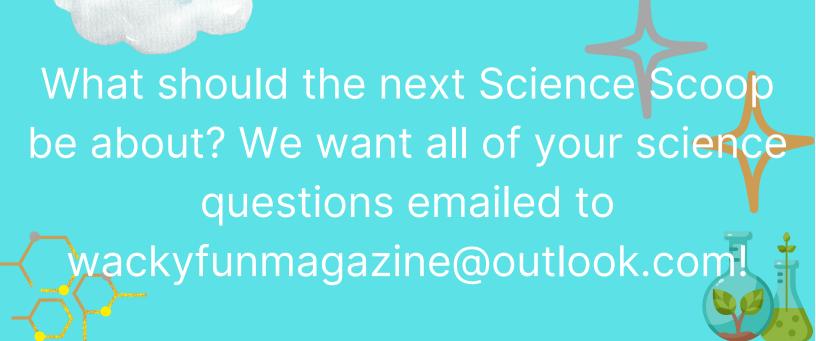


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#### Book Review: Dune

Joshua Brown

**Author: Frank Herbert** 

**Publisher: Random House** 

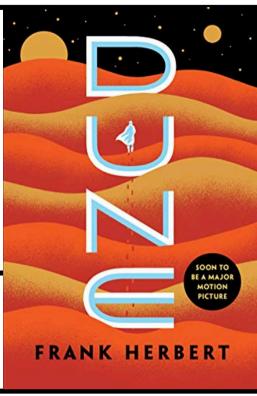
Grades: 6th and up

**Pages: 866** 

Genre: Science Fiction, Adventure



#### 5 Stars



Today, I am reviewing Dune by Frank Herbert. This amazing science fiction story was written in 1965. It is essentially a three-part tale of a young Paul Atreides, who has to navigate life as his Royal Family takes control of a desert planet after it has been ruled by their rivals, the Harkonnens, for centuries. The planet produces a mysterious drug, called melange, that prolongs life and gives precedence to those who consistently ingest it. In addition to the main story, the novel features many layers of other subjects interwoven into the plot: ecology, religion, politics, and human perspective. Dune is set eons in the future, after humans have migrated far away from earth, and so features many new technologies. There is something for every sci-fi fan to love. I would highly recommend to any who are seeking a good, long, science fiction story. It will take at least a month to finish, assuming you have other books you're reading and read a chapter or two every day. There is almost nothing boring or unnecessary in the book; the beginning is slow-paced and builds characters, settings, and timelines before unleashing the action. Even though it is an older book, written almost sixty years in the past, it has no old English spelling or hard to understand metaphors. Frank Herbert does include several appendixes at the end of the book, explaining certain words in the plot that are from a made-up language from the future. Aside from his use of imaginary language, it is incredibly easy to follow. The plot builds slowly and does not have many drastic twists. The book is available in many different forms, including hardback and paperback. I recommend the mass-market paperback edition. It is quite large, almost 900 pages, but is three sections. You can, if you want to work slowly because you have other things to do, read one section every month for three months. In conclusion, Dune is a great read. It is timeless, though older than fifty years, and one of the most highly acclaimed science fiction novels even today.

#### Video Game Review: Totally Reliable Delivery Service

#### The Comical Scientist



Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a delivery driver? This game captivates that simulation with a fun sandbox version that makes you kind of a rag doll. You try to "control" your arms, but it's not always that easy. Packages seem to be very heavy in this game, making it very difficult to not drag them which provides a very tough challenge with questionable deliveries such as bombs.

Another challenge is that you need to drive vehicles with your hard to control arms. Some vehicles in the game include helicopters, airplanes, and trucks. There are also unconventional delivery methods such as ziplines and hang gliders. With the ability to play with up to four players locally as well as online capabilities, this can make for a super fun and enjoyable game night. Another great thing about this game is it can be played anywhere! Supported platforms include Nintendo Switch, Xbox, PlayStation, iOS, Android, and PC (even Linux). This crazy game will have you on the edge of your seat and fill you and your friend's bellies up with laughter!

# Top 10 Places to Visit

Jonah Brown

- 1. Switzerland
- 2. Scotland
- 3. England
- 4. China
- 5. Colorado (U.S.)
- 6. New York (U.S.)
- 7. Alaska (U.S.)
- 8. Italy
- 9. Greece
- 10. Croatia

### My Crazy Cousin

#### The Language of ... Love?

#### Joshua Brown

I have a crazy cousin. You may think he needs to be in a mental hospital. Or you may think he's perfectly normal and I'm

wrong to call him crazy. He is a very polarizing person. No matter what you think of him, though, he is... Odd. At least. He travels all over the world. He never seems to be without money, a place to stay, and friends nearby. However, I don't ever hear him speak of his good buddies "Andy" or "Katherine" unless he is seeing them out somewhere in Berlin or Hong Kong or wherever. He somehow always makes it. Always gets to the next place.

