

ARE WE IN THE WRONG LIFE?

Sometimes, we wonder what it would be like to stop our lives and do something completely different, or be someone completely different, even with a different name. What would that be like? I always liked the name Roger Bond, don't know why, but I feel a martini is indicated and the adjective 'dashing' is likely to be involved.

Such a fantasy might mean living somewhere else, being someone else; in short, disappearing and popping up somewhere exotic—a busy warm metropolis? I'm a world-famous surgeon, or a respected international jewel thief whose gorgeous victims fall in love with me—this is my fantasy—yours won't be much different. If nothing else, we might get to leave behind the mundane elements of our current life—someone else can put the wheely bin out on Wednesdays. Eliminating the mundane would be something. The fantasy is at least harmless and a little thrilling to contemplate on any rainy cold grey day, when the kids are at school, and the dog is sleeping by the fire.

Within the narrative world of *What Will Happen To You?* and with humour and surprise, my intention is to examine these possibilities or daydreams. But would it work? Would it be different, would you be different, would you feel different, would the mundane elements of our current life be eliminated? Would it be as exhilarating as it seems in our imagination? Or, alas, like the apocryphal saying suggests, would you find out that 'wherever

you go, there you are.’ And maybe you are in fact, already living your best life. How do we know this if we don’t jump the fence and look back?

In my novel, *What Will Happen To You?* you are invited to watch the life of an ordinary citizen, Robbie Carton, an accountant for a large mining company. You see the consequences of the life he has, perhaps has even chosen. You see how his decisions have affected who he is and what he does, especially, when life itself unfolds ignoring his private hopes, dreams, and desires.

What will happen to him? Will he find a way out of his mind-numbing life? How will this occur, and what will make it happen? Will Robbie save himself? Does life conspire against him? Or is the lack of will, and his inertia, the real problem? How is he different from all of us? Is he different from all of us? He tries to escape using his sense of humour and cynicism, but is that working? Will he find a way to tell Sophie he loves her? Will he break free and make it across the Rubicon? The novel asks the question we are all quietly desperate to know, ‘What Will Happen To You?’ The answer this question demands is in all of us.

I hope you enjoy the journey and the read. Good luck.

Gary N. Lines