

A Passage in Time

by Ace Lundon

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A Passage in Time is a single book that includes two science fiction novels, both of which look at our world today through a blend of history, satire, and frightening possibilities.

Reviews by Dave Parker

Through the Needle's Eye

Through the Needle's Eye is based on the early public and political reactions to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the US.

The story is told in the first person by a print news reporter who – uncharacteristically – is very wealthy. He is also related by marriage to even wealthier owners of a major pharmaceutical firm, which is attempting to develop a cure – or at least a treatment – for HIV/AIDS. The reporter is asked by his relatives to chronicle the public and governmental reactions to the epidemic. Meanwhile, very conservative religious groups blame the epidemic on gays – and plan their elimination.

Those who follow U.S. politics will be amused by the carefully-crafted names of various religious and governmental leaders. They will also recognize the deliberate creation of public fear of the unknown to reinforce the positions of religious and political leaders.

This book deserves wide readership. The happenings in the book may seem unlikely at first – “No, that could NEVER happen here ...” But a careful look at the U.S. today forces recognition that engendering fear in the populace makes almost anything possible. It is a strong wake-up call for ALL people to pay critical attention to what is happening. Complacency can be fatal.

Mr. Lundon's writing style seems a bit wordy at first, but the story almost forces you to continue reading. I recommend it.

The Legend of the Planet Itnava

The planet Itnava resides near the center of the universe. Through the millennia, its rainbow-hued humanoid inhabitants have developed far beyond most in both interpersonal relationships and technology. They have become a long-lived, peaceful community whose major means of support is inter-galactic tourism. They have spread peace throughout the developed planetary nations of the universe.

The story evolves around a pilgrimage to one of the more backward planets – Earth. The mission's volunteers are charged to bring earth's inhabitants into the fold of peace-loving planet-nations. To accomplish this goal, these colonists must first be able to blend in. Thus, the colonists must learn to look and act like Earthlings.

Their ten-year trip from Itnava to Earth is devoted to this task. They learn about intolerance of all those different from oneself. They are instructed in the hundreds of earthly religions, each certain that their God is the only true God. They study the centuries of conflicts and wars fought in the name of religion and for land, food, water, and resources. They observe videos of the acquisition of power and prestige based on religion, politics, and wealth.

Reactions of readers will no doubt vary. The Itnavians see an Earth and Earthlings far along the path to self-destruction. The eerie similarities to our planet and its' people are scary.

Excellent. A well-written, thought-provoking novel that is easy to read.