

Writers note on versions of the book

v0 is a different book called “total quackery not from a duck” that was written around 2009 and was best described as angry yelling through my fingers with no coherent narrative for 150 pages and telling the same stories in the more embellished form, such as blathering on about how king tut stole my appendix (chapter fuck you king tut touches on this note). There is a print copy of this book somewhere and I have a pdf copy still but I will probably not make it public because its unreadable

v0.5 was a series of short stories not meant to be read together so they often overlapped and were shortened to simplify the story without having the background of earlier chapters. It started with the short story “midnight in a snow filled alley” which was written as I was coming to terms with things from my past that I had been trying to forget because they were so painful, ptsd and all. Eventually I had around a dozen such short stories and that became v1. These stories started while I was seeing a shrink because of the ptsd and was laid off from my forestry position (overnight unemployment and immune to healthcare) I had nothing to do and there was no work to distract myself with and avoid thinking about my past.

V1 was created around 2014 when I compiled and expanded the short stories I had written, as well as a series of essays I wrote which were unrelated to the main content but I threw in anyway (a theory of star trek, what if Luke joined Vader, making sense of the transformers movies, are alien abductors crack addicts? Etc). I also wrote a series of zombie response plans but they were not in the book. Additional chapters were added but had little coherent narrative, such as 2 essays called gardening then and gardening now. This version was starting to look like a coherent book but was all jumbled up with a lot of filler that had no place in the narrative and a lot of redundencies. The final capter added to this version was “boywoman” and remains the least reworked chapter from the original book as it still follows a format of being a description rather than a story, I may scrap it and retell it as a single days events like later chapters and add a note on the ends about what happened after or make notes through the next chapter looking back on what happened after that days events. I did that with gardening then and gardening now, rather than have a chapter that was an essay on a topic I disperesed descriptions of various gardening activity into relavant chapters, like a days events when I lived in the falls I describe the garden I had in the yard and a few notes about it to enhance that chapter.

V2 was written over 2018 and 2019 as I was waiting out winter weather and had returned to working on the book. A lot of content was stripped out and called mental farts (the essays that had nothing to do with the main content) as well as the redundencies. More stories were added both from unfinished drafts and ones I decided on since the previous work was done.

V3 was worked on from 2019 and 2020, starting as a massive overhaul of v2 and continuing tinkering and I read and reread the book pulling redundencies. I mentioned things as side notes often in the original but had no chapters featuring the content, such as repeatedly mentioning sleeping on the floor and not having glasses, but as new chapters were added I was stripping out flat out descriptions like a field report and making more of a first person experience how things happened focusing on significant events such as a day in school in 4th grade when someone gave me crapshoes and I missed the bus and had to walk across town barefoot in the snow, I retold that event as it happened and added additional

content from the time such as having a hard time seeing, and later chapters such as my grandfathers funeral where I woke up sleeping on the floor and described my surroundings. The draft was made public in an attempt to get some input on how to make it more readable.

V4 was declared in early 2021 as I had been snowed in all January and had nothing but time to add new chapters, edit old ones, and make the book a more finished coherent autobiography, its more than that really and touches on a lot of sociology, psychology, local culture, the divide between city people and rural, and general human nature. I had added so much content in the fall of 2020 and early 2021 that I decided to call it a new version of the book and I made format changes breaking up sections from 4 parts into 6 so that each was more manageable for editing, given that each part is 70 to 130 pages long they can each be considered their own book in a 6 part series, or a 600 page book.

I described the first version of the book as a lumpy turd with gold dust in it, the second version was a polished turd with gold nuggets in it, the 3rd version was a polished lump of gold with turd smear on it, the 4th version will be a polished gold bar with the faint smell of turd on it, and the 5th version should be a gold bar with no trace of turds on it. I chose this description based on the old saying you can polish a turd all day and all you get is a polished turd, since I have no idea what people will think of my life story or writing style, assuming anyone but me even reads books anymore, I may be polishing a turd that everyone else still regards as a turd.

I may add some of the unrelated essays as bonus content to the free online version of the book, which will exist until I can have it officially published as a final version 5