here is a novel which implodes and conflates autobiography, biography, history, quasi-history, alternate history and Occam’s Safety Razor in a fashion which I find utterly original and utterly discommoding. The exquisite tilt of this novel runs us all off the board and on; its originality is a weapon. Firing at that bullseye on time.”
—**Barry N. Malzberg, John Campbell Award Winning Author**

“...we are facing a writer who can evoke howls of pity and tears of laughter on the same page, and generally within the same sentence. In this “multimedia” novel, suburban inanity and insanity are depicted in loving and intimate depth... If this be “interstitial” fiction, then it’s a case of the interstices expanding like a galaxy to overwhelm whatever bland shores once flanked them.”—**Paul Di Filippo, author *COSMOCOPIA***

Praise for *Dr. Identity*

“Madcap, macabre black comedy... Wilson’s sardonic, riotously imaginative vision of the future holds a mirror up to our own increasingly chaotic society and makes provocative entertainment.”—**Booklist**

“A mix of Orwellian satire, existential philosophy, and strikingly original humor, *Dr. Identity* is an erudite and entertaining read. Anyone who enjoys zoot suits, fedoras, an intellectually engaging parody, or a skillfully constructed narrative will be missing out if they don’t add this book to their library. Five stars.”
—**Midwest Book Review**

“Vivid, colourful, coarse, expansive, often hilarious and at times suspiciously pointless, it is an impressive feat and a decadent read, lending itself equally to painstaking analysis and seriously heavy entertainment.”—**HorrorScope**

About the Publisher

RDSP recently celebrated its 4th year publishing “fiction that foams at the mouth.” With releases that combine and cross genres including horror, literary, science-fiction, experimental and bizarro RDSP continues to bring you the best that fringe fiction has to offer.

