



Pennsylvania Omnibus

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Young Amishman Jedidiah Troyer is now a traveler. He's signed up for an emigration program that is colonizing the planet of New Pennsylvania. He just wants to start a farm and homestead on affordable land in a new Amish community. Space pioneering isn't as easy as it sounds when you're "plain." Jedidiah and his new friend Dawn arrive on New Pennsylvania in the middle of a rebel uprising, and TRACE, the resistance group that is rising up against TRANSPORT, has taken on the mission of getting Jed from the City to the Amish Zone. Being a stranger in the old world doesn't even compare to being a stranger in a new world... a world that is at war and where nothing is what it seems.

Pennsylvania Omnibus Details

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From Reader Review Pennsylvania Omnibus for online ebook

Dylan Hearn says

This is a book I kept bumping into on Amazon and I was intrigued by the premise, an Amish science-fiction novel had to be worth a look. I wasn't wrong.

Jedidiah Troyer is leaving home to set up a new life on another planet, New Pennsylvania. But stepping out from the comfort of a life and community he knows so well becomes the least of his challenges as he finds himself accused of breaking the law before his journey even begins.

I really enjoyed the Pennsylvania Omnibus on a number of levels. The story is well written and I was continually left bamboozled as Bunker skilfully revealed each plot twist, especially in the opening third of the book. There are twists and turns galore and even when you think you have a grip of what is going on, Bunker is happy to pull the rug from under your feet once again.

However, the thing I liked most about the book was the culture clash of viewing a futuristic world through the eyes of somebody who has lived in a culture virtually unchanged in centuries. This juxtaposition of a world view based in the earth and a simple life meeting the challenges of a hi-tech virtual world is fascinating and gives the novel unique flavour.

There are occasions where the book is let down by its original episodic structure, with cliffhangers at the end of a chapter only to be quickly resolved on the next page, but overall this is an excellent book and one I highly recommend.

Abby Goldsmith says

Other people have had trouble describing this book without spoilers. Here's my own lame attempt: "Total Recall" meets "The Matrix" with an Amish protagonist. That should give you the gist of it.

I've met the author, and he told me that he reads a lot of Russian dystopian literature. He also told me that he doesn't do happy and neatly tied up endings. Based on that + his lifestyle in a Plain community, I assumed that his take on sci-fi would be dark and possibly dreary, with maudling insights about a pastoral lifestyle. Instead, I was pleasantly surprised by a fast-paced, action-packed, intense science fiction novel. His writing style is much more Daniel Suarez than Dostoevsky. This was a thoroughly enjoyable story that kept me hooked and turning pages. The mystery pulled me along. A few ideas and characters really stood out. (If you've read it, I'm sure you remember Go Eagles! Super awesome in the audiobook edition.)

My quibbles are all spoilers. Here goes: (view spoiler)

Overall, I really thought this was a fun book, with more than enough intelligent mystery to keep me up late!

Cori says

Amish sci-fi. It actually works, that part was believable.

I wanted to get into this book. It just didn't hook me until the middle. Then I was finally into it. However towards the end I started wondering how it could end with 10% of the book left. And then 5%, this can't be wrapped up in that time!?!?

Nope. It wasn't. The end left me high and dry and confused. I still don't understand. So is there more to this series??? No other reviews seem confused but I see no mention of this being the first book. What is going on? I've searched around and I think this is it!?!?

All of this is incredibly frustrating as a reader. Is there more or not, it shouldn't be that hard to find out. And if there isn't, then wtf!?!?

Big fat meh. This book left me irritated.

Lisa says

This book was really awful. Interesting premise, but, man, the writing is immature -- and that's putting it charitably. I could go on, but I'll post one star and leave it at that. Oh, and this: ". . . a few faint tracks on her face were the only reminder that she'd had an emotional episode over the death of Donovan." Ugh.

FanFiAddict says

Amish Sci-Fi. Hmmm

Pennsylvania was very different, but in a good way. Not only did I get a new and refreshing Sci-Fi experience with a lot of plot twists, but I learned more and more about the Amish culture the farther I got into the story. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I am looking forward to reading more works by Bunker!

