

PHILBRICK, Rodman (1951-), USA

The Last Book in the Universe (2000)

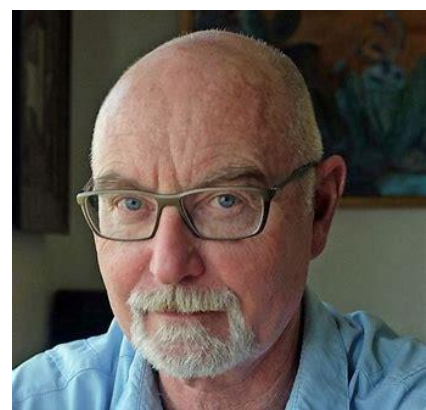
Dt Der Weg nach Eden (2002), Üb: Sabine Grebing

Dystopischer Zukunftsroman als Jugendbuch. Die Welt 200 Jahre nach einer verheerenden Katastrophe. Der Erdkreis (Urb) ist in gewalttätige kleine Herrschaften eingeteilt, in denen die „Normalmenschen“ trost-, recht- und naturlos dahinvegetieren, sich mit Scheinwelten betäuben und das Gedächtnis verlieren, während eine genetisch optimierte Rasse in Eden in Wonne und hochtechnischem Überfluss lebt. Sie liefern den Normalen die Hirnsonden, mit denen sie sich berauschen. Der Ich-Erzähler Spaz tut das nicht, weil das seine Anfälle auslösen würde, und baut deshalb ein Bewusstsein auf, das ihn zum Außenseiter macht. Epilepsie als Erwähltheit, nachdem er zuvor wegen der Anfälle von seiner Familie verstoßen wurde. Zwischen Urb und Eden stehend wird er zum Chronisten, dem immateriellen „letzten Buch“. Anfälle passieren bei hochemotionalen Wendepunkten der Geschichte, mit Auren eines elektrischen Geruchs. In Eleana Vajas Abhandlung spielt das Buch eine große Rolle als Beleg für Epilepsie in Grenzräumen mit Elektrizität als neuer Epilepsiemetapher, die für Befreiung steht und den üblicherweise unterstellten Kontrollverlust auf den Kopf stellt, durchaus überzeugend. Lange Liste von Berühmtheiten mit Epilepsie, von denen kaum eine stimmt. Der Roman hat als Vorstufe eine gleichnamige kurze Erzählung noch ohne das Eden-Motiv, wo Spaz bereits Anfälle hat.

Zum Autor (Wiki 3.3.25):

„**Rodman Philbrick** (born January 22, 1951) is an American writer of novels for adults and children. He has written popular children's books such as *Freak the Mighty*, *Max the Mighty*, ***The Last Book in the Universe***, and has written other mysteries and thrillers for adults.

He was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and currently lives in both Maine and Florida. He attended Portsmouth High School and he also attended University of New Hampshire for a few semesters.



Rodman Philbrick has written many mysteries and thrillers for adults, including *Brothers & Sinners*, *Coffins*, and the *T. D. Stash* detective series, set in Key West, Florida, as well as a number of mysteries under the pen name William R. Dantz. Writing as Chris Jordan, Philbrick has published novels in the thriller genre: *Taken*, *Trapped*,

and *Torn*, featuring former FBI special agent Randall Shane, who investigates the disappearance of missing children.

Two of his most popular children's books are *Freak the Mighty* and its sequel, *Max the Mighty*. *Freak the Mighty* was later adapted into a movie titled *The Mighty*. He wrote the cyberpunk, dystopian novel ***The Last Book in the Universe*** and the science fantasy novel *REM World*. Other works for young readers include *The Young Man and the Sea*, which is dedicated to his nieces Annie and Molly, and *The Fire Pony*, about two brothers on the run in the American West. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*, set in the American Civil War, was named a Newbery Honor Book in 2010. A stage version of *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* debuted at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in 2012. He and Lynn Harnett collaborated on scary books for young readers, including *The House on Cherry Street*, *The Werewolf Chronicles*, and *Visitors*, three trilogies published by Scholastic, Inc.

In December 2011, writing as Chris Jordan, Philbrick published *Measure of Darkness*, set in Boston. According to the author, Randall Shane enters the story in the first chapter, when he is accused of murdering a client. *Zane and The Hurricane: A Story of Katrina*, an adventure set in New Orleans, was published in February 2014. *The Big Dark* was released in print and audio versions in January 2016. A mystery for young readers, *Who Killed Darius Drake?* was published in 2017. *Wildfire*, a thrilling survival tale, was published in 2019. *We Own the Sky*, the story of an immigrant flying circus, set in Maine in 1924, was published in September 2022.

Philbrick has also written using the pen names W. R. Philbrick, William R. Dantz, and Chris Jordan.

Philbrick and Lynn Harnett were married from 1980 until her death, in 2012. Before Philbrick began writing full-time, he worked as a longshoreman and boat builder.”

Literatur

Vaja, Eleana. *Epilepsy Metaphors*. Transcript Verlag, Bielefeld 2017