

The Nuu Runner

Will the Running Ever End?

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Last Revised December 31, 2006

140,000 words

Welcome to the world of Sam O'Shea. The reader first meets him as a young boy growing up in a fictitious and somewhat comedic "benign" dictatorship set on an Island in the Gulf of St Lawrence. It is run by the BeneVolantOne and not by technology as was the case when the runners of the past were in charge. The reader then follows Sam as he grows into a young man. Having grown up under the nuu order, Sam is full of questions and hope, unaware how much his perception of the world is about to change.

At the beginning of the novel, Sam finds a buried chest of books written by Gold, some grand ol' dreamer, and his own journey becomes the framework through which the found travel stories, the books of Gold, are told. These stories are set in Indonesia, Patagonia, Peru, Europe and Northern Africa. Gold has a flair for travel as well as a flair for science. Amusing stories about relativity, the stars and the universe itself; the Coriolis force and the direction of water flowing down a drain; and aerodynamics including why a baseball travels farther at altitude than at sea level are interspersed through the story. In so many words, Sam is curious about everything because life is just that interesting.

Sam also raises questions about how his world works including benign dictatorships and the elements of democracy. There are characters called searchers and inquisitors that give an initial "big brother" feel. Sam has to figure out what is real and so does the reader.

Sam meets Cathay at the beginning of Book Two (there are four books) after sailing to a distant shore known as the Burin Peninsula. They rock belay together on the cliffs of this NuufoundBeach, sing songs by a campfire and satisfy their curiosities about each other's world. They have become

inquisitive themselves. Cathay's mother, a journalist, gets Sam to write a book about life behind the iron curtain, and it gets published.

Sam earns enough money from his published work (what a book is called) to afford University or Uboa which, of course stands for unless a better offer comes along. He escapes from behind the iron curtain, leaving his land of St Pierre with Cathay to seek meaning in the city of Tuantuan where there are two and two and two and two people.

He becomes friends with a one-legged beggar and finds meaning in his own life after the gift of a single shoe. This leaves him with a single runner, himself, with the wise words of the beggar which direct him to stop running and to find contentment and comedy with what he already has.