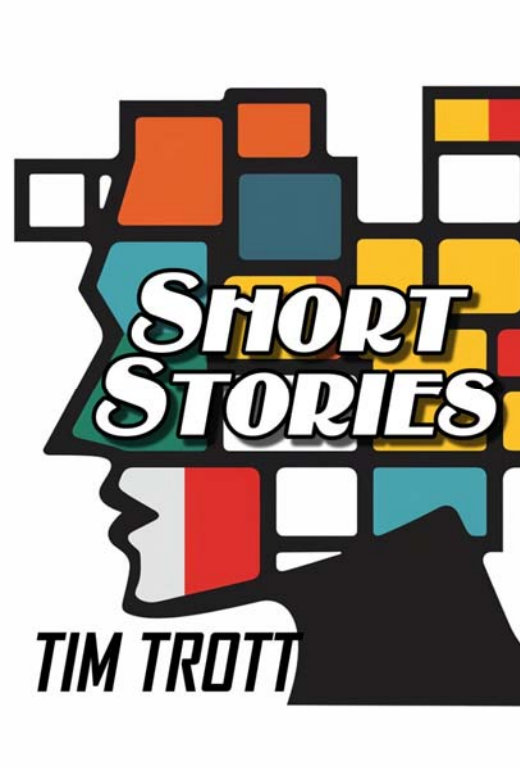
PRESS KIT

# Short Stories

*by Tim Trott*




## Aliens, Time Travel, and the Day After Tomorrow

*Twenty-five science fiction short stories where aliens call in, history gets a second chance, and reality slips sideways.*

Tim Trott Publishing · TimTrottWrites.com

# Book Fact Sheet

| | |
|---|---|
| **Title** | Short Stories |
| **Author** | Tim Trott |
| **Publisher** | Tim Trott Publishing |
| **Genre** | Science fiction and speculative fiction short story collection |
| **Themes** | Aliens and UFOs, first contact, time travel, alternate history, parallel universes, artificial intelligence, the paranormal |
| **Length** | 25 stories, about 77,000 words |
| **Formats** | Paperback and ebook |
| **Paperback ISBN** | 978-1-967047-02-4 |
| **Ebook ISBN** | 978-1-967047-03-1 |
| **Publication date** | February 20, 2025 |
| **Price** | Paperback $21.95  Ebook $4.99 |
| **Previous edition** | The stories were previously published as What If! volumes one and two. |
| **Website** | TimTrottWrites.com |

# About the Book

## Short Description

An alien sits down for an interview. A company hires a robot and regrets it. One man travels back to 1988 South Africa to change the fate of Nelson Mandela. These quick, grounded tales of science fiction blur the line between headline news and the impossible.

## Full Description

What happens when the impossible shows up on an ordinary Tuesday?

In this collection, Tim Trott takes the stuff of late-night radio and tabloid headlines and treats it like breaking news. A father and son run a UFO livestream that becomes far more than a hobby. A small-town radio station takes a ransom call on its request line. Across the world, a time traveler lands in 1988 South Africa with one goal: keep Nelson Mandela alive long enough to walk free.

Elsewhere, an alien agrees to answer questions on the record, a corporation learns what a robot employee really costs, and a parallel universe looks almost like ours until the details stop adding up.

Each story is quick, tense, and rooted in real places, real dates, and real history, so the strange parts land even harder.

Perfect for fans of The Twilight Zone, The X-Files, and anyone who has ever looked up at the night sky and wondered.

## About the Author

### Short Bio

Tim Trott is an author, publisher, and podcast host based in Central Florida. He writes sci-fi alien thrillers, political suspense, and paranormal mystery, as well as nonfiction, and hosts the @AuthorToAuthor podcast on YouTube.



### Full Bio

Tim Trott is an author, publisher, and creative director based in Central Florida. His work spans fiction, training materials, and business communication, with a focus on clarity, structure, and reader engagement.

Early influences included the Hardy Boys series by Franklin W. Dixon and the works of Aldous Huxley and Robert Heinlein. Tim writes across multiple genres, including sci-fi alien thrillers, political suspense, and paranormal mystery. His novels explore the tension between hidden forces and ordinary people pushed into extraordinary circumstances.