Lisa says

This was terrible. Not sure how it got good reviews. Also not sure how anyone could compare it to Hugh Howey's Wool. Keep you 99 cents.

Adam Collings says

This book has a fantastic premise. An Amish man leaves earth to help settle a new colony of plain people on a distant planet called New Pennsylvania. When he arrives he finds himself drawn into the midst of a battle with a dystopian government.

There are a lot of twists and turns in this one. Once you reach the end you find you've been reading a different book than you thought. The ending felt a bit sudden but sometimes a little mystery can be thought-provoking.

Nick Cole says

A mind bending slide through a future struggling to find the past. Pick this one up if you want SciFi done right!

J B says

Young Amishman Jedidiah Troyer is now a traveler. He's signed up for an emigration program that is colonizing the planet of New Pennsylvania. He just wants to start a farm and homestead on affordable land in a new Amish community. Space pioneering isn't as easy as it sounds when you're "plain." Jedidiah and his new friend Dawn arrive on New Pennsylvania in the middle of a rebel uprising, and TRACE, the resistance group that is rising up against TRANSPORT, has taken on the mission of getting Jed from the City to the Amish Zone. Being a stranger in the old world doesn't even compare to being a stranger in a new world... a world that is at war and where nothing is what it seems.

Jedidiah Troyer is an eighteen year old who lives in the Amish Country of Pennsylvania on Earth. Promised cheap land and the prospect of starting a life on his own, he travels to New Pennsylvania, far outside our galaxy, in search of new opportunities, much like the settlers of old. Leaving behind everything and everyone he knows, he will hibernate for nine years until he reaches his new home planet. From there, he will then travel to the Amish Zone to begin his new life.

If only it could be that easy.

However, once he lands and comes out of hibernation, his life is put in immediate danger! Helped by mysterious allies, he learns that there is something sinister going on here as he is drawn into a conflict between opposing forces and is in way over his head in more ways than one.

For reasons unknown to Jed, and to the reader, the resistance is putting everything on the line to help him reach The Amish Zone. On the run from the Transport Authority, he realizes several things on the road to reaching The Amish Zone that forces him to question everything he thought he knew about this journey he has embarked on.

As the story progresses, we begin to understand why Jed is viewed as important to both the Transport Authority and to TRACE, the resistance. We discover along with Jed how the fight for freedom is being fought on multiple fronts, both literal and figurative, as well as the role he will play in the entire conflict, whether he wants to or not.

This story drew me into its mysteries very quickly & deeply, fleshing out this world with interesting sci-fi concepts and intriguing technology. The Amish Zone & its culture play a significant part of the larger stage this entire story plays out on, making for a unique tale contrasting technology with the simpler lifestyle of the Amish. This culture gives Jed a rich heritage and personality that makes him no ordinary protagonist and an intriguing character as well. With his non-violent Amish beliefs, he stands as an island of idealistic calm amidst a turbulent conflict, illustrating how he truly is a stranger in a strange land.

This story has plenty of rich ingredients in it, as it's full of suspense, features innovative uses of technology, fascinating surprises and unpredictable twists & turns. The mystery of where and when Jed is adds another layer to the mystery, as concepts of time and space also factor into the conflict. All of this and more are deftly incorporated into an engaging and engrossing story of a not-so-simple farmer who adapts to his circumstances while remaining true to himself.

By the end, many battles have been fought, we get answers to most of our questions, but also leaves room for the next tale in this tantalizing saga. This is the first part of a three part epic chronicle in the making, leaving room for the second in a planned three part trilogy, to be titled "Oklahoma". I'm eager to see how the author expands upon the ideas that he established here in the next adventure!

Pennsylvania Omnibus

About the Author

Michael Bunker is a USA Today Bestselling author, off-gridder, husband, and father of four children. He lives with his family in a "plain" community in Central Texas, where he reads and writes books...and occasionally tilts at windmills. In November of 2015, Variety Magazine announced that Michael had sold a film/tv option for his bestselling novel Pennsylvania to Jorgensen Pictures. JP is currently developing Pennsylvania for production into a feature film or Television series. Michael is writing the first draft of the screenplay.

