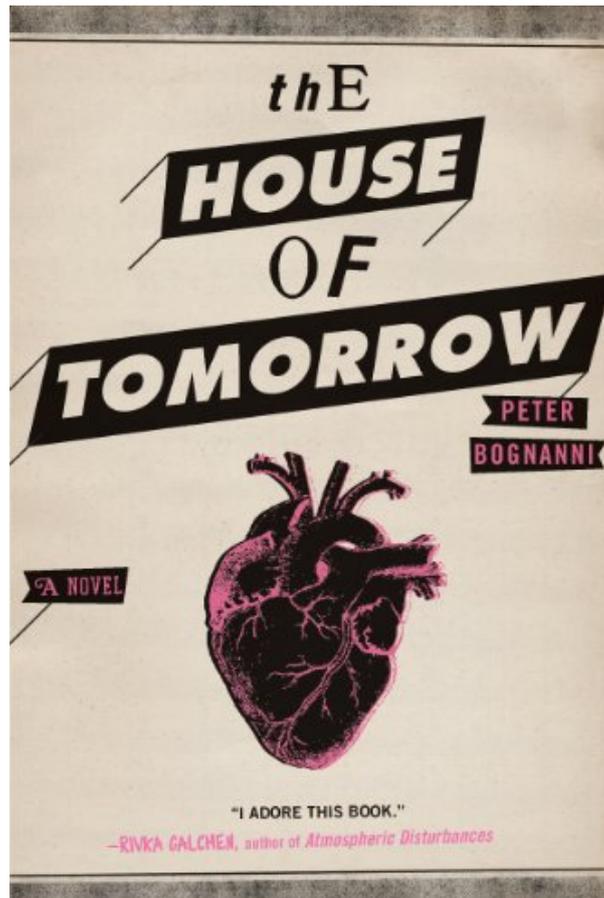
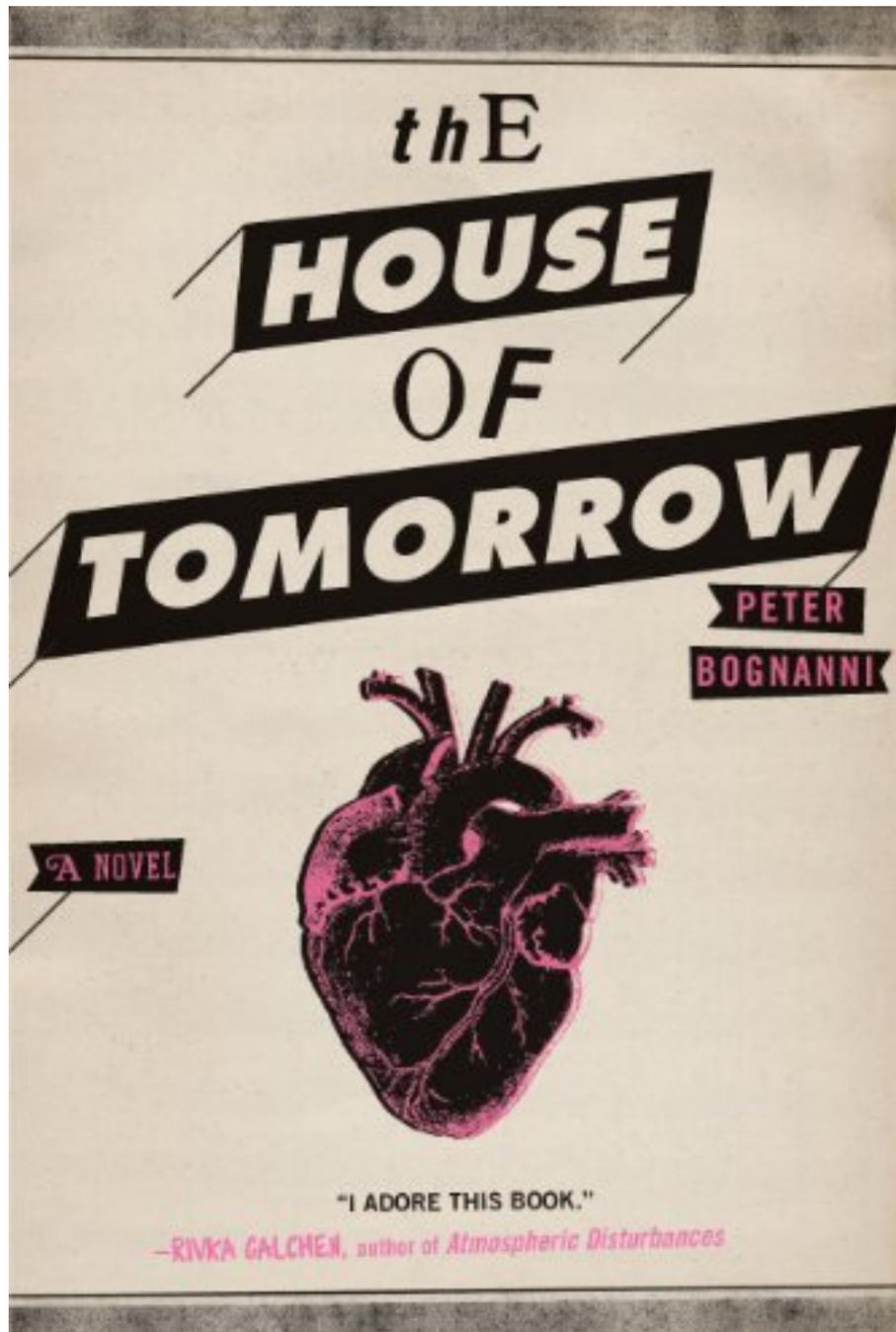


