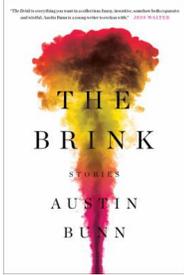


Books by the Stack



The Brink: Stories by Austin Bunn

Told in a range of voices, styles, and settings – from inside the Hale-Bopp cult to the desk of a conquistador's galleon adrift at the end of the ocean – the stories in Bunn's collection capture the transformations and discoveries at the edge of irrevocable change

Why you'll like it: *Inventive, nuanced, apocalyptic, local author.*

About the Author: Austin Bunn is a writer, screenwriter, and professor. A Michener-Copernicus Fellow, he is the author of “The Brink”, published by Harper Perennial and selected as a Lambda Lit finalist and Electric Literature “Best Short Story Collection of 2015.” He wrote the script for “Kill Your Darlings,” with the film's director John Krokidas, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival and won the International Days Prize at the Venice Film Festival. His monologue, “Basement Story,” won the Missouri Review Audio Essay Prize and has been broadcast on WBEZ, Third Coast, Australian Radio, and Michigan Public Radio. He is a graduate of Yale and the Iowa Writers' Workshop and teaches at Cornell University. (*Bio from author's website.*)

Questions for Discussion

1. What were the themes of the book? Do you feel they were adequately explored? Does Bunn have a theme he returns to over and over?
2. Is there a certain type of character that tends to crop up in many of the stories?
3. Do all the stories feel as though they are of equal “weight?” If not, what makes one story feel more significant than another?
4. Why do you think Bunn chose the first story to be first and the last story to be last?
5. Are there particular stories you could see going on to being novels? If so, why?
6. Did any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? How?
7. Were there any particular quotes that stood out to you? Why?
8. What was this book's message?

