

RY

THE TALES OF DR. PHAN

Written by Ry Graves

RY GRAVES

RMCGRAVES@GMAIL.COM
(610)506-7882

FADE IN

INT. TALK SHOW STUDIO - NIGHT

Talk show host, LORNA ASTOR, sits across from her guest, DR. HENRY PHAN, on a simple set with no audience.

LORNA ASTOR

And we're back. Its still Thursday evening and I want to thank you, folks, at home for staying up late with us. I promise it'll be worth it. Making his fifteenth appearance on Spotlight and talking about his thirty-second book of fiction, we have one of our all-time favorite guests, the always interesting and entertaining, renowned physics engineer, Dr. Henry Phan. Dr. Phan, thank you for being on the program.

DR. PHAN

Thank you for having me back, Lorna. It's always nice to be here.

LORNA ASTOR

Now, Dr. Phan, for those viewers that may be new to the program or to your work, please tell us about yourself.

DR. PHAN

Absolutely, I actually started my career in physics and earned my P.H.D, but what I, what I always wanted to do, but could never actually do was write stories. Novels especially, like the ones I read as a boy and still do.

LORNA ASTOR

And you finally accomplished that goal in 2003 with your first work, Endangered Scorpion. I know you've been hesitant to discuss your process on past programs, but I wondered if you wouldn't mind sharing with the viewers and I what could have possibly been the inspiration for such a thriller?

DR. PHAN

Sure, Lorna. It just came to me.

LORNA ASTOR

And ladies and gentlemen, it appears tonight's interview will be no different. Dr. Phan, as I've said, you are the author of over thirty-one novels spanning genres from romance to horror, drama, even historical fiction. Your latest novel, The Tales of Dr. Phan, is already receiving negativity even before being released due to the fact that the title character is named after you. Critics say yours out of ideas. Please, tell us more about your latest fantasy novel.

DR. PHAN

Its not a fantasy.

LORNA ASTOR

I'm Sorry, Dr. Phan, I'm afraid I don't understand. Are you suggesting the genre is more science fiction or satire?

DR. PHAN

Its not fiction. Its a confession.

Dr. Phan begins to weep.

LORNA ASTOR

Would you like to stop the interview?

DR. PHAN

No, I need to confess. I didn't write any of these books. I stole all of these books.

LORNA ASTOR

Dr. Phan, I don't know if I can believe what I'm hearing. It's always been debated how you could have written so many stories so quickly. Was it one person or several people?

DR. PHAN

Yes, yes.

LORNA ASTOR

Well, would you like to share the names of the people you've stolen from? Get it onto the record?

DR. PHAN

I've only stolen from myself, my selves.

LORNA ASTOR

Dr. Phan, I'm afraid you've lost me again. Are you sure you're up to continue with the interview?

DR. PHAN

I'm a physics engineer, Ms. Astor. I've always been a physics engineer. Do you know why? Because I dream in numbers, not faces. I can only see numbers. Every time I close my eyes, no matter what. If I could imagine some impossible thing, experience, and be able to translate it, I would, but there has never been anything to translate. Not a poem or short story, it's all I wanted to do and I couldn't. What I could do was engineer. So I built a device, the Dyphyderix, which enabled me to cross into any dimension that has ever existed in order to find versions of myself that could do the thing that I could not. As it turns out, authoring is the profession that most of the other me's have chosen. Endangered Scorpion had inspiration, I'm sure of it, but it wasn't mine and I didn't ask myself where the story came from. I couldn't ask myself anything since I was carrying out a life sentence in that reality. I simply took a copy of the book home with me and typed it out by hand. And in, Moon's River, did you ever wonder why the characters were all lizards? Its because the version of me that wrote that book was a nine-foot lizard. 'Roses for December' had a strong female voice because it was written by a female version of myself named Harriet.

(MORE)

DR. PHAN (CONT'D)

Just meeting all of these people and having these experiences, being able to scientifically study the nature of existence while still getting acclaim in this reality for what I've always wanted to be was worth it, but I can't do it anymore. I can no longer live this lie and I can no longer meet myself doing the thing that I wish I could do. This final book is about me, but I didn't pen this one either. The novel was written by a man named Henry Stewart, a version of myself that kept my mother's maiden name. He had always wanted to write a book too. I met him after he had been diagnosed with a rare disease and upon meeting me and hearing the story of my dimensional travels, Henry started writing immediately. Mr. Stewart died shortly after finishing his work but lived long enough to see it published. This novel is dedicated to Henry Stewart and I hope you enjoy it, March 15th when it's available.

LORNA ASTOR

Dr. Phan, you truly almost had me convinced there. I didn't know what kind of antics to expect after our last interview together. To all your critics that say you've lost your imagination, I say they should seek different employment.

DR. PHAN

Believe it.

LORNA ASTOR

Well, we are out of time on tonight's program. Our guest has been Dr. Henry Phan, and the book is, The Tales Of Dr. Phan, available March 15th...

Lorna looks next to her and Dr. Phan has vanished.

LORNA ASTOR (CONT'D)

And it appears Dr. Phan has, um, had to leave suddenly.

(MORE)

LORNA ASTOR (CONT'D)

We want to thank him for joining us
and all of you as well. For,
Spotlight, I'm Lorna Astor.

The studio begins to dim as credits begin to roll.

LORNA ASTOR (CONT'D)

Seriously, where did he go?

END