THE HOUSE OF TOMORROW BY PETER BOGNANNI



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The House Of Tomorrow By Peter Bognanni. One day, you will find a brand-new adventure as well as expertise by investing more cash. But when? Do you believe that you need to get those all requirements when having much cash? Why don't you aim to get something basic in the beginning? That's something that will lead you to know more concerning the world, experience, some places, past history, enjoyment, and more? It is your own time to proceed checking out practice. Among guides you can appreciate now is The House Of Tomorrow By Peter Bognanni here.

From Publishers Weekly

Sixteen-year-old Sebastian Prendergast has grown up isolated, homeschooled, and, in of all places, a geodesic dome in Iowa with his grandmother, a fervent Buckminster Fuller fan. Her sudden illness brings Sebastian together with his first friend ever. Jarod Whitcomb is a moody, punk music fan who's known something of loneliness, too, and the two misfits form a punk band of their own. Bognanni's characters are well drawn and sympathetic; his story is an affectionate and sly portrayal of adolescent angst and a paean to punk—and it just gets better in Lloyd James's hands. The dialogue becomes laugh-out-loud funny and James's youthful voice keeps Sebastian's first-person narrative sounding genuine. A Putnam hardcover (Reviews, Nov. 16). (Mar.)

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From Booklist

In this heartbreakingly funny and deeply compassionate story of self-discovery and family bonding, debut novelist Bognanni explores the unlikely friendship of two social outcasts and their desperation to be heard. Since his parents' untimely death, 17-year-old Sebastian Prendergast has lived in semi-rural Iowa with his eccentric grandmother in a geodesic dome. Having homeschooled Sebastian in the teachings of futurist philosopher R. Buckminster Fuller, his grandmother deems Sebastian humanity's next savior. But when she suffers a stroke, Sebastian must leave the comfort of his bubble world to save her from her obsessive, self-destructive plans. Sebastian soon comes under the care of the Whitcombs—the downtrodden, husbandless mother, Janice; the beautiful but bratty Meredith; and sickly, sarcastic Jared, who introduces Sebastian to punk rock and brutal honesty. As Sebastian pieces together the perplexities of domestic life, he discovers the nature of family trust, love and heartache, and healing friendship. Tightly plotted, and as fun and lively as a Ramones tune, Bognanni's timely novel perfectly captures teenage angst in all its raw and riotous discomfort. --Jonathan Fullmer

Review

"Lloyd James provides the tongue-in-cheek playfulness this story requires and portrays compassion when necessary." ---AudioFile

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"A funny and unique debut." (Publishers Weekly).

Sebastian Prendergast lives with his eccentric grandmother in a geodesic dome. His homeschooling has taught him much-but he's learned little about girls, junk food, or loud, angry music.

Then fate casts Sebastian out of the dome, and he finds a different kind of tutor in Jared Whitcomb: a chain-smoking sixteen-year-old heart transplant recipient who teaches him the ways of rebellion. Together they form a punk band and plan to take the local church talent show by storm. But when his grandmother calls him back to the futurist life she has planned for him, he must decide whether to answer the call-or start a future of his own.

- Sales Rank: #421274 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-12-17
- Released on: 2010-03-04
- Format: Kindle eBook

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Funny, endearing, instant nostalgia in a book.

By Alayne

If you're looking for a change of scenery from your regular reading, something refreshingly innocent, humorous, charming, with a twinge of sadness, but overall hopeful and unique, than *The House of Tomorrow* is what you're looking for. Teenager Sebastian Prendergast lives in a glass dome on top of a hill overlooking a town in Iowa. Yes, I said it, Iowa. An unlikely place for a boy to find himself through punk-rock music, but the Minnesota girl in me loves it.

Parentless at a young age, Sebastian lives with his aging grandmother who homeschools him on the teachings of dead philosopher-architect Buckminster Fuller. Sebastian's grandmother has grand plans for him, somewhat new-age (though she hates the word) worldly plans. And her teachings and stories are all he's ever known. When his grandmother has a stroke while giving a tour of their dome, Jared is accompanied to the hospital by the Whitcomb family: single mother Janice, sarcastic son Jared, and icy damaged daughter Meredith. On that day, his whole world changes. When his grandmother kicks him out of the dome for having email conversations about punk-rock music with Jared, Sebastian goes to stay with the Whitcomb family. In the course of his weeks with them, he and the Whitcombs are changed and their worlds will never quite be the same.