Anyway, that's really not important. I heard a tale from him recently, so absurd and such like a fantasy that I thought he had indeed made it all up. I sometimes think he does just tell these stories for laughs. Yet he always has some proof. In fact, last month he told me some wacky tale of a diner down south, and I fully believed it all to be from his imagination. Then he produced a rusty fork from his pocket, and I had no choice but to take it for truth.

This most recent story apparently happened in Italy. He didn't know what the city was called—actually, he couldn't pronounce it. My cousin says he had been walking along the countryside, enjoying the beautiful views, and it had grown dark. He had then walked up to several houses and asked to spend the night. He had plenty of euros, of course.

The first door opened, and a man walked out. With some shaking Italian and a few flips through an English to Italian book, my cousin communicated to the man that he sought a place to stay.

The man replied, "No room. We no room." My cousin asked if he knew someone with room. The man answered back, "Nessuno room."

"Nessuno has room?" My cousin asked, hopeful.

Nessuno room. Sì."

"Thank you," my cousin said. The man nodded and closed the door. My cousin was left in the evening Italian countryside. The next house was a good half a mile. He mumbled, "I hope the Nessunos live right down there." He set off toward the distant house.

Ten minutes later—he stopped a car, and it took him three minutes to figure out they wouldn't give him a ride—he arrived at the gate of this next house.

He climbed the stone steps as he walked along the sidewalk. He told me that he actually looked for a mailbox with a name on it. He didn't find one, unsurprisingly.

He came to the door and knocked. After a minute it opened, and an old woman came out. "Ciao." She said gruffly. He could tell she wasn't happy to have an intruder at the later hour. It took him a few moments to tell her he was seeking a room. She listened impartially. While he was talking with her a younger man walked past the door with two kids and said something to the woman. She snapped at him and looked back at my cousin.

"No place." She said finally. "Visitors. No place."

My cousin apologized for the inconvenience and then left. He turned back and asked the woman before she closed the door,

"Where can I find room?" After a minute she turned back inside, and he thought she had decided to ignore him. However, a minute later the man appeared. My cousin repeated the question. The man said, "Nessuno has room."

"Thank you," my cousin said, turning back toward the road. "Oh," he muttered, spinning back to the house. "Where can I find Mr. Nessuno?" But the house had been shut up, and the door was closed. No one was there. "Maybe next house." My cousin said dejectedly.

After he came to the final house on the hill, the one at the base, it was dark. He trudged up to the house and knocked. After five minutes, during which my cousin just sat there and looked for a sign that had the name Nessuno on it, the door creaked open. My cousin was relieved to see an American.

"Hello, fellow American!" He bellowed.

"Hi." My cousin mumbled, tired by now. "Are you mister Nessuno?"

The man began laughing. This startled my cousin. He waited while the man finished chuckling loudly into the dark. He put a hand on my cousin's shoulder. "Have you been looking for a Nessuno?"

"Why, yes." My cousin admitted.

"Nessuno is Italian for 'no one,'" he said, on the verge of hysteria again.

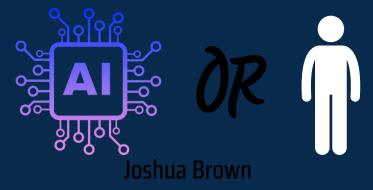
My cousin had to laugh, too. After a long giggle fit, which lasted several minutes and exclamations, they both stopped. "So you have room?" My cousin asked at the end, happy to have finally found a place to stay.

"What? Oh, no! They were right when they said no one has room. You should try the people on the other side of the hill." The

man explained, pointing back up the hill my cousin and descended.

"Great!" He said through gritted teeth.





I will presently show you three sets of sentences. In each set, one will be written by human and one by Al —artificial intelligence. The sentences will be about the same subject and will be similar in length. You will have to guess which is written by AI for each set and I will reveal the answers at the end. Let's begin.

A: The waterfall, which flowed in misty trails over the edge of the cliffs above, had dampened the ground until it had become permanently darkened with moisture and green with moss. B: The waterfall's thundering roar echoed through the canyon, captivating

A: Christmas is a holiday celebrated in December every year; it is a time for giving gifts, spending time with family, and spreading joy and cheer. B: Every year at the end of the twelfth month, there is a special holiday that we call Christmas, during which people gather together and exchange gifts with one

A: The hawk soared gracefully through the sky, its keen eyes scanning the ground below for any signs of movement.

B: A graceful hawk swooped down through the thick branches of the trees, its broad wings straining with the effort of keeping the bird on the proper course.

Those were the sentences. 2 about a waterfall, 2 about Christmas, and 2 about a hawk. I hope you guessed correctly. I also hope you enjoyed the topics and writing—whether it was AI generated or human. I was the human writer in all the cases. The AI was a free tool online that I used. I gave it a topic and chose a writing style for it—like friendly, casual, or middle school. The answers are disclosed on the last page of the magazine.

