

MEDIA KIT

A virtuoso vanishing act

He says it's gone.

A puzzle in die-cut pieces

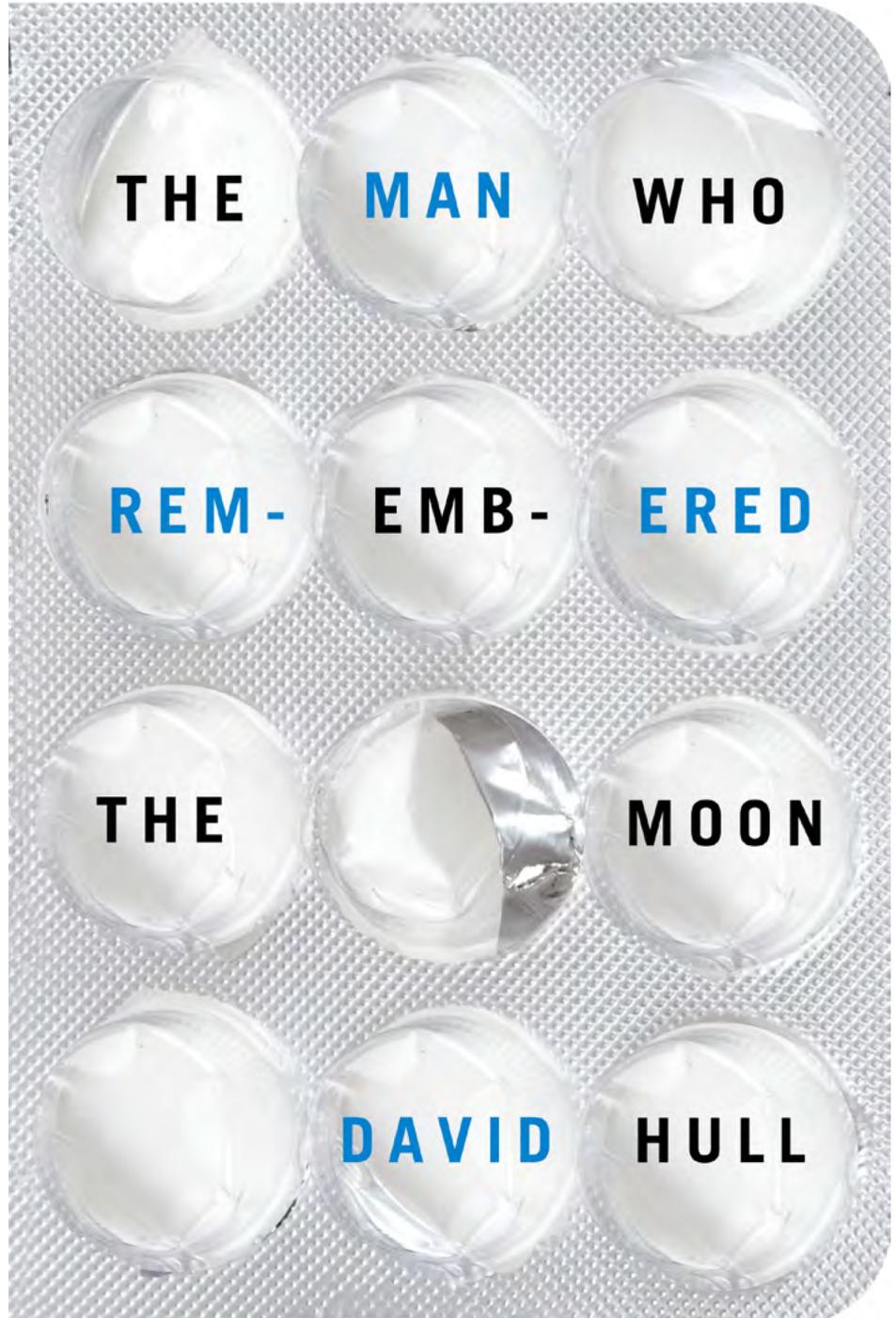
They say it never existed.

A haunting tale of loss

*The moon's disappearance, as told by the
only man who notices that it's gone.*

A beautifully executed, hypnotic
shapeshifter.

Christine Fischer-Guy, author of
The Umbrella Mender



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ABOUT THE BOOK

In one line...

He says it's gone.

They say it never existed.

On the elevator...

The disappearance of the moon, as told by the only man who remembers it.

Official blurb...

When the moon vanishes, Daniel Hale expects the world to share his shock. Instead, to his greater dismay, nobody knows what he's talking about.

He is promptly institutionalized.

He describes the absent body in luminous detail, conceding that it was a paradoxical entity, even for a celestial one. His loved ones fade while he cycles between bouts of despair and fevers of reason, immersing himself in the library in his quest for understanding.

