

A Mostly Magnificent Memoir

*TRUE STORIES
DRAMATIZED AND
SOMEWHAT FICTIONALIZED*



BO BENNETT





A Mostly Magnificent Memoir

True Stories
Dramatized and
Somewhat
Fictionalized

Author:

Bo Bennett

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PRESS RELEASE

Bo Bennett's 'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir' Is like 'Forrest Gump' Meets 'The Wonder Years'—But Mostly True

'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir' provides a rollicking look at the life of a dysfunctional family in small-town Connecticut in the 1980s.

BOSTON (PRWEB) December 17, 2020

'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir,' the newest offering from prolific author Bo Bennett, provides a slightly fictionalized account of the author's youth growing up in a tragically and hilariously dysfunctional Connecticut family in the 1980s. Often laugh-out-loud funny, frequently heart warming, and occasionally heart-wrenching, 'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir,' is always entertaining.

"It's like 'Forrest Gump' meets 'The Wonder Years'—but mostly true," says Bennett.

While Bennett has shared versions of these stories previously in his autobiography ('Some Really Personal, Yet Entertaining Stories From My Life That You Will Enjoy and May Even Find Inspiring'), Bennett appeals to a wider audience with the present volume.

"I've changed most of the names—including my own, and those of my family members—to protect the not-so-innocent," says Bennett. "The truth is, I've lived through some pretty unbelievable experiences. Presenting them as fiction, they paradoxically become even more believable."

From dealing with the constant bickering of alcoholic parents, to wrestling a knife away from his enraged mother, swindling friends out of baseball cards, spotting a monkey in his back yard, dealing with the awkwardness of puberty and adolescence, and teenage mischief involving the local police—the list of high jinks and mayhem goes on and on. Bennett shares the incidents with both humor and heart.

'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir,' brings readers back to an ultimately innocent time, long before "social distancing" entered the collective lexicon.



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"At some level," says Bennett, "My desire to revisit these stories arose from missing the pre-COVID-19 in-person interaction that, in retrospect, I took for granted. Despite the current conditions and restrictions, we remain a social species. This new book celebrates that aspect of our nature."

Indeed, relationships are the predominant theme throughout the pages of 'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir.' It's the people that James (Bennett's fictionalized self) is surrounded by that bring meaning and fullness to his life.

"People constantly come in and out of our lives," explains Bennett. "As much as it hurts when they leave, the best we can do is to be grateful for the time we had with those who are no longer here, and continue to make memories with those who are."

'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir' includes a free bonus PDF download of a screenplay of the story. It's different enough from the fictionalized memoir to be read freshly on its own. Bennett is currently shopping around the film rights—even a cursory look at the screenplay reveals how perfectly the story would adapt to the big screen.

'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir' offers an ideal reading selection for anyone who grew up in the 1980s and could use a couple of warm, nostalgic hours re-visiting one of the greatest decades in pop culture. Moreover, it will appeal to anyone who loves to laugh, loves a great story, and appreciates a tale that hits multiple notes on the emotional spectrum, from amusement to poignancy.

'A Mostly Magnificent Memoir' by Bo Bennett is published by eBookIt.com, and is currently available exclusively through Amazon.com.



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INTRODUCTION / EDITORIAL REVIEW

A child of the 1980s relives a dysfunctional and hilarious childhood in the most difficult speech of his life.

It's FORREST GUMP meets THE WONDER YEARS - but mostly true. Hysterically funny at times, heart-wrenching and heart-warming at other times, highly entertaining all the time.

The story follows James Murphy, who lives an extraordinarily unique life learning ordinary life lessons to which everyone can relate through his many misadventures. James' misadventures feature everything from swindling friends out of valuable baseball cards to run-ins with bullies and kids in Connecticut "gangs", from awkward romantic heartbreak to family party fiascos, from sophisticated pranks that build up to a court appearance and community service to a death defying "rafting" incident.

This is a fictionalized and dramatized adaptation of the author's autobiography turned into a full-motion picture screenplay turned into a novella. It's the unbelievable stories that are actually true. James isn't lying about the magic beanstalk growing on his back porch. Or the monkey in their tree—in New England. He did chase a UFO with his mother and stopped her from killing his dad. Let's just say this book is a collection of true stories made more entertaining and wrapped in a white lie.

A Mostly Magnificent Memoir reminds us all that we are social creatures—how our seemingly insignificant interactions with others can significantly impact their lives. It reminds us how precious life is and how grateful we should be for the people in our lives. It reminds us that it is okay to laugh at our own misadventures because life is too short not to.



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bo was born in Connecticut where he lived until he was 21. He attended Bryant University where he paid his own way through by running a promotional business, while also serving as a Resident Assistant. Bo graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing.

