



IN ORBIT WITH: ZACH GOLDEN



*A WRITER EXPLORING MYSTICISM AND IGNORANCE IN THE
MODERN-DAY DOOM SPHERE*

About Zach Golden

Zach Golden is a recent graduate of American University who earned his Bachelor's degree in both Creative Writing & Religious Studies. He is now entering his first year at Harvard Divinity School, chasing a Masters of Divinity with the intention of becoming an Interfaith sports chaplain.

Zach's current anthology, *Random (Intuitive) Nature*, explores how mysticism has been stripped from us and taught as something strictly of the past. Yet, his storytelling entices readers to fight through the seemingly unavoidable modern-day smog, both physical and spiritual, in order to discover an intimate connection to Earth through their own unique and reliable, mystical, inner voice. Find him on Instagram [**@thehoopingchaplain**](#)

Spotlight Piece: *Random (Intuitive) Nature*

"Random (Intuitive) Nature is a collection of prose in various forms — short stories, illustrations, poetry, and photography — which embodies nature, spirituality, and its mysterious ways. You may come face to face with an alien. A pot of gold. Mountains, hills, reservoirs, forests. Spirits. Authoritarianism. Plants who travel. There will be falls. Breakthroughs. Yet, found in each story is what nature brings you by engaging in just one simple act: Listening."

In Conversation with Zach Golden

What first drew you to storytelling, and how did your journey begin?

“I’m simply very competitive, so when the [100 Book Challenge](#) came around in elementary school, that may have been the beginning of my love for reading. But for telling my own stories, I come from a hilarious, clever, and very emotional Irish family. It is in my nature. My journey must have begun when my 6th grade English teacher, Mr. Byars, showed me Google Docs.”

How would you describe your work and the themes you keep returning to?

“I’d describe my work as an old man with a long grey beard that is perhaps strangely braided or beaded (pirate-like), telling stories by the campfire. Or at least that’s how I hope I come off. I keep returning to working through the perspective of anything living that isn’t human. To me, it seems the most digestible way to display how ignorant we have become to our behavior towards Earth and each other.”

How does the environment or climate shape your work?

“The impending sense of doom many of us feel regarding the health of our planet gives the motive to write. Some keep their eyes peeled, and some prefer not to pay attention. I aspire to be someone who is able to open people's eyes to not only climate change but the spiritual technology provided by our planet through storytelling. I pray to, for, and with Earth. Sometimes I believe nature itself shapes my work, as an idea so pained but thoughtful and detailed pops into my head that it couldn’t have been from me, but maybe the tree I’m sitting next to. “

What does your creative process look like from idea to finished piece?

“Many stories of mine are inspired by direct experiences with nature and its stationary or mobile or cute or ugly or furry or sometimes feathery inhabitants. I take my encounter to my keyboard and allow my imagination to run wild. Frankly, I never feel my pieces are finished. Yet, once I reach a feeling of somewhat satisfaction I allow my phalanges and self to rest.”

What are you working on right now?

“I am currently working on revising an edition of my story *The Free Cicada*, so I can make it part of my current anthology — Random (Intuitive) Nature. I really just started calling my collection an anthology, but really it just means it hosts a multitude of forms. Short stories, poetry, illustrations, and photography. I aspire for the work to be a living series, adding and perhaps taking away stories as I continue to approach creating *Randomly* but *Intuitively*.”

Why do you think storytelling matters in shaping the future?

“Storytelling matters in shaping the future because our present state is shaped by stories of the past. Many of the good things we have come from great storytellers. Many of the bad things we have come from great storytellers. We should try our best to bring more good things to the world.”

What advice would you give to other emerging creatives?

“Get in touch with your inner child and their natural, passionate interests. Do your best to work them into your day to day. From there, things seem to flourish on their own.”

If you could live in any fictional, sci-fi universe, where would you go and why?

“Oh brother... well, of course, the Star Wars universe. More specifically, I’d go to planet Endor with a bluetooth speaker and play 80’s funk music for the Ewok tribe. They would either kill me right away or take me in like they did C-3PO, but no matter what, those little ones, after all their hard work protecting their indigenous ways against the colonial powers of the Galactic Empire, deserve to hear the belts of Charlie Wilson, George Clinton, and many others.”