

The Book of Bob

as revealed to Paul Chasman

“In the beginning, Bob didn’t plan to start a religion; it just happened.”

So begins a wild and fantastic ride through the fictional Free Nation, satirizing religious fanaticism, politics, and human fumbling. The plot is driven by a host of quirky characters: Bob, a blank slate living in the Northwest Region who talks first to his dog, then to God; nineteen-year-old Sophia Wise, whose life’s goal is to cover her entire body with tattoos; Roland Brand, a chameleon whose ascension to power becomes progressively more outrageous; Lakshmi Jackson, Sophia’s best friend who feels like a “kite without a string;” Ivan Bunt, a wheelchair-bound veteran, given to colorful declarations in a language all his own; Delbert Thorne, the Chosen Leader of the Free Nation, who is on a continually fruitless search for a Secretary of Religion, and bears a striking resemblance to another world leader we know.

The story opens in the Northwest Region, where God orders Bob to take dictation for His new Book. The plot sends the characters careening through Sunny Sunnyland, a “Paved National Monument;” Rolandworld, a religious theme park in the Southwest; and Capital City, where Chosen Leader Thorne plots “Operation Triple Nuke.”

The Book of Bob dashes drunkenly through the house of mirrors of Western culture, dissecting with pinpoint precision the absurdity, tragedy, and hilarity of the human race.