



Broken Sleep

By Bruce Bauman

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Spanning 1940s to 2020s America, a Pynchon-esque saga about rock music, art, politics, and the elusive nature of love

Meet everyman Moses Teumer, whose recent diagnosis of an aggressive form of leukemia has sent him in search of a donor. When he discovers that the woman who raised him is not his biological mother, he must hunt down his birth parents and unspool the intertwined destinies of the Teumer and Savant families.

Salome Savant, Moses's birth mother, is an avant-garde artist who has spent her life in and out of a mental health facility. Her son and Moses's half-brother, Alchemy Savant, the mercurial front man of the world-renowned rock band The Insatiabiles, abandons music to launch a political campaign to revolutionize 2020s America. And then there's Ambitious Mindswallow, aka Ricky McFinn, who journeys from juvenile delinquency in Queens to being The Insatiabiles' bassist and Alchemy's Sancho Panza. Bauman skillfully weaves the threads that intertwine these characters and the histories that divide them, creating a postmodern vision of America that is at once sweeping, irreverent, and heartbreaking.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A plangent tour de force of epic proportions...*Broken Sleep*’s amalgam of distinct perspectives creates an incoherent coherence that challenges and rewards in turn. Both a nightmare and a dream, this work successfully engages with eternal questions of truth and evil to form a solid and captivating literary experience.” —*Library Journal* (starred review)

“Big-thinking...a postmodern epic.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Readers who like their fiction on the wacky side will appreciate the rollicking energy.” —*Booklist*

“Vibrant, captivating, and touching...*Broken Sleep* is brimming with colorful characters, fascinating dialogue, and beautiful yet tragic relationships, making it easy to read and hard to forget.” —*PopMatters*

“A literary novel with a great plot. ...[*Broken Sleep*] is a funny novel, but it’s also an incredibly serious emotional novel in a way we don’t get nowadays so much.” —David Kipen, KPCC *Take Two*

Broken Sleep is a Pynchon-esque shaggy dog of a novel spanning nearly eight decades of American history, from World War II to the not-too-distant future...[This] novel explores the seedy undersides of high art, rock and roll, and national politics with freewheeling zeal and bitter, satiric bite. Often funny, occasionally heartbreak, and always revelatory, Bauman puts deep character-driven narratives through their proverbial paces, playing with conventions of form, genre, and conceptions of history.” —*The Rumpus*

“Such a pleasure to plunge into this joyous kaleidoscope of a novel, a multi-voiced tumbling chorus of outrageous characters, hidden parenthood, secrets and discoveries, the gritty outré art world of the 1970s, rockers and mad visionaries and a man named Moses who just wants to live his life when illness forces him to open up the closed door of his family’s mysterious past. I haven’t seen a book with such energy and joy and sweeping delights since *The World According to Garp*. Bauman’s novel is a tour de force.” —Janet Fitch, author of *Paint It Black* and *White Oleander*

“Consuming multitudes of novels before it and after, Bruce Bauman’s flipbook-epic spectacularly shuffles voice and memory—a careening travelogue on psychic terrains of fate, art, sex, madness, history, philosophy, rock ’n’ roll, the personal political, and laws of identity for which no statute of limitations can exist. This is raging, inspiration-jacked literary insomnia at the deepest hour of our brilliant dreaming.” —Steve Erickson, author of *These Dreams of You* and *Zeroville*

“Bauman’s gift for balancing playfulness with historical accuracy, for naming figures with an expressively poetic flair, and for hanging the narrative armature on the believable private scandals of the iconically famous.” —*White Hot Magazine*

“*Broken Sleep* is a stunning, original, unpredictable novel, with a mix of wild voices and riveting, driving stories. I love all the characters—the rebel Salome, sad Moses fighting for his life, the incredibly charismatic Alchemy, the much abused Absurda, and that troublesome Mindswallow. The world that Bauman imagines is chilling and vivid, and there is an abundance of wisdom throughout the book, with startling insights on every page. The novel is a brilliant success—brave, wonderfully eccentric, utterly confident and engrossing.” —Joanna Scott, author of *De Potter’s Grand Tour*