From 1994 to 2012, Bo started, ran, and sold several businesses, which allowed him the freedom to go back to school and earn his master's degree in general psychology and his PhD in social psychology. Since then, Bo has been running eBookIt.com as well as writing books and screenplays. For a complete collection of Bo's work, visit BoBennett.com.





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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND TOPICS / TALKING POINTS

Bo is available for radio, TV, and podcast interviews. The following is a suggested list of topics, although not comprehensive.

Why "Fictionalize" the memoir?

This was a unique challenge where I needed to maintain the integrity of the stories, yet add a theatrical element.

Exposing family secrets / balancing honesty and privacy

This is a challenge any honest writer faces when writing about their lives.

What was it like growing up with alcoholic parents?

There were pros and cons, and my ability to thrive in that environment had some to do with personality, and some to do with emotional support.

Delores. A seeming fictional character that is 100% based on my mother.

"Delores," the foul-mouthed, conspiracy-believing, supernatural-embracing, chain-smoking, loving mother is an imperfect woman but a loving mother who would do anything for her children.

Did you really see a monkey in your Connecticut backyard when you were a child?

Yes. Although it took several days for my family to believe me, the vindication made all the mockery worth it. (I can share story)

Did your mom really chase an alien spaceship with you and your sister in the car?

No, but she thought she was. (I can share story)

Baseball cards as the childhood currency

From the 5th grade to high school, I "traded" baseball cards and made over \$15k—enough to buy a new car my sophomore year in high school.



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Did you really get perm in high school? Wasn't this social suicide in the 80s?

Yes, it was. (I can share story)

The event that led me to study martial arts all my life

This one near-death experience (at least how I felt) changed my life for the better.

The one high school fib that allowed me to create my own reputation as a badass.

I was not a badass in high school. In fact, I was the opposite. But I realized that one didn't have to be a badass, just make people think they were one. (I can share story)

Mischief makers—some good 1980's-style American fun

The residents of Easton didn't like us much. We had fun at their expense. This is what we did before the Internet and cable TV.

Story of friendship and social connectivity

Ultimately, this is a story of friendships and social connectivity that demonstrates how connected we all are and how strongly people can influence lives, even without realizing it.



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BOOK EXCERPTS

Toxic Scripts

It was a typical evening in the Murphy household. The year was 1978. My father, Fred, a heavy-set man with dyed, jet-black, greased-back hair, was sitting at the kitchen table wearing one of his three outfits—this one was khaki-colored pants and a matching button-down shirt, purchased at Sears for \$19.95. With his Seagram’s Seven and club soda in one hand and a burning cigarette in the other, Fred pretended to be paying attention to the evening news while my mother, Delores, proceeded with one of her alcohol-induced rants. “Look at you. God damn, good-for-nothing, lousy drunk. Sitting there getting drunk, cigarette ashes all over the place, food stuck in your mustache... is that even from tonight’s dinner?”

The Pimp Affair

Perhaps the most dreaded of phrases used by us Murphy kids was “I’m telling Mommy,” because we knew that if we were in the wrong, then at best, we had a verbal lashing coming to us. At worst, we would be chased around the house by Delores with a cigarette hanging from her mouth, trying our best to avoid her free-flyin’ hand that was indistinguishable from a loose firehose. For this reason, there was an unwritten and unspoken code that existed between us Murphy kids: we allowed each other to get away with minor offenses before we called in the big guns (i.e., Delores). For example, I could get away with calling Annie a “jerk,” but never a “bitch.” I could call my brother a “poo-poo face,” but never a “shit head.” Exact wording mattered, and so did context.

I Wasn’t Monkeying Around

Sensing that my mother was humoring me, I continued to answer her but started backing out of the kitchen as Delores’ questions became more patronizing... even to a six-year-old. Given that Delores had no problem believing in fairies, chakras, the Loch Ness monster, Bigfoot, and other similar ideas and creatures she read about in the *Weekly World News*, I didn’t think a monkey in a tree would be such a stretch, but apparently, I was wrong.



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James and the Beanstalk

My reputation for making things up wasn't completely undeserved. In the second grade, I wore a lime-green plastic ring that I got from a gumball machine and pretended that it made me invisible, but only when nobody was looking. In the third grade, I told my friends that my dad invented a time machine that was confiscated by the government. And in the fourth grade, I told my music teacher that my sister was the drummer for the Go-Go's. However, like my genuine monkey-sighting experience, sometimes my fantastic stories were actually true, and sometimes they were the product of using my imagination and interpreting facts the best way I knew how.

Close Encounter of the Non-existent Kind

It was a spring evening in 1978. Annie and I were headed back from Lordship roller skating rink located on Long Island Sound in Stratford, Connecticut, where we were discoing it up to Donna Summer, Blondie, and The Bee Gees. Delores was piloting the family station wagon when a light in the sky caught her attention. "Dear Jesus!"

"What is it?" asked Annie.

