

INSIDER

READ WHERE IT COMES FROM, SEE WHERE IT'S GOING

JANUARY 2026

PROGRESS UPDATE!

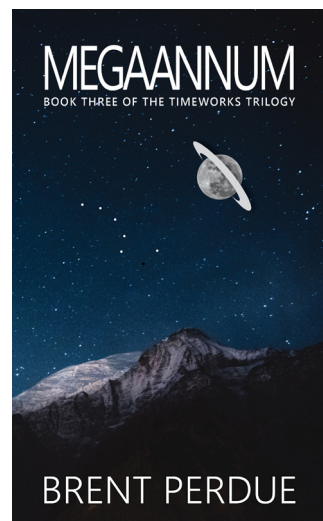
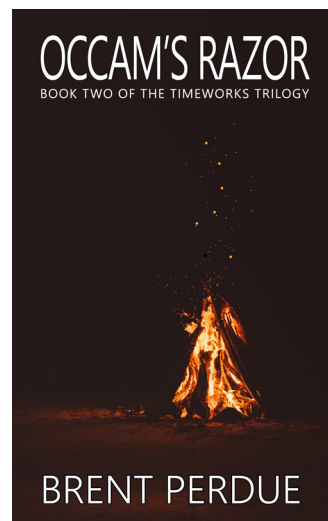
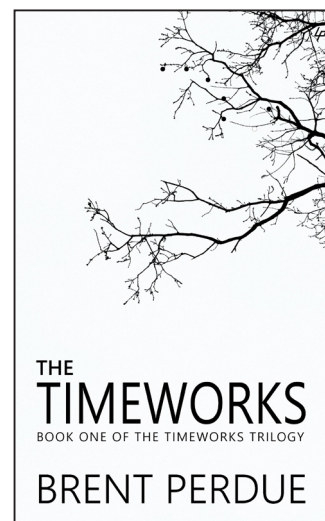
The first book of the Amistar series - Lands We Call Home - is itching to get written. But both the second and third books - Lights In The Distance and Hold Fast Hold On, respectively - must first get sorted.

Plenty of writers use their first draft to figure out the story. Plenty don't; they, like me, prefer to discover the story's history, context, characters, etc. by doodling, pacing and talking to oneself like a madperson, jotting down seemingly random ideas then discovering how they all fit together like a wonderful mosaic.

The Amistar books are set against a backdrop of interplanetary war. But this is no action-only fare; instead, our core characters are simply making their way through life, pursuing their goals - some noble, others less so - in the shadows of this intensifying conflict.

Until what the discover thrusts them into the thick of it all.

Once I get past this intense compensation cycle at work, I'm looking forward to diving in and working on this challenging, entertaining puzzle!



FLASHBACK: THE TIMEWORKS TRILOGY

It's been a few years now but the Timeworks trilogy still speaks to me on a daily basis. Faster's invention of time compression, the opportunities for abuse that rapidly expanded, and the challenge of wielding a tool of such power . . . it still rings like a marvel that this came to mind and paved the way to this adventure.

Plus, my characters continue to tell me new things.

So yeah, there's that.

FLASHBACK: MEGAANNUM

In the original telling of Megaannum, when Zibbie discovers that she's trapped in the past - having gone to the Buttonhole to discover it was now permanently closed to her - she had to make the best of her situation. Fortunately, the mysteries of Wayne's home were soon revealed to her. Plus, he'd left her a lot of money.

So before she heads up to Durring to find the farm, she makes her way to Harmony Hills Mall.

She's quite a sight - dragging herself into the mall sporting a pair of men's winter boots, her hair longer than most had ever seen, she is met by a gaggle of teenaged girls staring at her in wonder.

Displaying an audacious black credit card - called a Stick - rewards Zibbie with instant friends. Together the five girls go shopping, and Zibbie assembles a wardrobe befitting a girl in the 2050's.

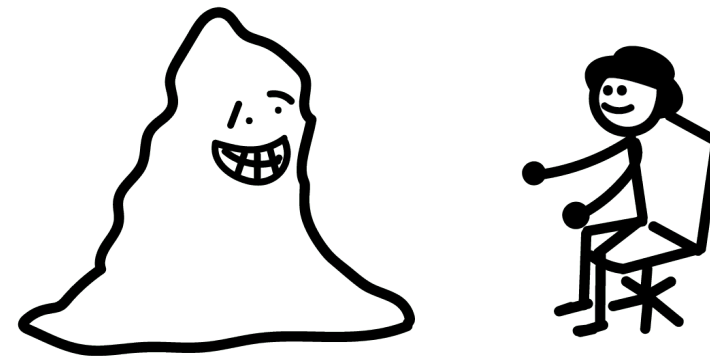
Only after Zibbie is settled into the farm in Durring does Lewis's wife Abigail escort her into town to have her hair dealt with once and for all. And with that, the transformation of Zibbie Brayley is complete.

Yet Zibbie knows she will not be staying in the 2050's. She has much to learn and bring with her to her own time in the distant future. Where her friends are. Where she has a civilization to save.

IMAGE RECALL: OCCAM'S RAZOR

Billy is convinced that he obliterated humanity from the face of the Earth. He anticipates that the story he's typing up and drawing will never be read, but if they are it'll be some squishy alien dude who'll find it.

Billy is sure the guy will look something like this:



You look like a happy fellow! And I look like I want to hug you!

Y'know, thinking about it here as the very last person alive: I think I would hug you, if your culture wasn't against hugging.

I take it by your globular shape that maybe you're not used to hugging because you don't have any arms.

Something in me tells me you'd enjoy it.

You look like a hugger.

Check out my author site - www.brentperdue.com - for more information on my books, my blog (in which I often talk about the craft), and to get the skinny on the latest from my desk!

WWW.BRENTPERDUE.COM

See you next time! Brent



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