



New Beginnings (The Tales of Tim Hurtle, Book One)

Matthew James Wilkins

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***** PLEASE NOTE that as of September 2018, this book has been retired from official circulation *****

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Moon says

The Tales of Tim Hurtleuta came to me at just the right time.... a time when I need to do some of my own soul searching.

This book is about Tim. One day he wakes up... literally and figuratively... and realizes that life is a lot more than the materialistic gerbil wheel he has been running on every day then we watch as he starts growing and changing... quitting his job and following his heart and soul. Synchronicities begin to happen to him as he explores his new outlook on life... and we get to live in his head as he realizes who he really is.

I have to say that starting to read this book, right at the time I was diagnosed with cancer, was a HUGE synchronicity for me that I can not ignore. I have read this book now five times, I kid you not... when you are sick, you just have a lot of time to read.... and even though I have over forty books waiting to be read in my kindle (again, I kid you not...) I found myself opening this one again and again... and I probably will read it again....

This book made me think about my life and all that it is.... it opened my eyes in so many ways. I feel like colors are brighter and smells stronger.... I am noticing things and synchronicities that I don't think I ever would have before.

I am going to recommend this book to everyone I know, it's not just a story of Tim and a cool bookstore and amazing girlfriend... its a story of figuring out Who you really are and how to live it....

One more thing: The cover is cool... but it does not do justice to the overwhelmingly life changing quality of this book. Ok... off to read it again!

Deb says

I can quite honestly say that I have never read a book like this one. New Beginnings is categorized in both metaphysical fiction and nonfiction spirituality which is interesting. While there is definitely a fictional element to it, the bulk of the book is more in line with its nonfiction classification. The reader joins fictional character, Tim Hurtleuta, on a journey through which he experiences many odd, yet significant events and people on his road to self-discovery.

Tim and Levah Dotling (Tim's love interest) are quirky, yet loveable characters and I found myself wanting to read more of their story. However, revealing their story and sharing their adventures does not seem to be the point of this book. Instead, the reader gets a healthy dose of the purpose of this novel in Chapter 13 where Tim discovers a used book café and while waiting on his food begins to read. Unfortunately, the reader is subjected to the entirety of his reading in a verbose and entirely too esoteric narrative which is presumably the first chapter of the book. The story is primarily told from Tim's point of view, though

Chapter 19 suddenly switches to Levah telling the story from her perspective – but only for one chapter. It is an abrupt and rather strange transition, the purpose of which I am not quite clear.

Once again, the story takes a jog with Chapter 27 when the storytelling shifts to an older Tim now sharing his musings rather than his memories...and this is where the book becomes almost completely nonfiction and entirely too mystical for my taste. Had the author stuck with the fictional tale rather than the spiritual pontification, I would have enjoyed *New Beginnings* much more. That said, Mr. Wilkins is a talented writer with ability to create beautiful imagery and depth of character and I applaud his efforts to weave an imaginative and inspiring tale.

gemsbooknook Geramie Kate Barker says

Won this Through Goodreads First Read.

This book was really intriguing. I loved part one, I was excited by every new page. I didn't love part two. The writing style changed and I just didn't feel as excited by it.

Carla Paton says

“There are others playing this game with you.”

The *Tales of Tim Hurtle* - *New Beginnings*, I think may be the kind of novel you either “get” or you don’t. Some may not like it because Wilkins does such an excellent job of capturing what goes on in our heads as stream of consciousness (not that it is stream of consciousness writing). Others may like it for the same reason. It is a fascinating, voyeuristic trip along with Tim in his head.

As literary fiction, it is focused more on character than plot. But it is Tim’s life that is the plot. And not only this, the novel brings us into Tim’s world in a dreamlike way and before we know it we seem to become Tim. There is no describing this experience. There is only reading it and well, becoming Tim.

In the process of becoming Tim, we are with him as he dreams and relives the traumatic turning points in his childhood. I was fascinated by how Wilkins managed to remember and capture all of the sensory details of the life of a fifteen-year-old. I could feel myself back in school with all the joy, doubts and fears, ups and downs that can happen within the space of a minute when you are that age.

Wilkins also manages intricately to relay the weight of feelings that can overwhelm when sweet delight and innocence is crushed by the world. Later, I could also relate to Tim in his adult job as his existential detachment from life has turned him into a robot repeating an eternal mind-numbing ground-hog day.

Due to his childhood hurts, Tim has walled himself in away from pain and therefore any sensations. The turning point comes when he awakens to his authentic self. This begins his individuation journey that we are happy to take with him. This is the frightening part of life that without walls leaves us vulnerable and exposed. We find ourselves, like Tim, questioning every move.

One of my favorite passages from the book is at this turning point, when Tim is playing a “role-playing game” on his phone (like the apathetic role he has taken in life). An odd man sits down beside him and asks, “What are you doing?”

Tim replies, “I’m just playing a game, a role playing game.”

“Are you winning?”

“I’m doing okay I suppose. I’m stuck in a certain place.”

“Really? How long have you been stuck?”

“For a while now, I haven’t been playing for long. I think I still have a lot to learn.”

“Hmmm,” said the man intensely, his croak deepening. “That’s true. However I hope you know that you’re not alone in this, that there are others playing this game with you.”

And so there are Tim, so there are, and all of us with a lot yet to learn.

Matthew Wilkins says

As I wrote this book I will naturally give it five stars because it is the first book I ever wrote and like a first time parent I love it to pieces.

I would whole heartedly recommend "New Beginnings" as journey worth taking and the "The Tales of Tim Hurtletuta" a series worth journeying with.

New Beginnings is a voyeuristic spiritual story set at the start of one man's unique perceptual exploration of modern life.

Best of wishes to you all.

Matthew

Jodie says

I enjoyed this novel immensely. I especially like the way it matures as Tim does, deepening and opening up to more of his evolving perspective as his life progresses. The then follows him through the markers in his young adulthood that have shaped who he is up until his early thirties (roughly) and the birth of his first child. The traumas and the awakenings, the humour and the uncertainties, the aha moments that shift and change his beliefs. All the things that make being human what it is.

Starting off relatively simple it evolves into a spiritually complex and highly though provoking story that I feel most of us can find resonance with in one way or another whatever path we find ourselves on. It reminds me in way of inspirational novels such as "The Way of the Peaceful Warrior" and "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" which I personally read many years ago. If you like these sorts of books then you will certainly warm to this one.

Tim's story though is uniquely his own and presented in an intriguing voyeuristic manner by the author, blending both depth and insight with the naturalities and simple straightforwardness of the life. My only criticism is that it seems to drag on a bit in places and that perhaps the author could "chew off the fat" in certain areas and become more cohesive in the messages he is trying to convey in his story. Maybe something for consideration in further instalments.

Thank you for the read.