Only his tenacious doctor, Marvin Pallister, retains faith that Daniel might be cured of the condition now known as Hale-Pallister's Lunacy.

Description

A virtuoso vanishing act.

A puzzle in die-cut pieces.

A sly commentary on psychiatry.

A meditation on loss.

The Man Who Remembered the Moon is the story of the moon's disappearance, as told by the only one man seems to remember it. Daniel Hale, quickly hospitalized for his delusion, struggles to understand what might have happened to the moon - and to himself. He is the loneliest of men: one absolutely certain of his belief, trapped in a world equally certain that he is wrong.

Angles

- A literary puzzle that flirts with metafiction, alternate history, parallel realities, and the lucidity of dreams - yet apparently evades them all.
- A narrator who slams himself again and again against consensual reality, building elaborate hypothetical frameworks in his struggle to understand it.
- A psychiatrist who may or may not be more interested in advancing his own fame than in his patient's distress.
- 72 pages (16,000 words): a brief novella, plus a bonus Hidden Track.

Audience

- Readers who delight in a cerebral mystery, subtle wit, and literary play.
- Fans of Paul Auster, Italo Calvino, David Foster Wallace, David Mitchell.
- May disappoint readers of fantasy or science fiction expecting more spectacular solutions to the mysteries involved. May disappoint literalists.

Reviews & Quotes

A Chekhovian Ward No. 6 for a new millennium. Beautifully executed, hypnotic shape-shifter. Bravo! — Christine Fischer-Guy, author of *The Umbrella Mender*

Funny and insightful, *The Man Who Remembered the Moon* harks back to the classic short story genre, complete with an O. Henry twist. I loved it. ***** — C.R. Hurst, Top 500 Amazon reviewer

Enthralling... Although a short book, *The Man Who Remembered the Moon* is a huge story. Captivating, surprising, intense – and with a brilliant finale – it can never be less than memorable. And impressive in all of its aspects. ***** — Carla Ribeiro, author of *Senhores da Noite* and *E Morreram Felizes para Sempre*

Until you lose the endorsement of others, you don't realize how much you depend on their tacit judgment that you are sane, nor appreciate that they pass this judgment, and communicate it, with the same split-second glance.

I recalled Descartes' demon of doubt, that undetectable agent of subversion who interpolated false images between world and mind. What if a lesser demon, a lunar specialist, had established a blockade within me, confiscating every item of sensory input related to the moon and sending a counterfeit through in its place?

Excerpts

Some moons sliced through the night like the fins of sharks in still black oceans, leaving no more wake than the blade of a knife deboning watered silk. Others lumbered into view so heavy and pregnant that it was all our eyes could do to help them over the sky, moons we glanced up at incessantly, like faithful dogs.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Biography: personal

David Hull was born in Regina and grew up in Owen Sound, Ontario. His mother was a librarian, his father a journalist. A father of one, he lives and writes in Toronto.

Biography: professional

David Hull's work has appeared in many publications, including Canadian Literature, The Malahat, The Fiddlehead, and ON SPEC. He has also written for The Walrus and The National Post and is a past winner of the Prairie Fire Long Fiction competition. *The Man Who Remembered the Moon* is his first book.

Writing Career

"My print career began in my teens, when I produced six fat issues of a science fiction fanzine via the cutting-edge mimeograph technology of the day. In my twenties my poetry and fiction began to appear in Canadian Literature, The Malahat, The Fiddlehead and other literary journals; more recently I've written for The Walrus and The National Post. In 1997 I was awarded first place in the Prairie Fire Long Fiction competition, judged that year by the late Matt Cohen. I've received grants from the Ontario and Toronto arts councils for my forthcoming novel, *At Gerber's Grave*."

Off the Page

David has worked in factories, warehouses, restaurants; as a labourer, magazine salesman, and army reservist; and as a technical writer, programmer, and web developer.

The University of Toronto philosophy graduate lists reading as his primary leisure activity, followed by playing guitar, and learning to throw a curve ball.

Literary Growth

David cites Graham Greene, Mavis Gallant, and JG Ballard as three authors who had formative influence on his writing. As Gallant once said in interview: "I believe if the author can see it as she writes, the reader will see it as he reads," though she immediately backed off from the statement for its mystical overtones. David agrees with her, in assertion and retraction.



ABOUT THE COVER

Dumagrad Books was thrilled to work with one of Canada's most compelling and imaginative cover designers.

David Drummond is founder and principal of Salamander Hill Design, based in Elgin, Québec. He has worked for the major houses, for established independents, and for miniatures such as Dumagrad too - a very generous gesture from such a prominent designer.

His clever and vivid book covers have been recognized with awards from AIGA, AAUP, Communication Arts, Print, and other graphics organizations.