Delores hysterically responded, "It's an alien spaceship! They're... they're flying over the hospital healing sick people!" Delores believed she had ascertained all this by a glance through the nicotine-covered windshield.

Party at the Murphy's

Earlier that evening, a solid hour before the party was supposed to start, there was a knock on the door. Then a prolonged "ding" without a "dong," like the doorbell got stuck. Finishing up dinner, I ran to the door.

Several elderly relatives of mine were waiting at the door. "Mary, you don't need to hold your finger on the button. You can let go," explained Aunt Ann, the most cognitively aware of the group. "Ida! Wake up!"

Like a golden retriever, Ida, my grandmother slept eighteen hours a day. About five of those hours were standing up.



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Makin' Out

My first cougar catch was an eighth-grader named Vivian. Vivian was a super-cute, older woman with wavy brown hair and dimples that made her smile light up any room. She was also old enough to wait at the bus stop by herself, which I found to be a major turn-on. Vivian made the first move in our relationship by letting her friend know that she thought I was cute, who told my friend, who told me. This method of courtship was quite brilliant because of its built-in mechanism of plausible deniability. For example, had I not been interested in Vivian, Vivian could always deny that she was ever interested in me, writing off the “misunderstanding” to hearsay, and Vivian would save face. The problem with this method was that the level of interest was often distorted by the time the message reached the intended recipient. For example, by the time the message of Vivian’s interest got to me, the message was that Vivian “wanted to bone” me. I knew I was many years away from “boning” anyone, but some hot and sweaty hand-holding wasn’t out of the question.

Junior Prom

Most boys spend most of their childhood disinterested or even “disgusted” by girls. Not me. I have been fascinated and intoxicated by the “fairer sex” ever since the first grade. While most pre-teen boys had fantasies of being a professional athlete, I fantasized about having a wife.

Despite this desire, or to use a more accurate term, obsession, I was very shy and rarely acted on my impulses. When I did manage to make a romantic overture, I jumped in headfirst and undoubtedly freaked out my female interests with my intensity. I was what most single thirty-something-year-old women wanted; the problem was, I was only ten at the time. My tendency to treat my romantic interests as potential life partners resulted in me being “dumped” many times. So many times in fact that I built up a tolerance to it. However, no amount of rejection could have prepared me for the emotional turmoil I experienced the night of my junior prom.



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AMAZON REVIEWS (4.6 out of 5)



Carlitas

★★★★★ **A very interesting and thought-provoking reading**

Reviewed in the United States on October 27, 2021

Verified Purchase

"A Mostly Magnificent Memoir" is a captivating reading written by Bo Bennett. I decided to read it because the message behind the stories gave me curiosity. In fact, while I was reading, I felt identified with some of James Murphy's experiences. There are some harsh situations that helped him to face his misadventures in a positive way - which is something that I do, as well.

What is interesting about it is that many of the stories can be easily transplanted to anyone's life. I think that the message that this concise reading gives is really important and worth taking into account. I liked the author's writing style since his ideas are easy to understand throughout the stories. It's poignant, funny, interesting and I highly recommend it.



Mayra Comolli

★★★★★ **Great story to laugh and have a throwback in time**

Reviewed in the United States on October 26, 2021

Verified Purchase

I'm very fond of reading but I was tired of the same novels over and over again. From time to time I think it is good to change genres. I found

A Mostly Magnificent Memoir: True Stories Dramatized and Somewhat Fictionalized by Bo Bennett extraordinary. Not only because it deals with every day issues, but also because it is written in a very enjoyable way. I felt trapped by the stories within the main story. Moreover, I have always been fascinated by the 80s. I find this decade amazing. Maybe it's because I was born in the late 80s and I always looked at my parents' pics and heard their stories.

After reading I found out that the events, so well described, are actually autobiographical descriptions of the author's life. Everything made even more sense after that. So, I definitely recommend this book to anyone who wants to travel back in time and enjoy a refreshing story.



Conscientious

★★★★★ **Heartfelt read!**

Reviewed in the United States on October 27, 2021

Verified Purchase

Bo Bennett's A Mostly Magnificent Memoir is truly magnificent. It deals in depth about the 80's era atmosphere and how James navigates life through childhood to adolescence in a dysfunctional family. It is a beautiful tribute to one's life. Page after page James reminiscence about his experiences in life will definitely make one nostalgic about the time spent with loved one's no matter their flaws. Bennett has expertly presented James's mischievous streak blending into understanding and correction of mistakes. There is never a dull moment and the narrative will leave you wanting for more. The author has appropriately used expression of experiences in childhood creatively with humor and mischief. We get to understand no matter how malfunctioned one's family is but we still love them. It also expresses the time well spent among friends and the importance of friendships in shaping one's childhood. This memoir is beautifully scripted and I would highly recommend it to anyone for a heartfelt read.