He also hosts the Author to Author podcast on YouTube (@AuthorToAuthor), where he interviews writers about craft, process, and the evolving publishing landscape. Tim is also a licensed FAA Part 107 drone instructor.

### Also by Tim Trott

- **The E-Team: Project Mogul.** A military sci-fi thriller about a covert operation guarding humanity's most explosive secret: we are not alone.
- **The Psychic Barista: A Collection of Paranormal Cozy Mysteries.** A barista with a secret psychic gift unravels dangerous plots in her coastal Georgia town.
- **Star Child:** A blood test exposes a family secret that isn't entirely human, and the daughter it produces grows up able to sense the truth in a world built on lies.
- **Psychic Barista:** A Collection of Paranormal Mysteries -At The Brown Bean Coffee Shoppe, Samantha Wilson isn't just a barista—she's a secret psychic with a gift for uncovering hidden truths.
- **Due North:** The U.S. once kidnapped a foreign president. What if the tables were turned?
-

## The Stories

Every story stands on its own. They range from under 600 words to about 7,500.

1. **Static.** When a small-town radio talk host fails to show up for his morning show, the overnight DJ takes a ransom call on the request line.
2. **Mind Reader.** A police officer hurt in a jewelry store shootout wakes up in the hospital hearing the thoughts of everyone around him.
3. **Alien Update.** A secretive guest on a father-and-son UFO channel on YouTube hints at a galactic revelation.
4. **Kingdom of Fools.** A pompous new king takes the throne in the town of Absonantville while his loyal courtiers applaud every word. A satire.
5. **Box of Secrets.** Planting a birthday garden for their grandmother, a brother and sister unearth a small padlocked metal box.
6. **How an Alien Saved the World.** From Japan Airlines Flight 1628 to the 2018 Hawaii missile false alarm, the secret history of who has been watching the nuclear switch.
7. **Perfect Candidate.** With the election a month away and no one on the ticket, party leaders decide to run a robot for president.
8. **Haunted Dreams.** An EMT who could not save a crash victim starts dreaming about the cases she cannot let go.
9. **A Parallel Universe.** A Kennedy Space Center engineer wakes up in a life that is no longer quite his own.
10. **The Time the Aliens Came to Leon County.** A retired schoolteacher who keeps tabs on her whole North Florida town spots strange lights at the empty cabin next door.
11. **A Camera that Could See Through Time.** A thirteen-year-old in an English village buys a second-hand camera whose screen shows the past.
12. **We Saw the Aliens.** A couple on a moonlit beach watch a disk-shaped craft slip beneath the waves, and then a reporter comes knocking.
13. **The Call.** When her sister lies unconscious after a car crash and doctors can find no cause, Rachel learns how far the bond between them reaches.
14. **The Company Hired a Robot.** An office takes delivery of a new robotic staff member, and the workplace will never be the same.
15. **Interview with an Alien.** A network satellite engineer watches a gray alien named Zypteron appear on an incoming feed and start talking.
16. **If Ghosts Could Talk.** Two friends scanning the airwaves with a software-defined radio pick up a strange low-frequency signal that sounds like a moan.
17. **Dream Catcher.** Tired of a life where every day is the same, Megan answers an online ad from a company that sells dreams.

18. **The Man in the Mirror.** A comfortably retired man, stuck on an old song and a lifetime of "if only," starts to wonder what might have been.
19. **The Meeting.** In a secure room deep inside the Pentagon, the U.N. ambassador finally learns why she needed a clearance above Top Secret.
20. **The Last Martian.** A lone pilot comes home to find Mars destroyed and is hurled three hundred million years forward, toward Earth.
21. **The Alien Abduction of Susan.** Home alone for a movie night, a college student steps onto her deck to see what the light over the trees is.
22. **The Alien Abduction of Ralph.** A very short, very silly tale of an assistant plumber, a bus stop bench, and a beam of light.
23. **My Dog Is My Doctor.** A burned-out executive trades corporate life for photography, and a golden retriever in a shelter window picks him out.
24. **The Butterfly Effect.** After his sister is badly hurt back home in China, a new graduate in Seattle finds a strange machine in his building's basement.
25. **Saving Mandela.** A newspaper clipping reports that Nelson Mandela was killed in 1988, and a time machine may be the only way to undo it.