Peter Bognanni's debut novel made me laugh more than once. The writing quality is good and appropriately simplistic, it's not trying to make you smarter, or make you feel stupid. It's trying to move you, and it will. The characters are crisp and realistic, images of them poured off the page as I read, and I can imagine this as a wonderful film. I sympathize with Sebastian, who is naive but not stupid, and I am thankful Bognanni made him intelligent enough with the outside world, instead of entirely unknowing of human interaction. I believe that Sebastian would use the sort of strange scientific language that he did, having been taught by his grandmother inside of a dome for the majority of his life; but I would have found it unrealistic if, say, he had no knowledge of how money works, or how to use a pay phone.

My favorite supporting character is Jared. Jared of the too-skinny jeans and punk-rock dreams. Of the stolen cigarettes and sarcastic one-liners. Jared is amusing and witty and wonderful. He and Sebastian form a unique bond and their interactions are the best parts of the story.

This book will change you; will make you look up the music of The Misfits; will make you recall your old, yet undying love for The Cure. It will make you nostalgic for your teenage years. It's simply a really good book; unique, with flawless dialogue, and touching characters that will stay with you when you're done reading.

4 stars

(I received this book from the publisher for review)

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great read for older teens (and adults)

By A Customer

I was pleasantly surprised by this book. When I first started *The House of Tomorrow*, I thought it was going

to be another story of a homeschooled teen raised by a new-age, out-of-touch grandmother who is forced into the "real world." It did start out that way. Sebastian's grandmother has been raising him in their geodesic dome house, where she homeschools him on the teachings of a futurist philosopher. He rarely leaves the house and his contact with others is mainly with people coming to tour their unique home. When his grandmother has a stroke, he is taken in by a family who is going through some pretty major problems of their own. A single mom is raising two rebellious teens, one of whom has had a heart transplant that his body is rejecting. Sebastian learns about punk music and experiences first love . . . and really his first friendship as well.

This book was so much deeper than I expected and really touching and funny. I was hooked from the first page and wasn't let go until the last. This is a book for older teens as there are sexual references and bad language. I highly recommend this thought provoking, as well as entertaining book.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

I want to call the author up and thank him!

By julesinrose

Firstly, when I read the blurb for "The House of Tomorrow", I couldn't believe it. How did a stranger come to write a book that would connect some impossible-to-connect dots of my personal history? It seemed patently absurd. When very young, I worshipped the Whole Earth Catalog, wanted to move back to land, build a dome, tried to, gave up, came to loathe the hippies and moved to New York City where I discovered just what Bognanni absolutely nails: the absolute inchoate rage and joy that comes from being a misfit kid who comes into their own through playing music or non-music, starting a band without a clue and without knowing a thing, and triumphing, if only for a blip in time. And this was me, and the characters in this absolutely sweet book. And then this kid, me, winds up immersed in Buckminster Fuller's ideas through another. This is true and this is also in this book. How could it be so? I still can not believe it.

So, yes, this is a most personal review. How can I not love this book? Bognanni brings it all back for me, perfectly, and with a twist, the Buckminster Fuller twist. I applaud not only nailing what it's like to be a lost child in a teenager's body, but also a burgeoning adult with wisdom, and conveying the love of simply listening to the Ramones so perfectly, but for making Fuller so interesting and accessible. How he came up with these two things together, punk rock and Fuller, is beyond me. Mr. Bognanni, how did you come to this? I really want to know!

The last time I thought an author may have met me and gotten into my own mind I was a child. I read this book like a kid, furiously, in two big gulps, and joyously. It moved me almost to tears, made me laugh, made me wildly happy. As I wrote, it was sweet, incredibly sweet, and I may be blinded by the subject matter, but even as it was that perfectly sweet, it never stung with saccharine. Perfect (oh, yes, I've basically said that already).

The blurb synopsis the story and I need not repeat it here. I don't know how this book will speak to others since it was so personal for me. I am most curious. I admit that I fell in love with this book, and that kind of love is blinding. Do I recommend it? Unabashedly! Even if you don't have my own personal history, if you've ever been a young misfit, or are one now (though I suspect when I was young I would have tossed such a hopeful book across the room), or a dreamer, or even a parent with problems, or a human being, I suppose, this is simply a wonderful book. And I applaud the author, too, in this age of oh so self-conscious snark, for not once falling into that trap. Yes, sometimes there are happy endings and there is true goodness, and that stuff isn't all treacle.

Gabba Gabba Hey! Hurray for the House of Tomorrow! I haven't enjoyed a book this much since I was a kid.

Is that a good enough review?!

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