Q&A: DAVID HULL

You claim that this somewhat remarkable tale is based on a true event?

I was living in an apartment on Queen St [in Toronto]. My fire escape had an unobstructed view of the sky spanning from downtown to the east, all the way to the lights of Hamilton in the west. One evening I admired a waning moon as it rose over the skyline. No more than two hours later I stepped out again, and the moon was gone. Was. Not. There. I still have no explanation, though there must be a rational one. There *must* be.

Luckily for my sanity, the moon was back in its proper slot the next evening. But the story was born out that classic question: "What if...?"

There seems to be a sly commentary on the psychiatric profession. Do you carry a grudge?

I'm a great admirer of Oliver Sacks. He seemed to be a very humane doctor, even as he mined his cases for his books. But his success sparked a wave of emulations, and some of these were less impressive. You sometimes had the feeling that the doctor/author was more interested in displaying his own brilliance than in the difficult lives of his actual patients. "The Man" in *The Man Who Remembered the Moon* - well, I won't say he's right or wrong, but he does wonder whether his psychiatrist, Dr. Marvin Pallister, is one of those opportunists.

Oh, and no, I have no grudge against the psychiatric community, having had no experience with it. If that's what you were getting at.

Well, your narrator is named "Daniel Hale." Very similar to your own name. Are you Daniel Hale?

I can't answer that, except with my own question: if I am Daniel Hale, then who are you?

I am your interviewer.

[Laughs.]

Did you have a specific type of reader in mind for this story?

It's a cerebral book, so you have to enjoy a certain amount of depicted thinking: the main character builds up and knocks down various hypotheses while attempting to comprehend his plight. If this were an action movie, these passages would be the shoot-outs. If it was erotica (so I'm told), they'd be the... well, you understand. But instead of shoot-outs or... those scenes... you get fitful reasoning. The story has that rhythm though: build up, money shot, recovery. As long as a doomed meditation is your idea of money.

Yet that only touches the surface of the book. If I had to describe what it's about in one word...

Can you describe what *The Man Who Remembered the Moon* is about in one word?

Loss.

The story behind the story

Is it true that this work is several years old?

Yes. After I wrote it, I abandoned it to my files - it was an awkward length, too long for journals, but too short for most publishers. However, as the years passed and Kindles and so on emerged, I realized that it might work as a standalone ebook. I pulled it from storage and somewhat to my own shock I enjoyed it.

So straight from the dead manuscript drawer to publication? Encouraging.

If only it were that simple. I still wasn't sure that it was publishable. However, I was fortunate to work with a fantastic editor, Matthew Sharpe...

The author of Jamestown, The Sleeping Father, and You Were Wrong?

Yes. Matt teased it into shape, and he proved to be the ideal reader too. His incredibly close scrutiny persuaded me that some people, at least, would be satisfied with the propulsive forces that take the place of conventional plot. As he put it, "having iterated your premise, you then work out a series of (very embodied) thought experiments about its ramifications, each of which alters a reader's experience of the premise itself." So, that. Plus LOLs in the right places too.

Did you enjoy with an editor, and were there any surprises?

Yes, and yes: that affirmation is as important as criticism. When I'm editing my work, my goal is word count zero. Every paragraph, every page, is at risk of being zapped. I discovered that an editor can not only help you fix the broken parts, but can also stop you from breaking the parts that work.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

Where to Buy

- Amazon.com: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00V2LOVAA>
- Amazon.ca: <http://www.amazon.ca/dp/B00V2LOVAA>
- Dumagrad: <http://dumagrad.com>

Release Notes

- June 21 release as a Kindle Single, Amazon's curated selection of shorter works.
- Ebook: Kindle exclusive. Epub available for reviews.
- Print release September 28. Print run 1000 copies, Coach House Printing
- LAUNCH EVENT: Toronto Word On The Street, Sept 28, Harbourfront

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- Top 100 Kindle Singles > Fiction, peaking at #62 (as of July 31/2015)

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FICTION

"A superb story... an ongoing series of surprising revelations/
suppositions — surprising, yet satisfying within the rollercoaster
logic of its world." – MATTHEW SHARPE, author of *The Sleeping
Father, You Were Wrong*, and *Jamestown*

HE SAYS IT'S GONE.

Daniel Hale will not be released from a mental institution until he
renounces his belief in a celestial body he calls the moon.

THEY SAY IT NEVER EXISTED.

Fortunately his doctor, Marvin Pallister, is confident that Daniel can
be cured of his condition, one now dubbed Hale-Pallister's Lunacy.

THE MAN WHO REMEMBERED THE MOON

A virtuoso vanishing act, a puzzle in die-cut pieces, a sly
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longing and loss.

US \$8.95
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