# The Challenger! By Joshua Brown. Coming to Amazon.com by June 20th.

The future world is different from ours. Citizens work long hours for little pay and have houses, food and transportation rationed out to them according to their status. The Hybrid fighting games, a yearly sports event, is the only entertainment left. Citizens use their little extra money to bet on the games. The greatest thing they want for their children is to watch them sit as the hybrid fighting Champion.

Adam Merrick, a teenager in the West of the continent, is a rare case. He dislikes the hybrid games, would never dream of being in them, and is ridiculed and taunted because of it. While attending a drawing to determine who would become the last challenger—one of sixteen who would fight in the season—he, Adam Merrick, is picked to be the last fighter. He can't believe it. Nor can his parents or his schoolmates.

Now all he has to do is pick two to four animals to make into a hybrid, learn to become that hybrid, train to fight as a never-before-seen animal, travel to the Arena dome, where, after extensive training and coaching, he will fight fifteen other contenders and, if he triumphs, will battle the current Champion, Ryan Clawman.

Though Ryan is in trouble for killing three opponents last season, he still sits as hybrid fighting Champion, and is determined to maintain a grasp on his title.

Can Adam hope to accomplish all these things, or will his story end in tragedy?

## Crazy Crimes

**Jonah Brown** 

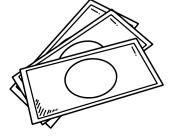
In August 1995, Klaus Schmidt attempted to rob a bank in Berlin. He entered the bank with a handgun and threatened to shoot anybody who called for help. He demanded the bank workers give him a large amount of money. He was struggling to carry all the cash, so one of the workers asked him if he needed a bag. He responded, "Yes, it's a real gun!" It became apparent at that moment that Klaus was deaf. The worker sounded the alarm and Klaus did not react because he couldn't hear. Did I mention he was deaf? The police arrested him soon after. He later sued the bank, claiming they took advantage of his disability. He did not win the case. Obviously.

In 2011, Anthony Fuller from North Carolina, went to Walmart. He grabbed a vacuum cleaner and a microwave oven before proceeding to the check-out line. The total cost of his items was \$476. Nothing out of the ordinary, right? Well, there wasn't, until he attempted to pay with a million dollar note from Monopoly. He demanded change of \$999,524. The police were immediately called, and Fuller was charged with attempting to obtain property by false pretenses. His bond was \$97,500. I guess you shouldn't base your crimes off of board games.

Gary Rough attempted to rob a bookmaker's shop with a cucumber. Yes, a cucumber. He entered the shop with the vegetable wrapped up in a black sock. He demanded money while waving the cucumber around like a weapon. The woman he was attempting to rob refused to give him any money. Maybe she should have given him some salad dressing. However, an off-duty police officer saw the whole thing, and quickly arrested Rough. He claimed it was all a "harmless prank.". The officer didn't buy his story and Rough was put in prison.

For all you pranksters out there: Never attempt to rob anywhere or anyone. Even if it is just a prank, you could be seriously injured or worse by cops who are just trying to do their jobs.







ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT

By Joshua Brown

#### **CHEETAHS**

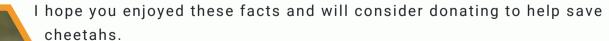
Today, I'll be giving you a rundown on a very beautiful and remarkable animal: The cheetah. The cheetah, or hunting leopard, is a land mammal. Most will know that cheetahs are the fastest land animals and can reach speeds between 50 and 80 miles per hour. They can reach a speed of 60 miles per hour in under three seconds. Zero to 60 is often used as a measurement of how fast cars accelerate and is based on the cheetah.

However, though they can run extremely fast--they could easily catch a person, bike, or even a slow-moving motorcycle--cheetahs have limited endurance. This means that they will tire quickly. They will attempt to catch food, which is primarily antelope, in the first few seconds of a high-speed chase. If the antelope manage to dodge the cheetah long enough, the predator will wear out and cease the chase.

The cheetah is marked by yellowish fur, which is creamy white on the chest and feet, with evenly spaced black spots. On the faces, there are black trails resembling tear streaks, which help the cheetah see in the bright daylight. Their bodies are lean and tawny, with thin, long legs, small, rounded heads, and a long tail. Cheetahs are built for speed. They have a very light build, allowing for more speed, long legs that can stretch to create longer stride-length —meaning they cover more distance with each step. They also have a tail that balances their bodies while they race at high speeds along difficult terrain.

Bonus Fact: Cheetah cubs look like honey badgers when curled up, which lets them sleep in the grass while their moms hunt—almost everything, including lions, will avoid honey badgers because of their ferocious attitudes and terrifying claws.

All in all, cheetahs are amazing animals. They are currently in danger of becoming extinct.





Do you Want to contribute to the magazine? All you have to do is fill out the form on our website (<a href="www.wackyfunmagazine.com">www.wackyfunmagazine.com</a>), and it could appear in the next edition!



# Thanks For Reading!

#### AI OR HUMAN ANSWERS

1

2

3

A: Human

A: AI

A: AI

B: Al

B: Human

**B:** Human