## Story Angles for Media

- **Real history, strange questions.** Many stories start from documented events, including the 1986 JAL Flight 1628 sighting over Alaska, the 1967 Malmstrom Air Force Base missile shutdown, and the 2018 Hawaii false missile alarm. How an Alien Saved the World closes with a "Fact or Fiction?" note that separates the record from the invention.
- **The Mandela Effect.** Two stories play with the shared false memory that Nelson Mandela died in prison in the 1980s: one through a parallel universe, the other through a time machine.
- **UAP disclosure in the news.** With government UFO hearings and reports in the headlines, stories like The Meeting and How an Alien Saved the World ask what officials might know and not say.
- **AI on the ballot and on the payroll.** Perfect Candidate and The Company Hired a Robot take a humorous look at what happens when artificial intelligence is handed real responsibility.
- **Short reads for busy readers.** Each story can be read in one sitting, which makes the book a natural fit for commutes, book clubs, and readers new to science fiction.

## Suggested Interview Questions

1. Many of these stories begin with a real event. How do you decide where the facts stop and the fiction starts?
2. Why did you add "Fact or Fiction?" notes and footnotes to a science fiction book?
3. How an Alien Saved the World ties together three real incidents across thirty years. How did that story come together?
4. What drew you to Nelson Mandela and the Mandela Effect as a subject?
5. The collection moves between thrillers, satire, and quiet stories like My Dog Is My Doctor. Do you have a favorite?
6. How did the Hardy Boys shape the way you write?
7. These stories were first published as What If! volumes one and two. What changed for this edition?
8. You interview other writers on Author to Author. What have those conversations taught you about your own work?

# Excerpt

*From **How an Alien Saved the World***

The story has continued for thousands of years, but this is as good a place as any to begin:

> **Japan Airlines (JAL) Flight 1628, November 17th, 1986**
> Location: Alien Patrol Sector Mem (Somewhere over Eastern Alaska)
> Altitude: 37,000 feet
> Ground Speed: 600 mph.
> Origin: Paris, France
> Destination: Tokyo, Japan, via Anchorage, Alaska.
> Cargo: Beaujolais wine.

As the Japan Airlines cargo jet passed over eastern Alaska, Captain Kenju Terauchi scanned the sky from the left seat in the cockpit. He looked about 2,000 feet below and saw two bright lights moving at the same speed as the jetliner. He turned to his co-pilot and first officer, Takanori Tamefuji, and said, pointing below, “Do you see that?”

The co-pilot leaned forward and strained to see through the window. “What are they?”

“I don’t know,” the captain replied. He glanced over his right shoulder at Flight Engineer Yoshio Tsukuba. Tsukuba grimaced as he shook his head.

The two unknown objects swooped up in front of the jetliner, one above the other, keeping pace a short distance ahead, in an odd rocking motion.

Pressing the radio button on the yoke, the captain called, “Anchorage Center, Japan Air sixteen twenty-eight, ah, do you have any traffic ah, in our path?”

Air Traffic Control responded, “Japan Air 1628 heavy, negative.”

The captain continued, “Japan Air 1628, Roger. We have in sight two traffic in front of us, about one mile.”

At that same moment, aboard one of the two alien ships, the pilot, Zork, communicated with the other alien ship with the equivalent of “Watch this!” The alien craft shifted to a side-by-side formation, still maintaining the same distance ahead of the Japan Airlines jet. The pilot of the second ship, Zylox, expressed concern as he replied (in his language), “I’m not sure we should do this. If the Galaxy Council gets word, they could sanction us for breaking the Greada Treaty.”

Both knew that, under the treaty, zooming airline pilots was not allowed. Realizing he might have made a mistake, Zork agreed. The two alien pilots engaged their nuclear ion antigravity propulsion and accelerated away at extreme velocity.

By the time Air Traffic Control vectored nearby United Airlines Flight 69 to the area, the alien craft had vanished.

## Contact and Links

| | |
|---|---|
| **Author website** | TimTrottWrites.com |
| **Reviews** | timtrottwrites.com/reviewer-dashboard |
| **Podcast** | Author to Author on YouTube (@AuthorToAuthor) |
| **Media contact** | Tim Trott – 850-766-9244 – website contact form |
| **Review copies** | Available in ebook and paperback on request |