Michael's latest (and best rated) novel is Brother, Frankenstein which was released in late April of 2015.

Michael has been called the "father" of the Amish/SciFi genre but that isn't all that he writes. He is the author of several popular and acclaimed works of dystopian sci-fi, including the Amazon top 20 bestselling Amish Sci-fi thriller the Pennsylvania Omnibus, the groundbreaking dystopian vision Hugh Howey called "a brilliant tale of extra-planetary colonization." He also has written the epic post-apocalyptic WICK series, The Silo Archipelago (set in Hugh Howey's World of WOOL,) as well as many nonfiction works, including the non-fiction Amazon overall top 30 bestseller Surviving Off Off-Grid. Michael was commissioned by Amazon.com through their Kindle Worlds and Kindle Serials programs to write the first ever commissioned novel set in the World of Kurt Vonnegut's Cat's Cradle. That book is entitled Osage Two Diamonds, and it debuted on Dec. 17, 2013.

In late April of 2015, Michael released his novel Brother, Frankenstein to fantastic reviews.

Michael has been featured on NPR, HuffPost Live, and Ozy.com and was recently interviewed in a Medium.com article that will give you more background and insight into his life and works...
<http://bit.ly/17YbE63>.

On November 21st, 2014 Tales From Pennsylvania, a fanfic short story anthology featuring 10 top speculative fiction authors writing fanfic short stories in the world of Michael Bunker's Pennsylvania, was

released in paperback and e-book format. More than twenty authors have been (or will be) writing fanfic in the world of MB's Pennsylvania.

Readers who subscribe to Michael's newsletter get free copies of his books, usually before they're published: <http://michaelbunker.com/newsletter>

Timothy Ward says

Pennsylvania is a very different kind of scifi, and that's part of what I loved about it. The story is told in a very easy to read narrative style that gets right into the meat of our main character's adventure. Jed is the oldest male in his Amish family and is about to take a journey to a distant planet to help humanity colonize their future home. Earth is suffering under a lingering war between the new tyrannical government, Transport, and rebel forces which make some areas far more dangerous than what the reader knows of America. This future-possible America is fascinating to imagine and experience through Jed, and that's just the backdrop. Before long we care about this young man and his journey into the unknown as he goes off alone, leaving his family behind.

What can I say about his journey that won't spoil anything? I'd rather give you a glimpse of story elements that Mr. Bunker has in store. Jed will encounter the rebels of New Pennsylvania and instantly have to run for his life. As an Amish man, he will question the use of technology Mr. Bunker invented, BICE, and yet must use this mind-Internet implant to save lives. There is a girl who becomes special to him, and creates an extra layer of interest in his survival and success on this unexpected mission. Mr. Bunker throws a lot of twists, fascinating worldbuilding concepts and technologies, and unique characters into this addicting read. If you like futuristic technology and fast-paced stories, this is a must read. You'll be delighted at the new world this adventure explores and will demand more stories in the future.

Jeff Bowes says

I did not like it. Amish Superman? Really. In the future only the Amish no how to grow food or do hard work. Also they are inherently genius hackers of technology due to their level-headed farming knowledge. I am only exaggerating a little.

Chris says

Amish Sci-Fi: A New Take on an Old Genre (minor spoilers)

Michael Bunker's *Pennsylvania Omnibus* is simultaneously familiar and new. The familiar: a futuristic government establishment at odds with the liberties of its constituency breeds a "Fight The Man" rebellion. The new: at the heart of the story—and the rebellion—is an Amish community conflicted within itself. This sect mirrors the larger society in the story as it grapples with an essential question: how much of who I am need I give up to coexist peacefully in a society that I am, at times, at odds with?