“Bruce Bauman’s *Broken Sleep* is a rare bird: a sprawling, encyclopedic narrative, partly a meditation on the nature of art and storytelling, partly a family saga, and perhaps rarest of all an experimental novel that’s also very readable. A high-risk enterprise with a similarly high pay off.” —Geoff Nicholson, author of *The City Under the Skin*

“*Broken Sleep* is an unabashedly Big Think book that refuses to be categorized. On the surface it’s a roller coaster, jetting forward with ideas/observations on everything from avant-garde art to rock ‘n’ roll renown to history and philosophy. Yet beneath the surface it is also a warm-hearted exploration of the deep messiness of families. Of parents, present and absent, and their children. Of siblings and spouses and volitional families of friends and bandmates. It’s a simultaneously poignant and exhilarating ride.” —Melvin Jules Bukiet, author of *After*

“Bruce Bauman is one of the most engaging and engaged writers and thinkers that I know.” —Rebecca Goldstein, author of *Plato at the Googleplex*

“A synesthetic and unfettered book that cascades between a quartet of voices to depict a family not so much broken as fractured over several generations, and shifts in art and politics from the 60s and, prophetically, into our future. A stunning, lively and funny evisceration of American art, culture, and politics, and of the links connecting them.” —Brian Evenson, author of *The Open Curtain*

About the Author

Bruce Bauman is the author of the novel *And the Word Was*. Among his awards are a COLA (City of Los Angeles) Fellowship in Literature, a Durfee Foundation grant, and a UNESCO/Aschberg Fellowship. His work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Salon*, *BOMB*, *Bookforum*, and numerous anthologies and literary magazines. Bauman is an instructor in the CalArts MFA Writing Program and Critical Studies Department and has been Senior Editor of *Black Clock* literary magazine since its inception in 2003. Born and raised in New York City, he lives in Los Angeles with his wife, the painter Suzan Woodruff.

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“Mr. Lively, if you or he won’t help me, I am going to die.”

Lively’s expression went dark as if the fuse to his emotional box had blown out. He uncrossed his legs and leaned back. “I’m leaving for Houston later tonight. It’s my granddaughter’s sweet sixteen tomorrow and I am not missing that. Family means something to me.” His slow Texas accent, laden with the air of gentility, unnerved Moses.

“If I can’t see him, I at least need to talk to him.”

Lively leaned forward, “May I be so bold as to ask you a favor?”

“Sure.”

“When you talk to your mother, Hannah, say hello for me.”

“So, you knew her?”

“We’d met when they were still married. Attractive woman.”

“So, you’ll help me?”

“I’ll try.” Using his cane he pushed himself up. They followed and all three turned toward the door.

* * *

Jay and Moses rode the elevator in silence, attempting to absorb what they’d just seen and heard. As they stepped gingerly outside and crossed the street, Jay squeezed his hand. Suspicious Lively had planted a bug on them, she whispered, “You’re a good man, no matter who your father is.” She half-grinned. “Or how distasteful his friends are...”

That night, Moses, listening to Jay’s steady breathing, fell in and out of the semi-alert state where dreams seem real and reality seems dream-like. At 6 a.m. he pushed himself out of bed, the maxim he often stressed to his students racing through his head: One person’s version of history is another person’s version of an

incomplete truth.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeanne Crank:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. As we know that book is very important usually. The book Broken Sleep ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The guide Broken Sleep is not only giving you more new information but also being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with the book Broken Sleep. You never feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Tim Walton:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also become a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The advantages you got of course the knowledge the actual information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The data you get based on what kind of e-book you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want truly feel happy read one along with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The particular Broken Sleep is kind of guide which is giving the reader unstable experience.

Martin Thomas:

Often the book Broken Sleep will bring that you the new experience of reading the book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book Broken Sleep is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Alfred Gates:

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