

Press Release

In *Finding George Washington*, a Fanciful Tale, the Father of Our Country Comes to the Present

One night during the American Revolution, George Washington disappears from the winter camp at Valley Forge, then turns up at a dog park on San Francisco Bay in the summer of 2014. Now what?

ALBANY, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 1, 2020 — Equal parts time travel tale, thriller, and baseball saga, Bill Zarchy's debut novel ***Finding George Washington: A Time Travel Tale*** is a gripping, humorous, and entertaining look at what happens when past and present collide in the 9th inning, with the bases loaded and no one warming up in the bullpen.

On a freezing night in 1778, General George Washington vanishes. Walking away from the Valley Forge encampment, he takes a fall and is knocked unconscious, only to reappear at a park near San Francisco—during the summer of 2014. Washington befriends two Berkeley twenty-somethings who help him cope with the astonishing—and often comical—surprises of the twenty-first century.

Washington's absence from Valley Forge, however, is not without serious consequences. As the world rapidly devolves around them—and their beloved Giants fight to salvage a disappointing season—George, Tim, and Matt are catapulted on a race across America to find a way to get George back to 1778.

"I grew up fascinated by the presidents—and Washington in particular," recalls author Bill Zarchy. "George became my touchstone for trying to understand the alluring technology of my mid-century boyhood—aviation, photography, trains, cars, rockets, satellites, television, movies: How would I explain this to George Washington, if he were to come back to life right now?"

Zarchy continues, "I originally thought of this as a comic, fish-out-of-water story, but as I learned more about my subject, so much emerged about George: A charismatic leader, but a soft-spoken, uninspiring orator. A courageous man, who endured the burden of dental pain throughout his life. A powerful, ambitious man, but a kind, gentle husband and stepfather. A 6' 2" giant, at a time when most men were much shorter. A skillful horseman, a graceful dancer, a man's man who enjoyed the company of women.

"Perhaps most significantly, like most of the Founding Fathers, he was a slave owner, though history establishes that Washington, privately, had at least a dawning awareness that slavery was evil and immoral." The book is available now from independent booksellers and Amazon, in paperback and all e-book versions.

Reviews

"Sprawling and **suspenseful** ... Zarchy takes full advantage of the premise's opportunities for poignancy and hilarity... (his) crisp prose shines from the get-go as he manages to map a sophisticated tale of time travel with significant tension and memorable characters. Takeaway: This **alluring mix of time-travel, American history, and baseball** will rope in readers of socio-political thrillers." — Publishers Weekly BookLife

"Bill Zarchy's *Finding George Washington* is **compelling and effective**... Real study and real love come through at every turn: it savors precise historical detail; the heroes turn Washington (and the reader) into fans and aficionados of modern baseball; confusion and suspicion prompt discussion of colonial-era and modern spycraft. **The pacing is light and fast**, and the confident, flexible prose manages to drive that pace while also conveying its boundless enthusiasm for information. Sprightly and **fun** in structure, but with **big themes and solid research** underpinning it, *Finding George Washington* will please readers of soft science fiction, light spy thrillers, or popular history." — IndieReader

"A fine blend of **thriller intrigue** and California atmosphere in a time travel tale that creates many gripping moments ... Action and adventure readers, too, are in for a treat!"
— D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

"The book has well-developed characters, **entertaining** adventures (including a cross-country train trek), and fun moments...**engaging** throughout...history buffs with an appreciation for time-travel tropes should find much to like here." — BlueInk Review

"**Ending with a twist**, this time travel novel is a history-minded work that questions which cultural influences best define the US." — Clarion Reviews

About the Author

Bill Zarchy filmed projects on six continents during his 40 years as a cinematographer, captured in his first book, *Showdown at Shinagawa: Tales of Filming from Bombay to Brazil*. Now he writes novels, takes photos, and talks of many things.

Bill's career includes filming three former presidents for the Emmy-winning *West Wing Documentary Special*, the Grammy-winning *Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em*, feature films *Conceiving Ada* and *Read You Like A Book*, PBS science series *Closer to Truth*, musical performances as diverse as the Grateful Dead, Weird Al Yankovic, and Wagner's Ring Cycle, and countless high-end projects for technology and medical companies.

His tales from the road, personal essays, and technical articles have appeared in *Travelers' Tales* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul* anthologies, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and other newspapers, and *American Cinematographer*, *Emmy*, and other trade magazines.

Bill has a BA in Government from Dartmouth and an MA in Film from Stanford. He taught Advanced Cinematography at San Francisco State for twelve years. He is a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area and a graduate of the EPIC Storytelling Program at Stagebridge in Oakland. This is his first novel.

Finding George Washington: A Time Travel Tale

By Bill Zarchy

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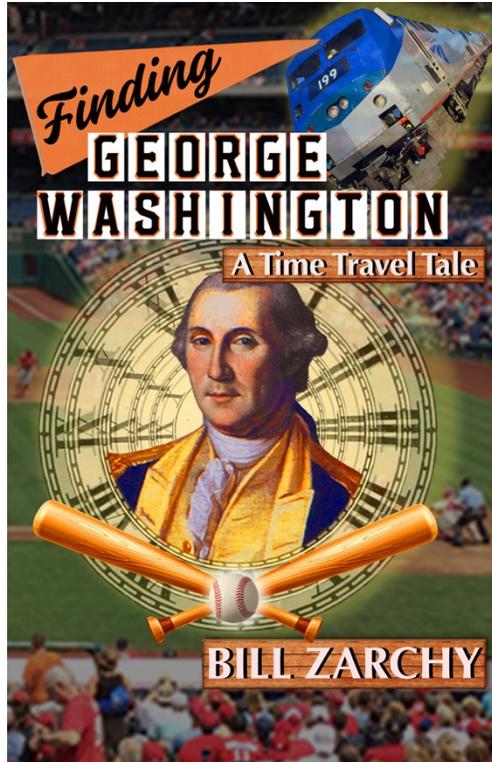
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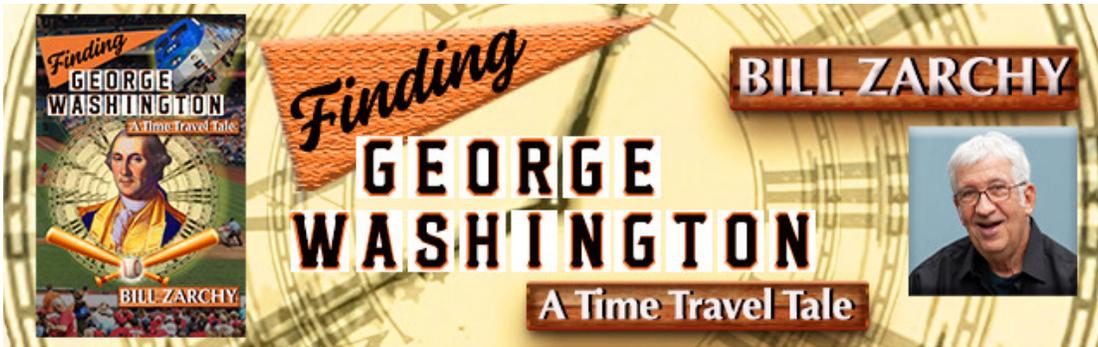
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