Bunker's characters are engaging and sympathetic. Jed, the protagonist, is the fish-out-of-water in New Pennsylvania, dumped in the middle of the rebellion when, really, all he expected to do was step off a transport and start farming a new land. The author's descriptions of that new land, like his characters, are vivid and grounded in the familiar, but spiced with a unique mystery (e.g., landmarks on the landscape) that keep the reader guessing as to where Jed has really ended up. (Jed's kept guessing, too!) Character archetypes, their motivations, the conflict, the tech—familiar, but by no means stale in Bunker's hands.

It's against that comfortable background that the author paints his real image—the fresh perspective on these events from an Amish community (and hero) in the middle of the conflict. (And, remember, this is set in the future; mixing that Amish viewpoint with a futuristic plot is, in itself, innovative and fun to read.) To avoid spoilers I won't mention the heart of the characters' conflict, but suffice it to say that the Amish way is both questioned and reaffirmed via the plot. I love fiction that examines these grey areas and doesn't present black-and-white, easy-to-come-by answers to moral questions. That's what engages me personally as a reader, and while Bunker has clear affection for Amish cultural values, he's not above putting them to the test in his story.

If all this sounds a bit weird, that's because it is; if by "weird" you mean "uncommon and different." It's that new take on an old story—the fun of seeing a sci-fi rebellion tale told from a cultural perspective that, frankly, I didn't know much about beyond the movie *Witness*—that kept me reading, and enthusiastically so. *Oklahoma* is the upcoming sequel to *Pennsylvania*...if Bunker's keeps his storytelling at this level, I'm hoping he'll consider writing 48 more tales beyond the sequel.

C.J. Peter says

Well, hey. An Amish scifi story. And it worked. Of course the conclusion of this volume leads to the next set called "Oklahoma" which will be forthcoming, so it's not really done yet, but this was an enjoyable read.

One thing I've discovered over the course of the last year (not specific to this series) is that I prefer completed full length novels over chapters released over time. I'm pretty sure this is a psychological reaction to having grown up with the "whole book" in my hands when I purchase it.

This is an update from the concluding serial release of *Pennsylvania5*.

Not only is this an excellent read, the Omnibus version has some outstanding production values and artwork, which really stand out, and show the author's dedication to putting quality in the hands of his readers.

Never let it be said that indie published works have to be second rate or "less" than the traditional publishing works.

Well worth the read!

Stefano says

I read the first part of *Pennsylvania* in July 2013 and had to wait many months to see its conclusion. It was

already clear to me that it was something special. I do not want to write here about the plot or the many twists and turns; you can read about them in my reviews of the single parts (or in many others written far better than mine).

What I want to describe here is the beauty of the paperback Omnibus edition.

The cover is designed by the master of covers Jason Gurley. They are a beauty in electronic form but you have to see them in print to fully appreciate the talent of this young artist.

Then the awesome Ben Adams artwork inside. He has already designed the artwork of another great indie book, Sand by Hugh Howey. If you had the chance to see them you know what I mean. They are present in the ebook version too, but the printed versions are mindblowing.

That said, this book is the proof of what an indie author can achieve gathering the best talents available.

Of course the great story is the most important part, but when you have it in your hand you'll feel the love for the book as an item, to keep on your bookshelf to andmire and to read on your sofa after an hard day of work.

Last but not least if you buy the paperback you can have the ebook version for just a buck thanks to the Kindle Matchbook program.

K. E. Douglas says

I vacillated between loving the premise of this story, to feeling "meh" about the continuation, to disliking the convolutions. So my rating is sometimes a two and sometimes a four. I marked it three stars for the concept alone.

My stepdad grew up old order Amish, and we'd go visit his family in the summers. Immediately at the beginning, I recognized the timbre of the voices between Jed and his brother, and it felt distinctly Amish. It's difficult to explain unless you've spent time with the Plain people, but it warmed me immediately to the story.

I'd have probably liked it better if I'd just read the short story and not the continuations, though. It got a little convoluted after that, what with all the blowing things up, people dying to save the main character, and little concept of why he would be so important to the rebel cause.

All in all, it was a bumpy read, and I developed a bit of love/hate for it, but the concept - sci fi with Amish folk - is interesting. And Bunker himself is an awesome dude.
