

**Tails or Heads:
Stories from Other Centuries**

Richard Haffey

Quarto Six

The final four tales look in on some of the major hopes and fears of the late twentieth century and pause to wonder how we will fare in the twenty-first.

Abort

Tails

Tune into a December 2052 renegade radio broadcast that the Democratic Union government does not want you to hear for the latest news of the marooned *Xanadu* spacecraft crew fighting for its life on half of the asteroid Hektor, split in two and hurled into the ship's orbital path on the way to Saturn.

Why 2 K ?

Heads

Meet up again in 1998 with some of the characters from the earlier stories as they gather at the World Trade Center in New York City for far-reaching seminars on the impending computer meltdown being called Y2K, while criminal courts in the City hand down verdicts and issue sentences against those responsible for the 1993 WTC garage bombings.

Embers

Tails

Go back to the close of the 1960s and watch quietly from the perimeter of the summer campsite so as not to interrupt the intimacy of a divorcee and a recent college grad searching the embers of the late night fire for what might keep them apart and what might bring them together.

Bedtime Story for Campers

Heads

Be careful not to cast a frightening shadow on the canvas as you eavesdrop outside the tent flaps on a five year old nervously listening for assurance from his tale-spinning dad that all will be right and safe until morning.